

Advisory Committee on Healthcare Innovation & Evaluation (ACHIEv)

Meeting Minutes for October 24, 2024

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

Members Present

David Folweiler, DC | Chair
Laurie Gwerder, ARNP
Louis Lim, MD
Andrew Friedman, MD
Kelly Golob, DC
Tricia Daniel
Sybill Hyppolite
Nicole Gomez
Jane Dale
Lloyd Brooks

Members Not Present

Kirk Harmon, MD
John Meier | Vice Chair

L&I Staff Present

Kim Wallace	Jami Lifka
Gary Franklin	Cristy Miller
Cherell Fisher	Megan Lemon
Kirsta Glenn	Marc Hobbs
Shauna Muendel	Morgan Wear
Diana Drylie	Ellen Hull
Amy Updike	Maria Dakan
Ji Young Nam	Tiffany Meeks
Azadeh Farokhi	Victoria Rich
Morgan Young	
Bob Waring	
Lee Glass	
Jennifer Jutte	
Suzyn Daniel	
Zach Gray	

Welcome and Helpful Hybrid Hints (David Folweiler and Kim Wallace)

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 October 24, 2024 ACHIEv agenda with no changes.

Approve Meeting Minutes from July 25, 2024 Meeting

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

Safety Tip

David Folweiler reviewed the safety tip on candle safety.

Introduction of new ACHIEv Member

David Folweiler introduced Lloyd Brooks as the newest member of ACHIEv. Lloyd shared his background and expressed his goals and aspirations for his involvement in the committee.

Updates

Agency Update (Kim Wallace)

Kim introduced Brenda Heilman and Kirsta Glenn in their new roles at the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I). The agency has been focusing on addressing PTSD in the workforce by collecting data and planning new initiatives for the coming year. Additionally, L&I has contracted with a vendor to conduct research on PTSD-related laws, policies, and regulations in both the U.S. and internationally, covering both private and public sectors.

Physician Assistant Rule Update (Marc Hobbs)

Marc provided an update on the repeal of WAC 296-20-12501, which includes the pay differential for Physician Assistants (PAs), who were limited to 90% of fee schedule rates instead of 100%. The rulemaking process will begin with a hearing on December 4, 2024, and the change to 100% pay for PAs is set to go into effect on March 1, 2025.

Need to Do Topics

Psychologists and Physicians Assistants as Attending Providers (Jami Lifka)

Jami Lifka provided an overview of HB 1197, including its purpose, key definitions, examples of covered conditions, and the effective date of July 1, 2025. The bill applies retroactively and requires amendments to four existing rules to incorporate new language. Jami also outlined the proposed timeline for the rule-making process to implement the changes mandated by HB 1197.

Behavioral Health Intervention Policy Status Report (Megan Lemon)

Megan Lemon reviewed the current Behavioral Health Intervention (BHI) policy, which addresses psycho-social barriers impacting claims, distinct from mental health services. BHI can be delivered by various types of providers, and while AP referrals are required, prior authorization is not needed for the initial 16 visits. Telehealth and audio-only services are also available. Megan presented some data, and the committee discussed challenges around access to mental health professionals, particularly the shortage of psychologists who accept insurance and the lack of available providers in rural areas.

Interpretation Services (Cristy Miller)

Cristy Miller provided an update on the WordBridge implementation timeline, including the number of providers and Language Access Providers/Interpreters (LAPs) currently in the system, as well as the success and unfulfilled rates of assignments. She also explained the roles of SOSi, LAPs, and providers in the interpretation services process. The committee discussed past challenges with interpreter services, and it was requested that Cristy return to a future meeting to provide additional data and updates.

Refreshed Orientation -Training for COHE Providers (Morgan Wear, Ellen Hull and Maria Dakan)

Morgan provided a refresher on the COHE (Centers of Occupational Health and Education) providers, including background information and details on quality improvement projects underway. Ellen presented the revised/refreshed provider orientation and training that the COHEs recently developed together. She also shared about her role in training new providers to be part of the UW Valley COHE and reviewed occupational health best practices. She covered key documents like the Activity Prescription Form and the Report of Accident, as well as best practices 1-5 and the SOAP-ER definition. The committee raised questions about the frequency and duration of refresher trainings and inquired about other types of collaboration between HSCs (Health Services Coordinators) in the system.

Want to Do Topics (David Folweiler)

Continuation of Priority Topic:

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

David reviewed the educational topics covered in the 2024 ACHIEv meetings and sought guidance from the committee about next steps. . The committee explored the goal of having COHEs (Centers of Occupational Health and Education) available for 100% of workers statewide and the potential for offering incentives, with an emphasis on developing innovative financial models. Barriers to involving self-insurance (SI) in the COHEs were discussed, for example incompatible software and limited access to claim information when compared with what is available for state fund claims, with a preference for live-access software to prevent care delays. The committee agreed that a future presentation on the historical SI pilot would be helpful. Other suggestions included ensuring provider network information remains up-to-date (via tools like FindADoc), focusing on older claims (6-12 months), and improving access to care for injuries and illnesses where care gaps and delays are especially prevalent.

Public Comment (David Folweiler)

None.

Meeting Wrap-Up (David Folweiler)



Meeting Debrief

The committee members agreed that the meeting went well today.

Agenda Requests for January 2025

Agenda requests were captured in the “Want to Do Topics” discussion.