

Advisory Committee on Healthcare Innovation & Evaluation (ACHIEv)

Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2022

Members Present

Ron Wilcox, DC | Chair

Stephen Thielke, MD | Vice-chair

Mike Dowling, DC

Andrew Friedman, MD

Kirk Harmon, MD

David Folweiler, DC

Lee Thomas

John Meier

Tiffany Meeks

Shannon Pitts

Susan Reynolds-Sherman

Jennifer Rodriguez

Emily Stinson

Morgan Wear

Morgan Young

Members Not Present

Louis Lim, MD

Neil Hartman

Joe Kendo

Lisa Vivian

L&I Staff Present

Kim Wallace

Cheri Ward

Karen Jost

Suzyn Daniel

Diana Drylie

Molly Dutton

Jason Fodeman

Noha Gindy

Zach Gray

Jennine Griffo

Sarah Holm

Rose Jones

Megan Lemon

Jaymie Mai

Sarah Martin

Jason McGrew

Welcome

ACHIEv Chair Ron Wilcox called the meeting to order. The minutes from the October 2021 quarterly meeting were approved without changes.

ACHIEv Chair & Vice Chair for 2022

Ron Wilcox nominated Stephen Thielke to ACHIEv Chair. Stephen Thielke nominated David Folweiler as vice-chair. Vote was unanimous for both chair and vice-chair.

Recognition of Outgoing Chair Ron Wilcox

Ron was thanked for his contributions and leadership, while serving as an ACHIEv member and committee Chair.

Updates

- **Legislative**

Karen Jost shared that the following bills are potentially of interest:

- SB 5784- Psychologists as attending providers on mental-health only claims.
- HB 1763 and SB 5627 are companion bills that are related to IMEs.
 - Workers would be allowed to record their IME and would be allowed to bring in a second person to the exam that is >18 years of age.
- HB 1821 applies to health plans/carriers and allows for audio-only telemedicine.
- HB 1683 authorizes prescriptive authority for clinical psychologists after doing specific training.
- SB 5808 and HB 2004 are related to interpreter services and direct reimbursement for interpretive services if the interpreter fails to show up to the appointment.

- **L&I Reopening / Re-Entry**

Kim Wallace shared that L&I has delayed plans to re-open offices until March 15, 2022. L&I will continue to watch infection rates, hospitalizations, and other key status indicators. L&I is planning hybrid work schedules for staff. Quarterly advisory committee meetings will continue to operate remotely for now. Plans will be re-assessed periodically. A hybrid meeting approach is anticipated for July 2022.

- **Payment Policy**

Megan Lemon shared that new telehealth policy drafts are finalized; internal review is pending. Audio-only visits will not be addressed in this round of updates (a policy does already exist). Weight loss management will continue to have an in-person requirement. Provider-to-provider and “store-and-forward [ability to send pictures]” are under review this year. Policies coming soon: PT, OT, chiropractic, SLP, naturopaths, APFs, ROA, 60 day and 120 day reports, brain injury rehabilitation, and SIMP. The Mental Health policy will also be updated and will include decisions about audio-only visits.

- **Provider Education & CME Platform**

Suzyn Daniel shared that L&I has transitioned to a new learning management system with the Department of Enterprise Services for many of our provider Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Education (CE) modules. There is a new registration process. Instructions are available on the public website.

mCOT- Modified Chronic Opioid Therapy Pilot- Jaymie Mai & Jason Fodeman

In the mCOT pilot, using an evidence based worker-centered approach, OMD is partnering with the regional ONC to reduce harm, improve care, review claims, look for barriers or gaps in care, and determine possible treatment/resource options for workers on chronic opioid therapy. The main goal of the pilot is to ensure workers are receiving safe and appropriate treatment that improves their health, promotes return to work, avoids long term disability, and enables more productive, fulfilling lives.

COHE RFP- Morgan Wear

Currently, approximately 60% of state fund claims are initiated by a COHE provider. This percentage has been relatively stable for the past few years. The goal for COHE is to expand by considering new vendor partners. L&I is releasing an RFP in the next few weeks and will execute new contracts by July 1, 2022. With these new contracts, we are hoping to extend and strengthen COHE coverage across the whole state.

Physical Medicine Best Practices Project Update - Susan Reynolds-Sherman & Morgan Young

Phase Two of the work rehabilitation implementation plan has begun. Work rehab now has two levels: 1) work rehab conditioning and 2) work rehab hardening. In both levels, the focus is on clinically meaningful improvement and return to work. Phase Two will identify and implement provider education and training requirements specific to work rehab providers. Planning is in the works for a virtual training webinar this spring. Overall, the project is focused on ensuring workers have access to quality care, improving the quality of work rehabilitation services, and enhancing and differentiating work conditioning from usual physical therapy care.

Insurance Services Dashboard - Vickie Kennedy

Vickie Kennedy shared key data points and metrics related to long-term disability claims, time loss, and vocational recovery efforts. She noted that rates of long-term disability ticked upward over the past 1-2 years, but that the curve appears to now be flattening.

Reflection & Recognition - Honoring Vickie Kennedy

Vickie Kennedy is retiring from her position as the Insurance Services Assistant Director after fifty years of L&I service. She will work through March 2022. Vickie's legacy includes many significant achievements.

Meeting Wrap-Up - Ron Wilcox

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.