

DISABILITY PROCEDURES & SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES 11-3-10

MEMBERSHIP PRESENT

- Will Pryor, Chair
- Ed C. Morris, Vice Chair
- Simon S. Russin
- Les Robbins

ABSENT

- None

ALSO ATTENDING MEMBERS AT LARGE

- William de la Garza
- Yves Chery
- Marvin Adams
- Edward Blecksmith

STAFF, ADVISORS, PARTICIPANTS

- Janice Golden
- Oliver Kuzma, M.D.
- James Castranova
- Vincent Lim
- Steve Tallant
- Frank Boyd
- Debbie Juul
- Robb Van Der Volgen
- J. Patrick Joyce
- Shari Altmark
- Laura Gonzalez
- Richard Schlosser
- Tamara Caldwell
- Jim Alvarez
- Darren Huey
- Nichelle Porter
- Penelope Rodriguez
- Maisha Coulter
- Maria Muro
- Vicki Neely
- Andy Demetroulis
- Kerri Wilson
- Anna Kwan
- Debra Martin
- Mercie Martinez
- Debbie Semnanian

ATTORNEYS

- Allison Barrett
- Thomas Wicke

GUEST SPEAKER

- None

1. APPOINTMENT OF VOTING MEMBER(S) IN THE EVENT ONE OR MORE REGULAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE ABSENT
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF September 1, 2010

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Pryor to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 6, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

3. FOR INFORMATION

1. Manager's Report

Disability Application and Appeal Processing Trends and Statistics

- Disability application and processing trends and statistics

Ms. Juul discussed the disability applications and processing trends. She advised the Committee that there has been a large increase in disability applications received and disability applications in process. The amount of cases going before the Board has also increased.

Ms. Juul included information about the goals that were set for each investigator. Based on the number of applications received in the previous year, each investigator had a goal of completing 22 disability applications for the FY 2010. With the increase of disability applications the goal for each investigator is now 27 per investigator for FY 2011.

- Report to Disability Procedures and Services Committee on Administrative Hearing (appeals) Case Load Copies to all Board Members

Mr. J. Patrick Joyce advised the Committee that the appeal caseload has decreased from 476 cases in 2007 to 220 cases in October 2010. The decrease in caseload is due to several factors:

- Referee recommendations
- Administratively closed cases
- Revised recommendations placed on the Board agenda each month

Mr. Joyce advised the Committee that his office does not control the number of new appeals or the timeline used by the applicants (and their counsel) to set hearing dates, they have been successful working with applicants and counsel in moving a substantial number of cases to final disposition. The case load reduction momentum will continue in the near term and his mission will remain the same to move as many cases as possible to conclusion.

- The Disability Committee meeting scheduled for December 3, 2010 has been canceled.
- At the January 5, 2011 Disability Committee meeting Mr. Castranova and Ms. Juul will be reporting on the Public Safety Consolidation and how it relates to the disability applications.

4. ACTION ITEMS

1. Interest in adding a New Specialty to the Board Panel of Physicians and EMG Services

1. Add the specialty of Pain Management/Rehabilitation (Physiatry) to the Board Panel Specialties.

Dr. Kuzma and Mr. Pryor have requested that staff obtain additional information on services and cost of an EMG provider.

A motion was made by Mr. Russin and seconded by Mr. Pryor to refer the request to add a Pain Management/Rehabilitation (Physiatry) back to staff for additional information. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Continue Staff practice of allowing the Board Panel Physician to refer the member to a facility of the doctor's own choosing when an EMG is required.

A motion was made by Mr. Russin and seconded by Mr. Pryor to continue staff's practice of allowing the Board Panel Physician to refer the members to an EMG of their choice, when the services are required. The motion passed unanimously.

5. MISCELLANEOUS (Discussion)

None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT None

7. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Pryor mentioned to staff that the Return to Work Coordinators are not familiar with code 31725.6. He requested that the coordinators attend a training on the procedures that are required when a member is to return to work.

Shari Altmark and Richard Schlosser informed the Committee of the Return to Work training that the Coordinators receive. They also told the Committee that they meet with department coordinators when requested.

8. ADJOURNMENT

 PROMISED BENEFITS | In 1937, a promise was made to County employees; we exist to uphold that promise.

1/6/11