

WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
MANAGEMENT-LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Full Committee Meeting**

November 6, 2025

10:00 a.m.–noon

***Committee members present via zoom:***

Co-chair Scott Strickland, Sheet Metal Workers Local #16

Co-chair Patrick Priest, CIS Trust

Sara Duckwall, Duckwall Fruit

Ryan Hearn, Andunil Industries

Stacy Lewallen, Fortis Construction, Inc

Sarah Merrick, City of Salem Fire Department

Kim Schlessinger, Samaritan Health Services

Lorne Bulling, IronWorkers Local 29

Margaret Weddell, Labor Representative

Emily Cronan Oregon Nurses Association

Sean O'Day, acting DCBS Director, *ex officio*

***Staff:***

Teri Watson, MLAC Committee Administrator

Baaba Ampah, MLAC Assistant

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>Opening</b> (00:00:00)	<b>Affirmation and roll call</b> Co-Chair Priest called the meeting to order, and shared an affirmation. Teri Watson called the roll of members. A quorum was present.
(00:02:52)	<b>Public comments</b> Dr. Verne Saboe, Oregon Chiropractic Association, shared a <a href="#">public comment</a> .
(00:05:06)	<b>Review minutes - Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup></b> Sara Duckwall moved to approve the minutes, and Stacy Lewallen seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition or abstention.
(00:05:46)	<b>Department updates</b> Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) updates – Joy Dougherty, Workers' Compensation Board Chair <a href="#">WCB Modernization project update</a> Joy gave a presentation on the WCB's Modernization Project. Joy will continue to give MLAC updates as the WCB Modernization Project moves forward.
(00:24:05)	Workers' Compensation Division (WCD) updates – Teri Watson and Matt West Administrator West gave an update on the rule advisory committee (RAC) on OAR Chapter 436, Divisions 009, 010, and 015 that will meet on Nov. 18, 2025

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from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., which will have issues related to the access to care subcommittee. If members need the RAC information, please reach out to WCD.

The WCD Modernization Project hit a major milestone yesterday when the request for proposal (RFP) was listed on OregonBuys. The RFP will be open for 43 days and close on Dec. 16, 2025. A selection committee will begin the process of reviewing the proposals at that time to build the modernization system for WCD.

(00:26:01)

### **MLAC Subcommittee Recommendations**

• [Access to Care Recommendation letter](#) – Emily Cronan and Kim Schlessinger

Kim gave an overview of the recommendations and proposals:

- Lon Holston proposal was deferred for further research.
- Dr. Saboe proposal covered in the public comment of today’s meeting.
- SAIF withdrew their proposal, HB 3374 (2025).
- Some immediate changes in the rulemaking process.
- Task force to further the conversation regarding access to care in spring 2026.

Emily added to the recommendations and proposals highlighting the six topic areas for consideration with the task force to continue discussion:

- Statutory
- Rulemaking
- Outreach
- Training and Education
- Timely Responses
- Other

Sara Duckwall thanked the co-chairs and commented that she loved the guiding principles. She asked how the summit would happen and who would take charge of the planning process. Emily stated that stakeholders who have been involved with the access to care subcommittee showed interest in continuing these conversations and building on the process. Teri added that she had a conversation with DCBS Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) and shared the concept of the summit. They are also dealing with access to care issues and understand it is a larger issue. WCD will keep all MLAC members updated on the progress as we plan the event.

(00:34:37)

• Average weekly wage, temporary disability rate for injured workers  
[Recommendation letter](#) – Management member Stacy Lewallen and Co-chair Scott Strickland

Co-chair Strickland gave an overview of the subcommittee and thanked DCBS data analyst and WCD policy analyst for the materials provided. Co-chair Strickland also commended the amazing stakeholders that provided active engagement throughout the subcommittee process. The data and materials can be found on the subcommittee website. The subcommittee provided for a joint

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management (AGC – Kirsten Adams, and OBI – Paloma Sparks) and labor (AFSCME – Odalis Aguilar-Aguilar) proposal agreement.

Proposal: Increase the temporary disability rate from 66 2/3 to 75% of the injured worker’s weekly wage for the portion of wages below 75% of the state average weekly wage (SAWW), and 65% for any wages above 75% of the SAWW.

Co-chair Strickland again thanked stakeholders for coming together and reemphasized that this work would not have been completed without their effort.

Stacy Lewallen agreed with co-chair Strickland and added that she too wanted to thank the stakeholders for coming together to make the proposal happen. The work of the subcommittee provides that balanced approach that meets in the middle.

Sara Duckwell thanked the co-chairs and asked if there will be a bill in the short session. Co-chair Strickland believes that this bill will move forward in the short session.

Odalis Aguilar-Aguilar, AFSCME indicated that the intention is to bring the bill forward in the 2026 session. She extended her appreciation to Kirsten Adams, AGC; Maggie Gerlicher, ACG; and Paloma Sparks, OBI; and subcommittee co-chair Stacy Lewallen. Odalis stated that MLAC gave them the space to explore the concept and make the proposal. The intent is the bill will have a 2027 implementation date.

(00:42:43) Ivo Trummer, SAIF, stated that in terms of implementation assessments and in terms of costs, both the NCCI analysis report and SAIF looked at how the bill would impact the system for injuries that occur on or after January 1, 2027.

(00:44:45) **Upcoming meetings – Dec. 4, in-person, CR 260, Salem, OR and Jan. 8, virtual.**

**Motion to adjourn – Lorne Bulling**

Ryan Hearn seconded the motion.

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**Meeting**

Co-chair Priest adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

**Adjourned**

\*These minutes include time stamps from the meeting video found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-11-5nnG54>

\*\*Referenced documents can be found on the MLAC Meeting Information page here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/mlac/Pages/2025-meetings.aspx>