

## Advisory Committee on Healthcare Innovation & Evaluation (ACHIEv)

### Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2024

Hybrid Meeting occurred via Zoom/Labor and Industries, Tukwila; Room C20

#### Members Present

David Folweiler, DC | Chair  
Kelly Golob, DC  
Laurie Gwerder, ARNP  
Andrew Friedman, MD  
Louis Lim, MD  
Kirk Harmon, MD  
Tricia Daniel  
John Meier, Vice Chair  
Sybill Hyppolite  
Nicole Gomez

#### Members Not Present

Jane Dale  
Stephen Thielke, MD

#### L&I Staff Present

Kim Wallace	Emily Stinson
Gary Franklin	Jami Lifka
Mike Ratko	Tiffany Meeks
Cheri Ward	Victoria Rich
Karen Jost	
Diana Drylie	
Amy Updike	
Ji Young Nam	
Azadeh Farokhi	
Morgan Young	
Bob Waring	
Jennifer Jutte	
Suzyn Daniel	
Tina Vorse	
Sauna Muendel	

## **Welcome and Helpful Hybrid Hints (David Folweiler)**

### **Introductions**

ACHIEv Chair David Folweiler called the meeting to order and led introductions. Kim Wallace introduced L&I participants.

### **Review & Approve Agenda**

Committee members reviewed and approved the April 25, 2024 ACHIEv agenda with no changes. Motion carried and approved.

### **Approve Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2024 Meeting**

Committee members reviewed and approved the January 25, 2024 ACHIEv meeting minutes with no changes. Motion carried and approved.

### **Safety Tip**

Worker Memorial Day 2024 – taking place today at 2:00 pm - was discussed in place of the safety tip. A link to watch was provided.

## **Committee Support**

### **Vote on ACHIEv Charter (David Folweiler and Kim Wallace)**

Kim outlined the work completed on the charter and that every change agreed to by the committee at the January meeting has been incorporated. The new charter document was displayed, and the committee voted to approve the new version effective immediately.

### **Conflict of Interest Discussion (David Folweiler and Kim Wallace)**

Kim recapped the committee's prior discussion regarding the conflict of interest form. Pros and cons of implementing the COI for ACHIEv were discussed. Kim agreed to prepare a new version for consideration by the committee at the July 25, 2024 meeting.

## Updates from L&I

### Legislative (Karen Jost)

Karen reviewed legislative bills that were passed this year.

- HB 2041: Physician assistant collaborative practice- has similar effect to HB 1310 and SB5633
- SHB 2311: Supporting first responder wellness and peer support- task force to be convened by December 1, will have an L&I participant.
- SHB 2127: Workers comp incentives to return to work. Multiple changes, including skill enhancement opportunities not previously covered, increased incentives, and increased maximum amounts payable for certain accommodations.

Karen also made note of bills that did not pass:

- HB 1041 and SB 6144: Prescriptive authority of psychologists
- HB 1546: Good faith pain act
- HB 2116 and SB 6019: Prescriptive authority of pharmacists
- SB 5335: Washington health trust
- SB 5995: Professional license for spoken language interpreters and translators

### Naturopathic Payment Policy (Tina Vorse)

Tina discussed updates to the current payment policy, specifically changes on how naturopaths (ND) are being paid. The services L&I covers for NDs remain the same. The way they are paid will change. NDs will now bill using industry-standard CPT® codes, within their scope of practice, and within the already established rules and policies for those services. Stakeholder feedback was generally positive. The updated policy will be effective on July 1, 2024.

### Medical Consultant RFQQ (Suzyn Daniel)

The Medical Consultant RFQQ was announced; bid response details can be found at [Washington's Electronic Business Solution – WEBS for Vendors](#) (WEBS). Current contracts will expire and be replaced with new contracts from this solicitation, so RFQQ

responses are needed from any current contractors who want to continue to provide these services.

### **Rulemaking HB 1197: Psychologists as Attending Providers- Laws of 2023 (Jami Lifka)**

Jami reviewed HB 1197 which passed in 2023. The purpose of the bill, definitions and examples of work exposures that may result in a PTSD-only claim were covered. The bill becomes effective July 1, 2025. The definition of “Attending Provider” now includes psychologists and physician assistants. WAC’s with outdated terms such as “attending doctor” will be changed to use the term “attending provider.” Additional definitions and terms will be changed for consistency as well.

### **Want to Do Topic (David Folweiler)**

Continuation of Priority Topic:

“Getting the worker the most appropriate care and return to work as quickly as possible.”

### **Background & Introduction (David Folweiler)**

### **Utilization Review (Shauna Muendel)**

Shauna provided an overview of the Utilization Review (UR) program and detailed when reviews are necessary, e.g., outpatient surgical procedures, advanced imaging, spinal injections and inpatient hospitalizations. The review process was explained, including MD-to-MD discussions for denials or partial approvals and requesting re-review or reconsideration. Shauna also covered quality assurance efforts being made in the UR unit to reduce delays in handling inquiries. She discussed recent timeliness delays experienced by the L&I UR vendor, Comagine. The L&I UR team is working to streamline delay-related inquiries to a single inbox and is implementing a tracking mechanism. Additionally, a new UR ONC staff member will be hired, starting May 1, to assist with these improvements.

### **Medical Provider Network (MPN) and Access (Emily Stinson)**

Emily discussed the MPN map and the breakdown of Attending Providers, noting access issues for all Washingtonians, particularly with mental health services. She described “Find-A-Doc”, a tool for searching providers by location and language. The committee



discussed the need to keep provider information current. Emily also reviewed the Provider Support and Outreach unit's activities, including attending/exhibiting at conferences to connect with providers, maintaining tools on L&I's website, and assisting out-of-state and international providers who are treating injured workers.

### **Discussion and Q&A**

Not additional comments.

### **Public Comment (David Folweiler)**

None

### **Meeting Wrap-Up (David Folweiler)**

#### **Debrief Meeting Logistics**

Committee members agreed that the audio was much improved from the January meeting.

#### **Agenda Requests for July 2024**

No requests for future meetings at this time.