

WSIA Liaison Committee Report

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Laura Merritt, King County
Nov. 7, 2019

The Liaison Committee met with representatives from the Department of Labor & Industries on Nov. 7, 2019 9AM-1:15 PM. Present for the meeting in whole or part of meeting from the Department were Jim Nylander, Brian Schmidlkofer, LaNae Lien, Starla Treznoski, Shannon Stekette Present from WSIA were Kris Tefft, Lisa Vivian, Lloyd Brooks, Patrick Reiman and Laura Merritt.

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 or TPA Representative Pat Reiman at 206-214-2813 or email at patrick.reiman@sedgwick.com with any issues you would like discussed during our next scheduled meeting Nov. 7, 2019.

WSIA ITEMS

Claims Rules Modernization

SI section did survey their adjudicators and felt going well. They told us they would monitor to see if they have any changes in the workflow due to the new rules. SI section is also seeing a decrease in wage orders along with a small increase in disputes. SI will continue to inform us on how this is going. Will continue to evaluate letters/forms and look at potential revisions 1/2020. They may be able to increase accountability on some of existing metric timeframes.

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 submitted a full outline of curriculum. Starla felt the WSIA Core Curriculum looked good. Brian is to work on smoothing out approval process. Further discussion on online courses vs. live instruction and felt that would be authorized as they would have to still pass certification test.

Certification test-looking at private consulting group to develop new test with target early 2020. With the new SI office location which 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 class to test date and travel considerations. DLI ha a target of July 1, 2021 to have a complete 72 hour curriculum. The goal is to align the test with the core curriculum.

Financial Rules Modernization

DLI is working with Marsh in evaluating risk of default. DLI is trying to simplify going Self Insured. Suggested review timing which would allow new Self Insured Employers to get surety in place, receive SIF2 forms, etc. DLI will continue to keep us apprised. Next meeting to have a financial analyst from State Investment Board present. Reviewing qualifications and monitoring. OH just uses investment credit. Discussed challenges on private employer and cost of audited financial statements.

LEP

Once the LEP committee comes up with recommendations will need to stakeholder with legal, State Fund, WA Assoc. for Justice, WSIA, etc. Erik Samuelson, Chris Fowler, Terri Nienkark and Kelly Early represent the SI community

Maphet vs. Clark County decision

Discussion the recent published decision 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 reopening's, interlocutory, temporary treatment of conditions delaying recovery, etc. as now could be interpreted as if SIE pays for treatment then bought condition DLI not planning on making any across the board change with the Maphet ruling. Noted likely increase in IMEs will result and delays in treatment.

SELF INSURANCE UPDATES

Move

The SI section has moved across the street 10/28-31 to Pointe Plaza East 2nd floor. Our next liaison meeting will be at this new location.

Website Launch

Shannon Steketee from DLI indicated they are having multiple issues with the new web site launch. SI section aware they need to update all links in CAG. They are addressing them as quickly as possible. They are sending out communications on the SI website. She also presented a few ideas for future web site such as fillable forms, State Fund now getting APF electronically through Health Interface Exchange and capturing date from it. Discussed perhaps focus on online claim reporting for SIE generating numbers assigned to SIE and then transmitting SIF2 electronically to ER/Administrator for claim creation on their end. We asked on any data capture that L&I needs to define what want to capture, why and use. A questionnaire may be developed for SIE on this issue. Report website issues to siwebsite@lni.wa.gov

Claim Adjudication Guidelines

We asked the LEP section note *still under review* be input as pends LEP workgroup final product.

Audit

Info to be provided.

SI-Claims Performance Metrics

Info to be provided

Certifications

The web site is not working at this time, more to come.

Staffing

Starla Treznoski new role for SI as Policy Ops Mgr overseeing the training unit, management analysts, Hanford unit and bills/rules.