

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
MANAGEMENT-LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Average Weekly Wage Subcommittee Committee Meeting

May 23, 2025
10:30 a.m.– 12:00 noon

Committee members present via zoom:

Scott Strickland, Sheet Metal Workers Local 16
Stacy Lewallen, Fortis Construction Inc.

Staff:

Teri Watson, MLAC Committee Administrator
Baaba Ampah, MLAC Assistant

Agenda Item	Discussion
Opening	
(00:00:00)	Co-chair Scott Strickland called the meeting to order, introducing himself, and Co-chair Stacy Lewallen followed suit.
	How many meetings to address access to care
(00:01:15)	The subcommittee meeting schedule was discussed, the subcommittee will meet bi-weekly.
	What kind of data will be reviewed, (do we need to collect more data?)
(00:07:20)	Co-chair Strickland expressed that the initial thoughts around the subcommittee will start off with the a policy discussion, and then turn into data points discussion. Co-chair Lewallen agreed expressing that fairness to workers is important to her.
(00:10:21)	To Teri Watson's question, Co-chair Strickland iterated that data support has been provided, but policy discussion needs to take place to suggest some solutions which will be later backed by additional data. The subcommittee can rely on WCD, insurers, or NCCI for data.
(00:13:00)	Co-chair Lewallen agreed. She asked for data on any states who have recently made changes to Average Weekly Wage (AWW) and its impacts. Teri Watson will also put additional information from SB 705 on the MLAC website.
	Who should be at the table
(00:14:14)	The recommendations that Kirsten Adams, AGC, SAIF, and other workers' compensation insurers be at the table. Co-chair Strickland added that some organizations and unions be at the table. Specifically, AFSCME, since they brought SB 705 forward. Co-chair Strickland will reach out to additional labor stakeholders and Co-chair Lewallen will do the same from the management side.

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- (00:17:39) Amber McMurry, Multnomah County, expressed concerns from the bill from an employer standpoint, and offered to be part of the discussion.
- (00:18:08) Co-chair Strickland gave a brief overview of the historical MLAC subcommittees and how stakeholders participate in the committees. Co-chair Lewallen agreed with the overview and added that some stakeholders with be more involved than others.
- (00:20:26) Thais Lomax, of Sedwick asked that WCD Audit be involved with this process as they will be involved with the process moving forward.
- (00:24:13) Subcommittee report back to MLAC, based on the stakeholders or legislative calendar for the 2026 short session.
- (00:27:21) Anything else that should be included? Co-chairs have asked that this be added to the agenda at each meeting.
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- (00:28:39) Co-chair Strickland adjourned the meeting at 10:30 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>