

## Meeting minutes: Workers' Compensation Advisory Council

Date: April 20, 2023

Minutes prepared by: Alyssa Westergard, executive secretary to the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council

Location: Department of Labor and Industry, Minnesota Room, 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN

### Attendance

#### Members attended

Bill Gschwind  
Bernie Burnham  
Brian Ecker  
Burt Johnson  
Colin Beere  
David Henrich  
Gary Thaden  
Hannah Alstead  
John Thorson  
Lauryn Schothorst  
Maggie Hobbs  
Matthew Schmidt

#### DLI staff members attended

Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach  
Assistant Commissioner Kate Daly  
Alyssa Westergard  
Angela Douglas  
Ann Tart  
Brian Mak  
Brian Zaidman  
Carey Wagner  
Chris Leifeld  
Denise Holmes  
Ender Kavas  
Ethan Landy  
Hared Mah  
Jeanne Vogel  
Jeff Hendrix  
Jennifer Bucholz

Jerrica Walker  
Jessica Stimac  
Jon Brothen  
Karen Kask-Meinke  
Lisa Wichterman  
Melissa Parish  
Michelle Doheny  
Mike Hill  
Nichole Sorenson  
Nicole Kue  
Pam Carlson  
Ralph Hapness  
Sharon Benkufsky  
Virginia Prax  
Yuri Jelokov

#### Visitors attended

Alison Khan, WCRA  
Andrea Everling, MWCIA  
Andrew Essling, MCIT  
Andrew Morrison, SISF  
Auntara De, MWCIA  
Brad Lehto, MNAFL-CIO  
Bill McCarthy  
Carrie Jacobson, Brown and Carlson  
Carla Ferrucci, MAJ  
Dana Gerber, Atkinson Gerber  
James Heer, WCRA  
Jennifer Wolf, MWCIA  
Jerry Sisk, MAJ  
Joe Schindler, MHA  
Joshua Borken

Karen Ebert, MCIT  
Katie Storms, MDLA/Lind Jensen  
Kelly Rodieck, Travelers  
Laura Mundt, Mayo  
Michael Chamberlin  
Michael Lewis  
Michael Tupy  
R. Prall, LMC  
Rebecca Yang, WCRI

Sandy Stoddard, Wilson-McShane  
Sarah Groskreutz  
Sarah Hunter, SFM  
Suzanna Kennedy, Stinson Leonard  
Tyler Treichel  
Tom Christenson, WCCA

## Call to order and roll call

Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

## Approval of the minutes and agenda

Colin Beere moved to accept the April 20 agenda and the March 28 minutes. Hannah Alstead seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

## Announcements

Commissioner Blissenbach thanked the council members and stakeholders for their work in preparing the legislative package being presented today.

## Agenda items

### 1. Presentation and vote on proposals – Commissioner Blissenbach and DLI Office of General Counsel

Ethan Landy, from the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI's) Office of General Counsel, reviewed the finalized draft of the legislative proposals. Landy noted all changes would be effective Aug. 1, 2023.

Lauryn Schothorst noted the bill contained references to both calendar days and business days. For consistency, business representatives preferred all references be calendar days. Gary Thaden and Bernie Burnham agreed.

There were no further questions or revisions to the proposals. Burnham moved to accept the legislative proposals with the one change previously discussed. Schothorst seconded the motion. Burnham said the labor representatives were grateful for all the time and work that went into the proposals and appreciated everything the Department of Labor and Industry had done. Schothorst also thanked the council members, DLI staff members, the commissioner and the assistant commissioner for their work.

Thaden recommended the motion include authorization for the department and revisor's office to make small editorial changes without having to bring the proposals back before the council. He moved to

amend the proposal to include this recommendation. Burt Johnson seconded the amendment. A roll call vote was taken on both the original motion and the amendment; both motions carried.

Commissioner Blissenbach expressed her gratitude to the council members, stakeholders and department staff members for their work this session.

## **Other business**

A future meeting is not currently scheduled; there was discussion regarding scheduling a meeting at the end of May or early June.

## **Adjournment**

Thaden moved to adjourn the meeting and Burnham seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Westergard, executive secretary