

Administration & Procedures Committee Minutes

Annual SAWCA Convention – St. Pete Beach, FL
July 23-27, 2005

The A & P Committee of SAWCA met on Tuesday, July 26 for its annual meeting. Members in attendance were: Mary Ahearn, Chair; Tom O'Reilly, MD; Stan Carter, GA; Kay Fournet, LA; Laura Feight, NM; Joe San Marco, LA Second Injury Board; Gary Knoepfler, LA; and Don Davis, FL. Five (5) states were represented in this meeting.

The three-hour meeting covered several issues. The meeting began with a discussion by the Georgia State Board's Executive Director, Stan Carter on performance measures that have been implemented in Georgia to measure agency efficiencies and outcomes. Committee members were interested in seeing how each jurisdiction measured what a workers' compensation agency does, how well it performs and how can the organization be examined critically in order to identify strengths and weaknesses and align services and performance to strategic goals.

Laura Feight continued the discussion outlining the New Mexico Board's participation in the Quality New Mexico program and how they've assessed their agency's efforts and measured success. Participation in this program has resulted in administrative changes at the New Mexico Board that has facilitated their mediation program. Further exploration as to how agencies use their data for compliance led to an in-depth sharing of specific ideas and administrative issues such as employer compliance programs.

The committee members also discussed second injury funds/boards; how they operate and the problems with continuing or disbanding a fund. The assessment mechanism and various thresholds utilized in each jurisdiction were debated and it was decided that there is still considerable interest in pursuing this topic. Joe San Marco is going to develop an agenda for the ACC in New Orleans that provides for a more in-depth discussion with the hopes of possibly drafting a "model" system.

The meeting progressed to discussion on the collection of medical billing information, use of medical fee schedules and utilization controls. The members ended by discussion of the direction in which the A & P Committee should focus. Mary indicated that she would send a draft mission statement to the members for confirmation and then posting on the SAWCA website. In closing, each member was asked to contact a neighboring jurisdiction and encourage participation.