

*Medical Services Review Committee /
Workers' Compensation Board
Special Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes*

August 25, 2023

I. Call to order

Workers' Compensation Director Charles Collins called the MSRC and Board to order at 9:08 am on Friday, August 25, 2023. This meeting was held in person in Anchorage, Alaska, and by Zoom video conference.

II. Roll call

Director Collins conducted a roll call of the Board. The following Board members were present, constituting a quorum:

Brad Austin	Randy Beltz	John Corbett	Mike Dennis
Sara Faulkner	Bronson Frye	Anthony Ladd	Sarah Lefebvre
Mark Sayampanathan	Marc Stemp	Robert Weel	Debbie White
Lake Williams			

Members Pam Cline, Johnathon Dartt and Steven Heidemann were excused. Member Anthony Ladd arrived after roll call.

Director Collins conducted a roll call of the MSRC. The following Committee members were present, constituting a quorum:

Mary Ann Foland	Jeff Gilbert	Susan Kosinski	Dr. Mason McCloskey
Valerie Mittelstead	Jeff Moore	Pam Scott	Misty Steed

Member Moore arrived after roll call.

III. Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the agenda was made by member Weel and seconded by member White. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of MSRC August 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion to adopt the minutes from the August 5, 2022 meeting was made by member Foland and seconded by member Steed. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of joint Board/MSRC August 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A motion to adopt the minutes from the August 26, 2022 special joint meeting of the Board and MSRC was made by member Austin and seconded by member Weel. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. MSRC's Presentation of Recommendations to Board

Director Collins provided a history of the Fee Schedule and the amendment process.

Member Lefebvre suggested that future packets include an acronym key, and suggested changes to the MSRC and Board roster in the meeting packet.

Break 10:05 – 10:17 am

VII. Public Comment Period 10:15 am- 11:15 am

Representative Mike Prax – Representing District 33, North Pole of legislature

- Commended the Board on its meeting

Patti Wilson – Representing University of Alaska

- Asked if the reference on page 33 of the Fee Schedule (bates stamp 071 and 134 in the packet) was incorrect.

Debbie Ryan – Representing Alaska Chiropractic Society

- Suggested that the Board coordinate with the medical community in drafting a bulletin or similar notice regarding injured worker medical billing.

VIII. MSRC's Presentation of Recommendations to Board Cont.

The MSRC, through Carla, presented its recommendation to the Board. Carla walked through the track changes version of the draft 2023 Fee Schedule.

In response to public comment, the statutory reference on page 33 of the Fee Schedule was corrected.

Member Lefebvre suggested an amendment to the language stating an employee may not be required to pay a fee or change. The Board and Committee discussed the issue, and the language was clarified in three areas of the Fee Schedule. Member Foland motioned to approve the revised language and member Steed seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Lefebvre motioned that it is the will of the Board that the Department issue a bulletin to address the issue of injured worker medical billing, Member White seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Member White also suggested that the Division coordinate with the Division of Insurance to add a blurb in their quarterly mailout.

Member Foland motioned to approve the proposed 2024 Alaska Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule as amended, member Steed seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Frye moved to accept the proposed 2024 Alaska Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule as amended, and member Lefebvre seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Proposed Regulation Changes

Amend 8 AAC 45.083, relating to fees for medical treatment and services. Member Austin moved to approve the amendment of 8 AAC 45.083, and member White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Lefebvre motioned that the MSRC review surgery and radiology conversion factors during their 2024 meetings. Member Faulkner seconded and the motion carried.

The MSRC and Board discussed dates for the 2024 Special Joint meeting. Member Lefebvre motioned to hold the 2024 joint meeting on August 23, 2024. Member Austin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by member Faulkner and seconded by member Frye. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 12:11 pm