

**Management Labor Advisory Committee
Alternative Care Subcommittee
Tuesday, January 10, 2006
12:45-3:30 p.m.**

**Union Hall Meeting Room
Ironworkers Local 29
11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, Portland, OR**

Subcommittee Members Present:

Ellen Cutler, Harry and David, Medford, OR
John Kirkpatrick, IUPAT District Council, Tualatin, OR
Gregory Miller, Gunderson LLC, Portland, OR
Mike O'Rourke, Plumbing and Steamfitters UA 290, Tualatin, OR
Sheri Sundstrom, Hoffman Construction Company, Portland, OR
Lisa Trussell, Associated Oregon Industries, Salem, OR

Additional Committee Members Present:

Tracy Brill, Port of Portland, Portland
Linda Jefferson, City of Portland, Portland, OR

Committee members excused:

Sheri Sundstrom, Hoffman Construction Company, Portland, OR
Lon Holston, AFSCME, Grants Pass, OR

Lisa Trussell called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm

Jerry Managhan WCD

Mr. Managhan provided a document called "Care Provider Study" and proposed a study plan. The governor has asked WCD and MLAC to report back on the role of various providers under today's workers' compensation system. In addition, the division would like to include a literature/study review that relates to these issues, a survey of injured workers and a survey of employers or a focus group of employers.

Subcommittee Discussion

AOI and NFIB could be contacted for possible assistance. Self-Insureds and providers could solicit involvement from policyholders. Subcommittee members also inquired about the Medical Quality Initiative.

Tracy O'Connor, Information Management Division

Tracy O'Connor reviewed the Worker Survey with the subcommittee

Subcommittee discussion: There was a suggestion that an inquiry be made about when an injured worker loses reimbursement benefits whether continued care was covered under their private health insurance.

Subcommittee discussion regarding employer survey:

The following ideas were discussed:

- Objectives of the study: outcomes – need to clarify which outcomes.
- There was a suggestion to look at data from 1989 – data is not available until early 90s.
- Are there difficulties in accessing care in the workers' compensation arena that are different than accessing care in the general health care arena.

- Look at various medical delivery systems and compare access to providers to the access to providers in workers' compensation system.
- Comparison to other states similar in size to Oregon - Minnesota was looked at and will be included in the literature review.
- Status Quo Data Collection Outline – draw out data to define what the status quo is.
- Collecting information by geographical area–dilemmas regarding obtaining a list of just those medical providers providing workers' compensation care. Also difficulties where people travel to get their care in rural areas crossing geographical boundaries.
- Survey will include phone call follow-up and hopefully will address any literacy issues.

Public Testimony

Dr. Vern Saboe – Chiropractic Association of Oregon

Dr. Saboe provided and discussed printed screen shots of a PowerPoint presentation. The printed presentation is included in the meeting record.

Subcommittee Discussion:

A request was made for clarification on some of the data presented by Dr. Saboe. In addition, a request was made for information regarding chiropractic treatment in the area of prevention.

Roger Setera, ODOC Dr. of Chiropractic Medicine

Dr. Setera provided printed material to the subcommittee. ODOC goal is to lower costs and return workers back to work earlier. Dr. Setera recommend expanding the time for treatment to 24 visits over 90 days or 24 visits over 120 days.

Dr. Joe Eusterman, Western Occupational/Environmental Medicine Services

Dr. Eusterman provided two documents to the subcommittee, Memorandum and Preventing Needless Work Disability by Helping People Stay Employed. Dr. Eusterman also emphasized the importance of treatment based on objective findings of impairment or injury. Dr. Eusterman suggested that WCD include in their study medical provider associations.

Scott Byer, Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA)

Mr. Byer recommended that the name of the subcommittee be changed to Subcommittee on Care Providers. Physicians Assistants (PA) have 12 visits and 30 days treatment limitations for treating injured workers. Recommended that the subcommittee look at increasing the time limits particularly in rural areas. In addition, he recommended that on the survey when asking if the provider was an MD or a PA – there may need to be a category of both together – physician/PA team.

Marshall Coba, Lobbyist OSPA

Mr. Coba recommended that data also be gathered about the length of time between visits, and the length of travel to see provider. In addition, he asked for an opportunity to provide input before the final surveys go forward.

Art Keil, Naturopathic Physician

Mr. Keil provided written testimony to the subcommittee as well as a comparison document showing comparison of Naturopaths with other providers. Mr. Keil stated that the worker is sometimes denied the opportunity to see his Naturopath who the worker has been treating with on a regular basis; therefore, the injured worker must either pay out of pocket, see the doctor and not pay, or seek treatment from someone other than his customary provider.

Laurel Gunderson, Providence MCO

Ms. Gunderson provided information to the subcommittee about Providence MCO's use of various providers. Providence actively recruits providers, but has had difficulty finding providers in some regions as well as difficulty finding providers in specific disciplines.

Subcommittee Discussion: There was a subcommittee inquiry regarding Providence MCO's policy on limiting number of visits. Providence places limits on total duration of treatment, and limits on who can participate on a panel.

Action Item:

Approval of study: John Kirkpatrick made a motion to go forward with the study. Mike O'Rourke seconded the motion. The following subcommittee members voted in favor of going forward with the study: Ellen Cutler, John Kirkpatrick, Gregory Miller, Gunderson LLC, Mike O'Rourke, Sheri Sundstrom, and Lisa Trussell.

Mike O'Rourke and Greg Miller volunteered to work with the department to review the worker survey questions.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.