

# WSIA Liaison Committee Report

**Patrick Reiman, Assistant VP Claims, Sedgwick  
Laura Merritt, King County  
Sept. 5, 2019**

The Liaison Committee met with representatives from the Department of Labor & Industries on Sept. 5, 2019 9AM-1:15PM. Present for the meeting in whole or part of meeting from the Department were Jim Nylander, Mike Ratko, Brian Schmidlkofer, LaNae Lien, Gina Mayo, Mark Phillips (actuarial), Aaron Hoffman (COHE), Jenna Weekly (sic)(Occup Health Services). Present from WSIA were Kris Tefft, Lisa Vivian, Lloyd Brooks and Patrick Reiman.

As your representatives for the WSIA Liaison Committee we can provide assistance in resolving claim management issues, policy or procedure concerns or specific individual claim related issues through our bi-monthly meetings with the L&I representatives.

Please contact Employer Representative Laura Merritt at 206-477-3380 or email [Laura.Merritt@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Laura.Merritt@kingcounty.gov) or TPA Representative Pat Reiman at 206-214-2813 or email at [patrick.reiman@sedgwick.com](mailto:patrick.reiman@sedgwick.com) with any issues you would like discussed during our next scheduled meeting Nov. 7, 2019.

## **GENERAL**

Welcome and introductions. Safety tip- Fall fires, check/clean HVAC systems, recycle vs. burn leaves, unattended candles one of leading house fire reasons.

## **WSIA ITEMS**

### **Claims Rules Modernization**

Still early on any opportunities of feedback to community on what is or isn't working. SI section did survey their adjudicators and felt going well. Will continue to evaluate letters/forms and look at potential revisions 1/2020. Suggested topic for WSIA Winter Conf., but also SI section wanted to potentially meet for direct feedback from larger TPAs. Discussed delay potential with authorized treatment letter where use to be provided just orally. Also discussed LEP and start/stop benefits letters vs. not entitled to benefit.

Curriculum-WSIA developing modules with plan Sept-June except Jan. education calendar planned and monthly classes. Curriculum advisory committee meets monthly but discussed should be able to review submission and provide input as true advisory now for curriculum and CEs vs. approval committee. WSIA plans on submitting full outline of curriculum next week. Brian is to work on smoothing out approval process. Also we discussed potential for retroactive approval if needed. Further discussion on online courses vs. live instruction and felt that would be authorized as have to still pass certification test.

Certification Test-looking at private consulting group to develop new test with target early 2020. WSIA has 30 enrollees for Sept. pre-certification class. With new SI office location adds more flexibility for greater number of testers and different dates including

more than 1x month. Suggested L&I needs to be sure publish dates so preparation class can be scheduled and also watch delays from preparation classes to test date and travel considerations.

### **Financial Rules Modernization**

Meeting set 9/19. Added Robert Silber and Cody Arledge from labor side. Concern expressed on labor's stake in this modernization. Suggested review timing so allows new SIE to get surety in place, receive SIF2 forms, etc. as experience is notification is just a few days before effective date. Group to look at certification and financial review aspects. Also suggest look to update questionnaire sent.

### **LEP**

SI section met internally. Seeking consensus with work group and next meeting in scheduled in Sept. Once come up with recommendations will need to stakeholder with legal, State Fund, WA Assoc. for Justice, WSIA, etc. Erik Samuelsen, Chris Fowler, Terri Nienkark and Kelly Early represent the SI community. Understand bonus, overtime and health care benefit are focus issues.

### **Maphet vs. Clark County decision**

Discussion around ramification of decision and likely to be published which states if a self-insured employer authorizes treatment, the self-insured employer has accepted the condition and not just consequential treatment. Further states the SIE has the responsibility to investigate and challenge treatment. We asked SI section provide guidance in areas of reopenings, interlocutory, temporary treatment of conditions delaying recovery, etc. as now could be interpreted as if SIE pays for treatment then bought condition. Also brought up office visits where one charge but may have addressed non-occupational conditions in same visit. Concern SIE will have to take position of not providing treatment where would have prior or treatment is delayed.

### **WSIA Fall Conf.**

Lloyd thanked L&I for their resources on hearing loss section and wanted to assure SI section represented in case variance in State Fund presenter vs. SI section process. Also on hearing loss discussed process change issue joint orders so responsible employer, denial all addressed at same time.

### **Dolph**

Suggested need for prescribed language for recommunication of O&N to attending provider as well as that developed for employee and published in CAG.

## **SELF INSURANCE UPDATES**

### **Move**

The SI section will be moving across the street 10/28-31 to Pointe Plaza East 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Jim sought input on décor and displaying SIE. It was suggested perhaps a picture contest from SI Employers they could use along with existing items from current location.

### **SI/OMD Colloquium Questions/Feedback**

Jenna and Aaron inquired on draft survey for interaction on Moving Forward Together theme. It was felt a more targeted survey vs. broad to SIE community would be more effective. Goal is interaction with SIE vs. just L&I presentations. Considering table topics for discussion with strategic seating of L&I personnel, TPAs and SIE. Effort is to engage broader SIE audience as has migrated to L&I heavy vs. sharing of information.

### **Claim Adjudication Guidelines**

Copies of updates provided to liaison committee late 8/27 before Holiday and this meeting. L&I has deadline of 9/30 for publication so internal deadline 9/15 so can migrate to new system. New system should allow easier changes if something missed or needs addressed although will be frozen until Nov. We asked on LEP section note *still under review* be input as pends LEP workgroup final product. We expressed concern with denial reasons being part of CAG. Also asked L&I review new section Management of Claims as pertains to certification requirements.

### **Audit**

Info to be provided.

### **SI-Claims Performance Metrics**

Info to be provided

### **Certifications**

To be provided

### **Staffing**

To be provided.