

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
MANAGEMENT-LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Access To Care Subcommittee Committee Meeting

October 9, 2025
9:00 a.m.– 11:00 a.m.

Committee members (In-person or present via zoom):

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

Staff:

Teri Watson, MLAC Committee Administrator
Baaba Ampah, MLAC Committee Assistant

Agenda Item	Discussion
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Opening	
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(00:00:02)	Co-chair Schlessinger called the meeting to order.
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(00:00:15)	Co-chair Schlessinger indicated that the meeting will be short this morning.
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(00:00:46)	Update from SAIF
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Ivo Trummer, Government Relations Director from SAIF stated that HB 3374 (2025), is not moving forward. SAIF is committed to the access to care issues and will stay deeply engaged with any feasible solution. SAIF would like to thank the two co-chairs, WCD staff and the larger MLAC for the engaging in the process and all the stakeholders that have been involved.

(00:03:59)	Stakeholder Input on ATC Table
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Co-chair Schlessinger presented the information on the ATC table and asked for feedback. Teri Watson gave a quick update of the ATC table and went over which items in the table require a statutory or rule change and which do not. Co-chair Schlessinger also shared with the subcommittee that Majoris Health System is already implementing a physical therapy timeliness issues as an example that doesn't require a statute or rule change.

Co-chair Schlessinger stated that stakeholders may need to be updated their proposals based on SAIF's announcement this morning.

(00:06:05)	Ann Klein, Majoris Health Systems, expressed appreciation in the overall process and platform the co-chairs have provided. Majoris would like to make a recommendation that an ongoing task force that allows for the platform for these types of discussions recognizing that this isn't just a access to care issue for injured workers in Oregon, it is an access to care issue for all Oregonians. We understand that access to care is a national issue, as well.
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Ann continued that we should be planning for a system that evolves and is resilient and that provides long term and short term fixes. From the subcommittee discussion we have seen that Majoris would like to advocate for a broad-based stakeholder representation from insurer market, MCO's, medical providers (treating provider, specialist, ancillary, and attending physician) and just as relevant are the support and administrative staff who sets that policies. We heard during the subcommittee meetings how support staff can be competent and empowered in the treating workers' compensation and how some larger health systems are limiting the injured workers. We need to have more of those conversations to drill into the facts and data. We should identify what data we have and what data we do not have and explore that data. Finally, making data informed decisions with multiple stakeholders would be our final recommendation.

- (00:10:29) Kirsten Adams, Associated General Contractors (AGC), would like to echo Ann's point about continuing the task force. Kirsten stated that in the workers compensation case many of the issues come back to the access to care issue and being able to have an ongoing conversation within the task force about the things on the ATC table, and any rules that could change or any new legislation would be really helpful.
- (00:11:57) Amanda Sullivan, Associated Oregon Loggers, (AOL), we have a group with SAIF and are very engaged in the workers compensation space for forest operators and small businesses that work in the forest sector. We would like to highlight some of the same thoughts from AGC and Ann Klein about continuing task force efforts around the access to care. We are very interested in access to care and are working with researchers from Oregon State and Texas A&M, specifically around the Oregonians that we work with in continued research on access to care and care for injured workers in the forest sector. AOL and the researchers are working with are very interested in access to care and how to improve the system.
- (00:13:49) Co-chair Schlessinger thanked the stakeholders for their participation and feedback.
- (00:14:20) Matt West, WCD administrator, thanked everyone for their participation in the subcommittee and extended an invite to the rule advisory committee (RAC) for the 009's, 010's, and 015's on Nov. 18. Matt explained that some of the topics that came up during the subcommittee are going to be on the RAC meeting agenda and we want to make sure that there is involvement from stakeholders in the discussion.
- (00:15:22) Co-chair Schlessinger thanked administrator West. She went on to explain that it is a short agenda and she wanted to ask Co-chair Cronan if she had any closing thoughts.
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- (00:16:43) Co-chair Cronan asked about the additional feedback. Teri Watson answered that we did not receive any additional feedback. Teri asked subcommittee members that would be interested in participating in an ongoing task force and members said “yes”.
- (00:17:14) Co-chair Cronan stated that the subcommittee has been informative, inspiring and learning. She appreciates everyone participating in the process and sharing all of their information and understands that everyone is trying to do their best.
- (00:19:34) Co-chair Schlessinger indicated that the ATC table will be updated and finalized for the MLAC meeting on Nov. 6. Teri will work with the co-chairs on the final recommendations for the MLAC meeting. Teri shared the information about Nov. 18 RAC meeting and stated that the meeting is from 1:00-4:00pm.
- Nov. 6 is a MLAC virtual meeting. The last MLAC meeting of 2025 will be on Dec. 4 in-person in conference Room 260 in Salem.
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- (00:22:05) Co-chair Schlessinger adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

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

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