

**April 15, 2019**  
**Self-Insurers Council Meeting Minutes**  
**201, E. Washington Ave.**  
**Madison, WI 53703**

Members present: Ms. Joswiak, Mr. Kante, Ms. McKinzie, Mr. Emerson, and Mr. Bowen  
Staff present: Mr. Peters, Mr. Moreth, Ms. Anufrovich, and Ms. Yeap

### **1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:27 A.M. in conformance with Wisconsin's open meeting law.

New Council member Mr. Bowen, new Worker's Compensation Division Administrator Mr. Peters, and new staff member Ms. Anufrovich were introduced.

Ms. Joswiak and Mr. Moreth shared the news that Mr. Daniel Fruehling, an employee from the Dairyland Power Cooperative, whom many members know passed away recently.

### **2. Review and approval of the minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the October 23, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

### **3. Closed session review reports of self-insured employers**

In accordance with s. 19.85(1)(f) the council convened in closed session to review financial, loss experience, safety and other information of employers presently or previously exempt from the duty to insure. Some of the companies' specific financial or other business information may be confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

### **4. Open session**

The Council returned to open session.

DWD Secretary Frostman presented a commendation plaque to Mr. Kante in recognition of his service to the Council. Mr. Kante will be leaving the Council when his term ends June 30. Members of the Council and program staff expressed gratitude to Mr. Kante for his outstanding service and contribution to the self-insurance program.

Mr. Peters informed the Council that the next Worker's Compensation Advisory Council meeting will be held April 30. Mr. Peters updated the Council that a proposal to transfer worker's

compensation adjudicatory functions from the Department of Administration, Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA) back to the Department of Workforce Development, Division of Worker's Compensation (WCD) is included in the Governor's 2019-21 biennial budget and in the department's proposals for the next agreed-upon bill.

Mr. Paul R. Riegel of Riegel Law, SC appeared before the Council to present his view in support of transferring the adjudicatory functions back to WCD. Mr. Riegel is a WC lawyer who has worked with both employees and employers, he requested the Council members and their employers to consider supporting the proposal, possibly writing letters to their respective legislators.

The Council members discussed about the adjudicatory functions change proposal. The Council will consider sending a letter to the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council expressing support to the proposal. A letter will be drafted for the Council's review.

Mr. Moreth shared info about a new intern position, Safety & Risk Management Program Analyst – Internship, in the Bureau of Insurance Programs. The job posting was shared with the Council members to encourage quality applicants to apply.

Mr. Moreth shared a worker's compensation news where Texas has proposed rules to enact a house bill which will make it easier for self-insureds to hand their WC coverage back to commercial carriers.

Ms. Yeap shared a news article about Shopko bankruptcy filing; it was reported that Shopko had borrowed to pay dividends to its private equity owner and other investors.

Ms. Yeap shared news articles related to former and current self-insured employers:

- A former self-insured employer, Payless ShoeSource, filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Payless ShoeSource left the program in 1996
- Rockwell Automation entering into joint venture with a French Company
- Kohler Co. will end its engine manufacturing work in Sheboygan County

Ms. Yeap will poll the members for acceptable dates for a meeting to be held in the Fall of 2019

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.