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Judicial Council *of* California
Judicial Branch Workers' Compensation Program Advisory Committee

JUDICIAL BRANCH WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/3962

Advisory Body Members Present:	Shelby Wineiner (Chair), Christine Alburger, Heather Capps, Stephanie Cvitkovich, Kevin Harrigan, Krista LeVier, Ashley Rico, Jenny Rogers, Nocona Soboleski, Hugh Swift, Brian Taylor, Jenny Thomas
Advisory Body Members Absent:	Stephanie Bohrer, Sulakshna Chauhan, Brandon Riley
Others Present:	Edward Metro (Program Manager), Patrick Farrales, Jade Vu, Ed Cho, Miki Novitski, Sayuri Okamoto, Monica Serrano, Jacquelyn Miller, Candace Maibes, Tracy Baril, Amanda Garcia, Heather Allen, Laurie Ash

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M. and Program Manager, Edward Metro, was asked to take roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 14, 2025, Judicial Branch Workers' Compensation Program Advisory Committee meeting.
(Motion to approve: Rico, Second: Harrigan, Abstention: Capps)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–4)

Item 1

Sedgwick Claims Stewardship

Presenters: Amanda Garcia, Heather Allen, Laurie Ash, Sedgwick Claims

Amanda Garcia and Heather Allen reported on the 2024 program performance, noting the completion of 20 file reviews, the first JBWCP structured settlement, and the start of a clinical consultation pilot. Data showed a 106.8% closing ratio and a 5.2% increase in new claim closing rates. Total open pending claims decreased by 3.4%, and legacy claims from the prior TPA were reduced by 430 files since inception. While new claim volume reached a five-year low, total incurred costs rose by 13%, attributed to three claims exceeding $100,000. Reporting lag improved, with 50% of claims reported within one day, though 20% remain in the 4–14 day range.

Laurie Ash detailed managed care results, including $5.5 million in net savings from bill reviews. Utilization review procedures increased by 4%, with significant savings in physical therapy and medical equipment. Sedgwick implemented three technical enhancements: an Application Programming Interface (API) with Concentra for medical documentation, "Sidekick" AI for document summarization, and AI care guidance for early intervention. Objectives for 2025 include reducing Temporary Total Disability (TTD) days, decreasing aged claims (2+ years) by 5%, and increasing the use of structured settlements.

Information only, no action was required.

Item 2

JBWCP Advisory Committee Annual Agenda

Presenters: Shelby Wineinger, Chair and Edward Metro, Program Manager

Shelby Wineinger and Edward Metro presented the updated 2025–26 annual agenda, which outlines upcoming projects and cost-effective interventions. Key initiatives include developing detailed policies and procedures to memorialize program operations by the end of the calendar year, managing premium allocation, and monitoring litigation costs for financial responsibility. The agenda also covers the development of financial dashboards to analyze cash flow and assist with actuarial funding determinations, alongside risk control efforts such as member outreach, training, and the implementation of the clinical consultation pilot.

Action: *(Motion to approve: Harrigan, Second: Swift)*

Item 3

Multi-Year Strategic Initiatives

Presenters: Ed Cho, Program Staff

Ed Cho updated the committee on multi-year strategic initiatives, specifically the development of a policies and procedures manual to memorialize program operations and institutional knowledge. The manual has completed initial subcommittee reviews and is expected to be finalized by year-end. Litigation audits confirmed that defense fund usage aligns with industry standards. Risk control efforts currently focus on member outreach and training informed by recent surveys. These initiatives aim to mitigate risk by ensuring members have the practiced expertise to manage claims consistently and reduce frequency. To improve data analysis, the program is developing dashboards to identify operational "pain points." Finally, the program is in good financial health and no longer in a deficit; however, the subcommittee will evaluate whether methodology changes may be needed to reduce premium volatility for smaller members.

Information only, no action was required.

Item 4

Legislative Updates

Presenter: Jackie Miller, Sedgwick Pooling

Jackie Miller provided a legislative update, noting that several new legislators have introduced bills that may impact the JBWCP. Key legislation includes AB 1498, regarding a statewide Medical Provider

Network, and SB 668, regarding medical-legal fee schedule adjustments. Two active bills, AB 1048 and AB 1293, focus on contract transparency and the quality of QME reports, respectively. Additionally, SB 536 proposes expanding fraud reporting to the EDD, and SB 294 would mandate annual employee notifications of employment rights.

Information only, no action was required.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.