

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
MANAGEMENT-LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MLAC Access to Care Subcommittee Meeting

May 20, 2025
9 a.m.–11 a.m.

Committee members present via zoom:

Kim Schlessinger, Samaritan Health Services
Emily Rivas, Oregon Nurses Association

Staff:

Teri Watson, MLAC Committee Administrator
Baaba Ampah, MLAC Assistant

Agenda Item	Discussion
(00:00:38)	Co-Chair Kim Schlessinger called the meeting to order, introducing herself, and Co-chair Emily Rivas followed suit.
(00:02:15)	Meeting attendees in conference room, introduced themselves. Co-chair Rivas suggested involving a representative nurse practitioner in discussion of expanding access to care to include additional provider types.
(00:05:22)	Co-chair Rivas provided an email outlining a draft scope and objectives . The email will be posted on the MLAC website. Co-chair Schlessinger supported the email as a great foundation that could be adjusted if needed.
(00:10:18)	Ann Klein, Majoris Health, suggested highlighting self-insured employers and other ancillary partners in the system such as Managed Care Organization (MCO).
(00:13:58)	It was suggested that a April 2024 white paper by Majoris Health would be a great resource. Ann Klein discussed the white paper, noting that it was a first attempt to provide a comprehensive to set a platform to further discussion, noting that there is a lot of other data out there.
(00:18:56)	Co-chair Rivas suggested adding more tangible answers to the objectives if possible, specifically, identifying the barriers to end-user data to help dictate simple solutions. For example, impact of non-physician providers by partnering with non-physician provider to help identify additional resources, avoiding barriers. She recommended identifying the subcommittee's cadence and its time lined action items. It was clarified that the subcommittee will be meet through the end of September.
(00:22:58)	The subcommittee meeting schedule was discussed, the subcommittee will meet bi-weekly.

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- (00:31:41) The subcommittee discussed additional data. Ann Klein offered to walk-through the Majoris white paper , and bring forward additional data based on follow-up questions. Co-chair Schlessinger agreed, suggesting to do so next meeting.
- (00:33:47) Co-chair Rivas asked if outside the MCO perspective, there has been data gathered that would crosswalk or mirror the white paper. Matt West, WCD Administrator, responded that WCD will look into what data they have. He also mentioned that the research team is looking into the total number of providers in Oregon versus providers in workers' compensation, based data available and categorized by provider type. Juerg Kunz, WCD, suggested categorizing the data into regional areas.
- (00:35:43) Ann Klein noted that the Oregon Health Authority has several initiatives similar to the same concept, and would be a good resource for the subcommittee.
- (00:36:18) Ivo Trummer noted that SAIF previously shared information ([SAIF 2025 coordinating care proposal](#)) with MLAC, and will be happy to share an updated version of the data. He also offered to do a walkthrough of some of SAIF's actuaries.
- (00:38:04) To Co-chair Rivas question, Ivo Trummer responded that SAIF is performing worker surveys and will circle back to offer some insight.
- (00:38:40) Co-chair Rivas offered to draft a problem statement to guide the work from the scope perspective as far as the actions items.
- (00:40:20) Teri Watson will reach out to different associations that are non-traditional providers.
- (00:41:52) Ivo Trummer suggested providing WCD's [Matrix for health care provider types](#) to the Co-chairs to help identify the provider groups that should be involved in the conversation.
- (00:46:12) In response to the Co-chairs question about the end goal of the MLAC committee, Administrator West responded the subcommittee could identify clear administrative burden that WCD could help mitigate via rule updates or legislative concepts. WCD will research if MLAC has ever ran a bill.
- (00:47:33) Lon Holsten shared his experience with study groups, mentioning that as the committee gets closer to the end, they will realize what needs to change statutorily in the rules, what cannot be changed, what could be tabled for later, or left alone completely. He encouraged the committee to keep an open mind, and mentioned that the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) will also have discussions about the topic. Lon Holsten also shared his background in workers' compensation system, indicating that he has previously Co-chaired MLAC,
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conducting study groups in many issues, including the IME study that produced a bill in 2005. He currently serves on MAC.

- (00:51:26) Co-chair Rivas reviewed the next meeting items:
- Ann Klein's walkthrough of Majoris' white paper
 - Co-chair Rivas' draft of problem statement scope.
 - Review of data from WCD and stakeholders
 - In depth review of the -3 amendment to HB 3374

(00:56:37) Co-chair Rivas asked Dr. Verne Saboe about the best way to communicate his concerns to the subcommittee and he answered through email.

(01:00:04) Co-chair Schlessinger adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

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

<https://youtu.be/GFRcRekPvqQ>

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

<https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/mlac/Pages/access-to-care-subcommittee.aspx>