

**Workers' Compensation Advisory Board
October 15, 2009 OPEN Meeting Minutes
Illinois Department of Insurance, Springfield
1:30 p.m.**

Present at the meeting:

Ms. Amy J. Masters, Acting Chairman
Mr. Michael Carrigan, Illinois AFL-CIO
Mr. Frank Cavarretta, United Steel Workers
Mr. Mark Flannery, Caterpillar, Inc.
Ms. Kim Maisch, National Federation of Independent Business
Mr. David Menchetti, Cullen, Haskins, Nicholson & Menchetti
Mr. Kim Presbrey, Presbrey & Associates
Mr. David Vite, Retail Merchants Association

Attending the meeting via conference call:

Mr. David Buckman, CORE Construction Group

Also Attending

Tony Rossi, Legislative Liaison

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Chairman Masters called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm

Chairman Masters updated the board about the medical fee schedule seminars which began that week and will continue through December in 6 locations across the state, in addition to a webinar. She noted over 500 people, mostly payers and providers, had registered for the seminars. Chairman Masters also updated the board about the progress of the medical fee schedule report due to the General Assembly and Governor on January 1, 2010 and invited everyone to attend the next Medical Fee Schedule Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2009.

Chairman Masters discussed ongoing technology projects, including initial review of scanning programs. She also noted IWCC's interactions with Central Management Service (CMS) to discuss additional IT projects, in determining the best way to proceed.

Next Chairman Masters updated the board about the rules review group, and that she expects the first meeting to be held in November. The rules group will focus on updating rules to reflect current practices, implement technology, reflect 2005 reform laws, and eliminate outdated rules. Once rules revisions are finalized, they will be presented to the

Workers' Compensation Advisory Board for comments, in addition to going through the formal rulemaking process.

Next Chairman Masters informed the board of potential legislation related to insurance compliance fines. The board agreed that legislation related to workers' compensation should go through the agreed bill process. The board discussed the intention of insurance compliance laws, the Injured Workers' Benefit Fund, and appropriate fines for small employers across the state. It was noted that one of the main goals of the insurance compliance program should be to ensure that Illinois employers become compliant, not to put employers out of business. Mrs. Kim Maisch noted that cases naming the Injured Workers' Benefit Fund should be prioritized. Chairman Masters indicated she would obtain additional information about Insurance Compliance investigations and report back to the board at the next quarterly meeting.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting held on July 7, 2009, were approved.

Upon motion, the board went into closed meeting at 2:20 p.m.

The board returned to open meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Chairman Masters inquired about convenience of meeting location and board members agreed the Department of Insurance conference room was acceptable location for future meetings.

Chairman Masters also noted that the medical fee schedule will decrease in 2010 due to CPI-U rate of -1.48% between August, 2008 and August, 2009.

Upon motion, the Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.