

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
MANAGEMENT-LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Full Committee Meeting
Mar. 7, 2024
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Committee members present via Zoom:

Patrick Priest, Citycounty Insurance Services
Scott Strickland, Sheet Metal Workers Local #16
Margaret Weddell, Labor Representative
Ryan Hearn, Roseburg Forest Products
Stacy Lewallen, Fortis Construction, Inc.
Sara Duckwall, Duckwall Fruit
Kim Schlessinger, Samaritan Health Services
Andrew Stolfi, DCBS Director, *ex officio*
Sarah Merrick, City of Salem Fire Department

Excused:

Matt Calzia, Oregon Nurses Association

Staff:

Teri Watson, MLAC Committee Administrator
Baaba Ampah, MLAC Assistant
Megan Parsons, MLAC Assistant
Jeff Warburton, MLAC Assistant

Agenda Item	Discussion
Opening (00:00:00)	Patrick Priest called the meeting to order, and Teri Watson called the roll of members. A quorum was not present.
(00:02:50)	Patrick Priest welcomed new member, Kim Schlesinger, who introduced herself as the director of employee health and safety for Samaritan Health for 20 years. Her department oversees the workers' compensation insurance program for employees. She is also a nurse practitioner in training.
	Public comment
(00:04:27)	There was no public comment.
	Review and approve minutes from February 8, 2024
(00:05:24)	Director Stolfi was noted as present. The minutes were deferred to the end of the meeting because a quorum was not present.
(00:05:53)	Scott Strickland noted that he made edits to the last paragraph of the minutes.

Department updates

Workers' Compensation Board case law updates – Lauren Eldridge

(00:06:55) Lauren Eldridge shared that the board is conducting its five-year review of OAR 438-007-0005, which requires the translation of non-English language documents admitted into evidence at the hearing level. The board is currently seeking public comments on whether that rule is having its desired effects and to determine if any necessary amendments are needed. Lauren Eldridge stated that the deadline for public comments is April 15.

Workers' Compensation Division (WCD) update

(00:08:34) Andrew Stolfi shared that Caitlin Breitbach has been appointed as Small Business Ombudsman, a joint decision by the DCBS director and by the Governor.

(00:09:53) Caitlin Breitbach, Ombudsman Offices, introduced herself, mentioning that she has been with the Workers' Compensation Division for five years as an assistant ombuds and part-time with the Preferred Worker Program. She noted that she will be sending an email to members containing her contact information for members to reach out with concerns or questions. Caitlin Breitbach shared that her main goal is to increase outreach efforts, so more small businesses are aware of their office, which will increase their efforts in helping small businesses. She encouraged members to contact her with any outreach ideas.

(00:11:51) Andrew Stolfi added that Caitlin Breitbach has a great background and experience, noting that outreach and engagement is an important part of Caitlin Breitbach's goals. He mentioned that she will be marketing the office and engaging with small businesses to increase awareness. Andrew Stolfi also mentioned that Caitlin Breitbach is great in connecting small businesses with resources across the state. He expressed his excitement for having Caitlin Breitbach in this role.

(00:13:14) Patrick Priest joined in congratulating Caitlin Breitbach and David Waki on this retirement.

(00:14:05) Teri Watson gave WCD rule updates:

- The division will adopt permanent changes effective April 1, 2024, to OAR 436-009, OAR 436-010, and OAR 436-015. It is all available on the rule's website.
- There will be a public rulemaking hearing for division 60 on April 17, and division 120 on April 25. Stakeholders can provide testimony in person at the hearing and in writing. The proposed rules will be published in April.

Legislative Update

(00:15:23) Senate Bill 1580, SAIF’s employer fraud bill, which MLAC supported, passed yesterday on the house floor. It will be going to the governor’s desk for an approval signature.

Work plan update – DEI training (April) and Mental Health (July) training update

(00:17:27) Teri Watson mentioned that Partners in Diversity sent the DEI training proposal for the July 11 meeting and want to know if that is what MLAC is looking for. The training will be a working lunch and a two-hour workshop. Teri Watson asked members for feedback about the training plan.

(00:20:27) Scott Strickland recommended an opportunity for MLAC members to review the proposal and confirm by email after the meeting.

Upcoming meetings – April (TBD) (In person) and May 2 (Hybrid)

(00:21:22) MLAC members discussed moving the in-person meeting to May or June to accommodate for the training days. It was decided that the April meeting will be virtual and the in-person meeting will be in May or June. Members will follow up with their co-chairs, so they can decide which month works better for an in-person meeting.

(00:24:39) Patrick Priest referenced the [workplan](#), mentioning that the educational session on insurance’s perspective and injured worker’s perspective will be prioritized after the DEI and mental health educational training.

(00:25:07) Sara Duckwall asked for an update on the focus group listening tour. Teri Watson updated that she is working on scheduling an MLAC meeting in the southern Oregon area in October. She is working on scheduling it in conjunction with the Southern Oregon Safety and Health Conference, but is still figuring out how to align it with MLAC’s October meeting. She will share an update in the April meeting.

(00:27:57) Sarah Merrick was noted as present and a quorum was present.

(00:28:15) The minutes from the Feb. 8 meeting were presented. Scott Strickland moved to approve the minutes, amended by himself, and Sara Duckwall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. MLAC members will receive the amended meeting minutes.

(00:30:58) Sara Duckwall motioned to adjourn the meeting and Scott Strickland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned Patrick Priest adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

*These minutes include time stamps from the meeting video found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GW2vRw2t7tk&feature=youtu.be>

**Referenced documents can be found on the MLAC Meeting Information page here:
<https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/mlac/Pages/2024-meetings.aspx>