

Injured Employees Rehabilitation Services Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 27th, 2026

1:00 PM on Zoom and [YouTube Live](#)

The following working group members were present:

Rep. Fazzino, J. 83, Rep. Quinn, M. 82, Sen. Kissel, J. S07, Rep. Sanchez, E. 24, Sen. Kushner, J. S24, George Michna, Marie Gallo-Hall, Jason Dodge, Bud Drapeau, Eric George, Pete Myers, Dan Livingston, James Demetriades, Michael Muszynski, Diane Ritucci

Absent were:

Sen. Winfield, G. S10, Rep. Sanchez, E. 24, Rep. Weir, S. 55, Sen. Sampson, R. S16, Jeremy Brown, Mike Petosa, Rudy Demiraj, Katie D'Agostino

I. Convene Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by the Chairman, Rep. Fazzino, J. 83.

II. Remarks by the Chairs

Members online were acknowledged, and audio confirmation was conducted for all participants.

III. Overview of Data and Context

The discussion began with the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) reporting delays in providing their data due to the review process at the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), and due to staffing issues.

Rep. Fazzino, J. 83 brought up his request for the Office of Legislative Research (OLR) to conduct a report comparing vocational rehabilitation participation across surrounding states, specifically New England and New York, which would be shared with the working group once received. Members agreed to share any data that they received between meetings, which would then be discussed at the next working group meeting.

Attorney Dan Livingston mentioned an OLR report from the early-2000s on workers' compensation and vocational rehabilitation, noting a 1990s statutory change that affected the overall workers' compensation budget. He inquired about the impact of this change and requested information on the current percentage for subsistence benefits. He also emphasized the importance of evaluating how well the statute supports rehabilitation providers in meeting workers' needs.

Mike Muszynski of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) reported that some municipal insurance providers do not track return-to-work or vocational services utilization. Members agreed to collect data on a rolling basis, with Mr. Muszynski requesting two months to gather a significant sample size. Attorney Livingston suggested reaching out to the author of the OLR report that was previously discussed in order to determine where the information on injury worker data is currently stored.

IV. Review and Discussion of Data

Attorney Livingston offered to investigate the source of certain statistics, which Rep. Fazzino, J. 83 supported as a valuable initiative. George Michna explained ADS' ability to provide more detailed information about program enrollment, training, and completion rates, though he emphasized the need to verify data through proper channels. Pete Myers, representing the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), shared that while businesses may not have specific data, they could potentially access information from insurers and national reports to provide context on national trends related to workers' compensation.

Eric George of the Insurance Association of Connecticut (IAC) reported that while initial survey responses showed low rehabilitation costs over the past five years, additional data was needed for a more comprehensive analysis. Members also discussed obtaining national and state-specific data, with a focus on Connecticut's utilization compared to neighboring states. Rep. Quinn, M. 82 asked if the pandemic might have skewed the numbers, to which Mr. George responded that while it was possible, more information was needed before drawing any conclusions.

Marie Gallo-Hall of the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) reported that out of over 100,000 new claims over the past five years, only about 200 had 308A orders associated with them. Attorney Jason Dodge inquired about the status of subsistence payments for vocational rehabilitation, which Ms. Gallo-Hall clarified would be handled by the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS). She also confirmed that there had not been payments made for some time.

Attorney Livingston raised concerns about the lack of separate funding streams for subsistence payments, which were previously provided but are no longer available. Attorney James Demetriades suggested comparing neighboring states' rehabilitation programs, and Attorney Livingston mentioned that Connecticut regulations allow for such payments. Ms. Gallo-Hall explained that workers' compensation funding comes from a separate employer assessment rather than the general fund. Mr. George reminded working group members that legislation to provide stipends for rehabilitative services was introduced in 2023, though it did not advance.

V. Other Business

Members discussed the details of [House Bill 5325](#) from 2024, which concerned payments and benefits to individuals with permanent partial disability (PPD).

VI. Announcement of Date and Time of Next Meeting

Rep. Fazzino, J. 83 announced that he will coordinate with staff to schedule a follow-up meeting, and that another poll would be sent out to determine the next meeting date, with the focus being on gathering a critical mass of data to discuss.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was duly made by Rep. Fazzino, J. 83 to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.