

**Management Labor Advisory Committee  
Alternative Care Subcommittee  
Friday, April 14, 2006  
1:00-2:30 p.m.**

**Labor & Industries Building, Conference Room 260  
350 Winter Street, Salem, OR**

Subcommittee Members Present:

Lisa Trussell, Associated Oregon Industries, Salem, OR  
Lon Holston, AFSCME, Grants Pass, OR  
John Kirkpatrick, IUPAT District Council, Tualatin, OR  
Gregory Miller, Gunderson LLC, Portland, OR  
Mike O'Rourke, Plumbing and Steamfitters UA 290, Tualatin, OR

Subcommittee members excused:

Sheri Sundstrom, Hoffman Construction Company, Portland, OR  
Ellen Cutler, Harry and David, Medford, OR

Lisa Trussell called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**Review of Study Proposal**

John Shilts, Administrator Workers' Compensation Division

Mr. Shilts gave the committee a brief review of the reason for the study as well as a review of the study proposal.

**Literature Review Summary**

Mike Manley, Information Management Division

Mr. Manley referred the committee to page two of the document titled "Care Provider Study." He explained some of the differences which would limit the applicability of available literature regarding other states to the Oregon workers' compensation system.

Subcommittee Discussion: Subcommittee members asked about the availability of literature which deals with providers other than Chiropractors. The available literature focuses on Chiropractors.

**Status Quo Summary**

Tracy O'Connor, Information Management Division

John Shilts, Administrator, Workers' Compensation Division

Ms. O'Connor referred the subcommittee to page three of the document titled "Care Provider Study." The document shows areas of responsibility of a care provider in treating non-MCO enrolled injured workers.

Subcommittee Discussion: Discussed nurse practitioner authority to provide treatment. Also discussed a comparison between care provider authority to treat a worker not enrolled in an MCO and care provider authority to treat a worker enrolled in an MCO. If a worker is enrolled in an MCO the MCO contract defines who can be an attending physician.

**B220/CIS Descriptive Statistics**

Brian Skalberg, Information Management Division

Mr. Skalberg gave the subcommittee information on the data available for the study as well as information on data analysis that the division has done to date. The documents provided to the subcommittee for this portion of the discussion are pages 5 through 11 of the document titled "Care Provider Study."

Subcommittee Discussion: Interest was expressed in seeing additional data: number of claims in which a worker has seen a specific type of provider 12 times and information about who is treating vs. who is diagnosing.

### **Worker Survey Update**

Tracy O'Connor, Information Management Division

Ms. O'Connor gave the subcommittee an update of the status of developing the worker survey and the pilot study.

Subcommittee Discussion: Inquiry about the date of injury for the recipients of the survey. The survey will be sent to workers with a date of injury from April 1, 2005 to no later than September 30, 2005.

### **Focus Group Update**

John Shilts, Workers' Compensation Division gave the subcommittee a summary of the work thus far in developing a method for getting employer input. The division will also pilot the employer input process.

Subcommittee Discussion: Inquiry about capturing information from the focus group.

### **Next Steps**

Subcommittee will provide feedback by April 21 to the division on any additional data analysis they would like.

### **Oregon Chiropractic Association Survey Presentation**

Dr. Vern Saboe, Chiropractic Association of Oregon

Dr. Saboe provided a summary of responses to a survey done by the Chiropractic Association of Oregon and reviewed the data on the responses. He also indicated that there may be a need for education about the worker's rights regarding selecting a care provider.

### **DCBS Comments on Survey Presentation**

John Shilts, Administrator, Workers' Compensation Division

Mr. Shilts addressed some issues he felt were identified by the summary of the survey done by the Chiropractic Association of Oregon. Mr. Shilts addressed the issues of workers being directed to a specific health care provider, workers told they couldn't see a chiropractor, physician's applications to an MCO panel, and workers being unaware that they could treat with a chiropractor.

Subcommittee Discussion: Interest expressed in looking at methods for educating not only the worker, but also the providers.

### **Public Comment**

Laura Farr, Executive Director, Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians

Ms. Farr introduced herself to the subcommittee and commented on a lack of information regarding NDs and PAs. She suggested that in looking at the data, the subcommittee consider that the scope and the time limits for NDs and PAs is much more limiting than for other providers.

Roger Satara, Oregon Doctors of Chiropractic

Dr. Satara testified that he feels that the policy decision for expanding the authority for chiropractors to treat injured workers is a focus on saving money. Dr. Satara also provided information on a study from The Spine Journal.

Dr. Joe Eusterman, Western Occupational/Environmental Medicine

Dr. Eusterman provided written materials to the subcommittee and discussed the importance of objective findings in the diagnosis and treatment of injured workers. He suggested a comparison of costs between Chiropractors, Osteopaths and Physical Therapists.

Dr. David Silver, Neurosurgeon

Dr. Silver gave suggestions to the subcommittee on additional data analysis that could be requested.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.