

Meeting Summary

**Worker's Compensation Advisory Committee -Subcommittee on Health Care
Oct. 25 2007**

Participants:

Labor: Robby Stern, Ed Wood, John Aslakson and Karen Gude for (Owen Linch-absent).

Business: Beverly Simmons, Carolyn Logue and Gerry Reilly. (Vickie Gore-absent)

BIIA: Tom Egan

L&I: Roy Plaeger-Brockway, Bob Mootz and Gary Franklin.

Resources and Guests:

Jeremy Sappington, Deb Fulton-Kehoe, Terri Smith-Weller, Pat Vincent, Ellen Hull, Mike Barron, Dan Hansen, Dianna Chamblin, Marti Bradley, Amy McDougall, Jordan Firestone, Patricia O'Leary-Crutcher, Shannon Your, Regina LaVassaur, Sallie Reuter, Dave Overby, Diana Drylie, Susan Campbell, Chuck Hitchings, Mary Shatto, Karen Ahrens, and Cherie Berthon

Introduction and Review of Minutes:

Gary Franklin welcomed the group and opened the meeting. Minutes from July 2007 were approved.

Dr. Franklin presented slides as a summary of the OHS/COHE project to date. He stated that three out of four of the COHE quality indicators had been successfully implemented. He ended with a slide that indicated a current focus on incremental change, minimizing duplication and better data on worker outcomes.

A labor representative emphasized they cannot agree that disability reduction is a positive outcome until we know more about workers' long term outcomes.

A business representative stated that if the data showed return to work at the job of injury and/or employer of injury, that business would consider this a good outcome.

Roy Plaeger-Brockway stated that all three caucuses have this interest in common and both business and labor agreed.

Data Summary - FYI:

Deb Fulton-Kehoe offered separate small group meetings to the business and labor caucus in November or December to go over a summary of current data. The small group forum will allow a thorough review of data and give time for questions. The summary will pull together and simplify all the findings to date.

Labor indicated they want to schedule this meeting for all members of their caucus.

Business indicated that they would like to bring this offer to their regularly scheduled meeting for their constituents. L&I responded that they would like to present this in a small group to the business caucus first so that any product shared with larger groups is the work of the whole subcommittee, and not just L&I or the UW. The business caucus will look at their schedules.

Reports from Seeds:

Diana Chamblin presented slides on The Everett Clinic (TEC) seed COHE. Slides were provided as handout.

Business and Labor caucus members asked some clarifying questions.

Labor asked whether the seed was limited only to state fund employers. Dr. Chamblin answered that Health Services Coordination (HSC) services are only applied to state fund cases. However, TEC serves all patients in the community and her providers apply best practices to every patient in the clinic, even if the employer is self insured.

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Another labor caucus member asked how many of TEC patients are seeking treatment with their family doctor. She indicated that many of the patients at the walk in clinics do not have any private health insurance through their employers. Many workers choose TEC because of the location, availability, word of mouth recommendations or from prior experience.

Jordan Firestone presented slides on the Harborview Medical Center seed COHE. Slides were provided as handouts.

Business and Labor caucus members asked some clarifying questions.

Business asked for more detail on the pathway to guide an injured worker's first visit. Dr. Firestone said this pathway was paper-based so that it will be useful in guiding the administrative processes beginning with the very first steps of a visit, before any information has yet been entered into the electronic medical record. The documentation is later scanned into the medical record to allow the patient's care to be tracked through the entire episode of care for a work-related injury.

Labor asked two questions. The first question was about catastrophic claims and the process for new Reports Of Accidents (ROAs) started by Harborview.

Patricia O'Leary Crutcher reported that Harborview and L&I have recently decided that Harborview will initiate an ROA at the initial visit, even if the patient has been transferred from another hospital or facility from which another ROA may have been initiated. Harborview will now start an ROA, and L&I can "marry" the two ROA forms into one claim, if needed. L&I occupational nurse consultants are also notified for every catastrophic in-patient admission.

The second question was about whether the medical chart notes were placed directly in the electronic records. Dr. Firestone said most new medical chart notes went directly to the electronic record and that this was true for all in-patient admissions.

Funding for Seeds:

Roy Plaeger-Brockway made a request for \$100,000 more per seed for July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. A handout was provided.

Labor indicated they could support this.

Business indicated they would defer their answer until after a coalition meeting on Nov. 5, 2007, but likely the answer would be affirmative.

Reports from two COHEs:

Pat Vincent reported on the Renton COHE. Handouts were provided.

Labor brought up an issue regarding a flyer from a recent event at Valley Medical Center Occupational Health Clinic. Labor did not feel that this topic was appropriate for the COHE.

Pat Vincent clarified that no COHE money was spent on the event.

Labor indicated that COHE sponsorship was still an issue and that the issue would likely be raised at the Nov. 7, 2007 Renton COHE board meeting.

Labor raised a second issue regarding reduction of time or representation on the Renton Business and Labor Advisory Board.

Pat Vincent clarified that this issue was part of a general discussion at the August 1, 2007 board meeting but that no decisions were made. The number of business and labor representatives required in the board by-laws was discussed but there was no proposal for a reduction of representation on the board. Quarterly

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board meetings will continue to be scheduled for three hours each quarter but may end earlier if all agenda items are finished earlier.

Dan Hansen presented slides on the Eastern Washington COHE. Handouts were provided.

Business and Labor both asked clarifying questions about the E WA COHE's Carpal Tunnel Syndrome quality improvement initiative.

Labor asked whether the COHE was working with employers around the issue of prevention. Dan Hansen answered that the CTS QI initiative was the first such effort in the community.

Labor suggested to the L&I caucus that taking COHE knowledge to employers in the community regarding prevention is the next step. The labor caucus member stated that he did not see this in the COHE contracts but was interested to see the COHE project go in this direction.

The BIIA subcommittee member suggested that this issue may be an opportunity for either COHE to obtain safety and health grant money.

Business agreed that L&I has a complex process to address these types of claims and a joint employer-employee sponsored approach in the community would work the best.

Interests refinement and understanding:

Jeremy Sappington asked the three caucuses to consider the following question when reviewing the other caucuses' interests and any future solutions developed. "Will this solution address the stated interest of each caucus." A handout was provided.

The subcommittee members discussed each caucus' interests individually. Clarification was requested and given for some interests, and modifications made. In a few cases, a new interest was added. See the updated statement of interests per each caucus attached to these minutes.

At the end of the discussion, each caucus agreed it would, in general, consider whether the caucus could support the interests as stated and could work towards solutions based on the question above. The newest draft of the interests will be sent out to all members for final review prior to the next meeting.

Additional Discussions:

Jeremy Sappington asked all participants to identify issues for their own caucus' interests to be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting.

Wrap-up and Schedule Future Meetings:

NEXT MEETING
Dec. 4, 2007, 1:00 -5:00 pm
Tukwila