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BY E-MAIL AND FACSIMILE

July 6, 2006

Ms. Eileen Wunsch, Chief  
Healthcare Services Review Division  
Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
1171 South Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2501

Re: Questions for Public Meeting of July 13, 2006, Pittsburgh

Dear Ms. Wunsch,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to ask questions and to attend the public meeting to be held in Pittsburgh on July 13, 2006. I am preparing these questions and will attend the public meeting in my capacity as counsel for several URO/PRO organizations. I am not, through this appearance, acting on behalf of any one or particular client that I currently represent or have represented in the past. The following questions are designed to illustrate the areas of concern that I will be prepared to discuss at the public meeting and do not necessarily reflect the full content of the formal public comments that I will be submitting for the record pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and the IRC procedures at a later date.

The following questions are submitted pursuant to the announcement of the Public Meeting to be held on July 13, 2006 in Pittsburgh.

Proposed Regulation Section 127.1051 changes the way in which URO/PRO's are authorized.

1. Under the proposal, what criteria is the Bureau intending to utilize in the RFP process that will qualify under the purchasing code?

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2. Will the lowest price offered by the contractor(s) to be selected be the most or a significant factor in the selection of those URO/PRO's who will be awarded the authorization to provide these services?
3. If price of the services to the Commonwealth is a primary consideration, how will you insure that the workers and patients are getting the highest quality reviews and not just the cheapest services? How will you ensure geographic diversity and other factors that the legislature addressed in the initial Acts?
4. How many organizations will be selected? Is it possible or probable that only one or a few organizations will be selected, unlike the current system where anyone who meets the requirements of the regulations will be authorized?
5. How will the selection of only a few organizations affect the legislative purpose and intent of the Worker's Compensation and/or Cost Containment Acts?
6. How will cases be assigned to these newly chosen organizations? Will the current system of random selection and assignment be abandoned or maintained? Who will have the discretion to determine which URO/PRO gets what case? Will all of the cases with a certain type of medical condition go to the same reviewer, etc.?
7. What assurances has the Bureau planned for making certain that no bias, preference or political or other influences enter into the assignment or selection process?

Proposed Regulation Section 127.1052 indicates that those organizations that are currently authorized at the time that the new regulations are adopted will continue to operate until their period of authorization has expired.

1. How will the assignment of cases to these organizations be conducted when at the same time assignment will change for the newly chosen organizations?
2. What other plans are envisioned for the inter-working of the old and the new organizations?
3. What other plans are envisioned for the operation of the new organizations and their interrelationship with the Bureau?

These are but a few of my questions that I believe that the Bureau should be able to address at the public meeting. Obviously, in such an informal setting we will be attending to interact in a positive manner with you and the Bureau staff to brainstorm on these and other questions that will arise. I look forward to attending together with Mr. Charlie Datz who works with my firm at this time.

Sincerely,

Lazar M. Palnick

**ORIGINAL:** 2542

**Gelnett, Wanda B.**

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**From:** LI, BWC-Administrative Division [RA-LI-BWC-Administra@state.pa.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2006 8:01 AM  
**To:** Wunsch, Eileen; Kupchinsky, John; Kuzma, Thomas J. (GC-LI); Howell, Thomas P. (GC-LI)  
**Subject:** Comments on Regs. from Karla

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lazar Palmick [<mailto:lazarp@earthlink.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 06, 2006 4:31 PM  
**To:** RA-LI-BWC-Administra@state.pa.us  
**Cc:** Eileen Wunsch  
**Subject:** Questions for July 13 Meeting

I have attached a letter submitting my questions for the July 13 Meeting in Pittsburgh.