

## Industrial Insurance Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

Quarterly Meeting Minutes for [10/24/2024](#) | Prepared by: Victoria Rich, OMD Admin

### **IIMAC Members Present**

Andrew Friedman, MD (Chair)

Kirk Harmon, MD (Vice-chair)

Laurie Gwerder, ARNP

Jiho Bryson, MD

Louis Lim, MD

Stephen Thielke, MD

Chris Howe, MD

Greg Carter, MD

Jean-Christophe (JC) Leveque, MD

Linda Seaman, MD

Dawn Ehde, PhD

Patricia Waring, MD

Monica Haines, DO

### **IIMAC Members Not Present**

Mike Codsi, MD

### **L&I Staff & Presenters**

Gary Franklin

Kim Wallace

Kirsta Glenn

Azadeh Farokhi

Bob Waring

Morgan Young

Jason Fodeman

Jennifer Jutte

Ji Young Nam

Lee Glass

Amy Updike

Shauna Muendel

Suzyn Daniel

Jami Lifka

Tiffany Meeks

Victoria Rich

## Welcome and Call to Order\* (Andrew Friedman)

## Hybrid Helpful Hints (Suzyn Daniel)

## Introductions (Andrew Friedman and Suzyn Daniel)

IIMAC Chair Andrew Friedman called the meeting to order and led introductions. Suzyn Daniel introduced L&I participants.

## Agenda Review

## Approve Minutes\* From July/25/2024 (Andrew Friedman):

\* Committee members reviewed and approved the July 25, 2024 IIMAC meeting minutes with no content changes; motion carried and approved.

## Safety Tip (Andrew Friedman)

Andrew presented a safety tip on candle safety.

## Welcome to Dawn Ehde, new IIMAC Member (Jennifer Jutte)

Jennifer introduced Dawn Ehde PhD, the new IIMAC member.

## Farewell to Dr. Ji Young Nam (Gary Franklin)

Gary Franklin expressed appreciation for Dr. Ji Young Nam's dedicated work during her time with L&I and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

## ACHIEv Summary (Laurie Gwerder and Kim Wallace)

Kim and Laurie presented an overview of the ACHIEv meeting, which included the introduction of Lloyd Brooks as a new member, updates from L&I, and a presentation on Interpretive Services, among other topics.

## Psychologists and Physician Assistants as Attending Providers (Jami Lifka)

House Bill 1197 (Chapter 171, Laws of 2023)

*Defining attending provider and clarifying other provider functions for workers' compensation claims, and adding psychologists as attending providers for mental health only claims.*

Jami Lifka provided an overview of HB 1197, including its purpose, key definitions, examples of mental health only claims, and the effective date of July 1, 2025. HB 1197 lists who can be attending providers in statute. It includes providers that are already in the definition of "attending provider" in WAC 296-20-01002 *Definitions*. It adds psychologists in the case of claims solely for mental health conditions and

physician assistants. Jami also provided a proposed timeline for the rule-making process to implement the changes mandated by HB 1197.

### **Update on the Opioid Epidemic (Gary Franklin)**

Gary Franklin provided an update on the opioid epidemic. He shared statistics on opioid dependency, deaths, and the relationship between opioids and disability, along with the incidence rate of opioid use disorder. Gary addressed committee questions concerning days' supply and dosage threshold levels.

### **Updates**

#### **IIMAC Subcommittee PTSD – Stephen Thielke**

Stephen Thielke provided an update on the PTSD Subcommittee, noting that they have had two productive meetings discussing assessment tools and potential uses of psychotherapies for treating PTSD.

#### **Agency Update – Kim Wallace**

Kim provided an update on recent changes in executive leadership at L&I and highlighted ongoing PTSD-related projects being carried out by the agency.

#### **Medical Consultants – Amy Updike**

The medical RFQQ has closed, with 23 successful bidders. To date, 5 contracts have been signed, and all contracts will take effect on December 1, 2024.

### **Public Comment (Andrew Friedman)**

None

### **Wrap-Up (Andrew Friedman)**

- Next meeting is January 23, 2025.
- Agenda Ideas: Updates on the AMDG.