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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION
WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

Friday, June 11, 2021
(via teleconference)

John Cortes
Moderator
Industrial Relations Counsel

George Parisotto
Administrative Director

Dr. Raymond Meister
Executive Medical Director

Maureen Gray
Regulations Coordinator

Reported by: Lynnette G. Gertz

1 FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021 - 10:00 A.M.

2
3 MR. CORTES: Good morning everyone. My name is John
4 Cortes. I'm an Industrial Relations Counsel for the Division
5 of Workers' Compensation. Before we begin today's conference
6 call public hearing, I want to inform everyone that this call
7 is being recorded.

8 Before we formally begin this public hearing, I want
9 to ask if anyone wishes to make a public comment today so that
10 we can prepare a list of speakers. If you do, can you please
11 give us your full name, the organization you're affiliated
12 with, if any, and contact information in case we need to
13 provide you with any updates. We prefer an email address but
14 if you don't have an email address your phone number or mailing
15 address would be fine. Maureen Gray, the DWC's Regulations
16 Coordinator, who is also on this call, will write down your
17 information. Does anyone wish to make a public comment today?
18 Okay. If you're undecided at this time, but change your mind
19 during the hearing and wish to make a comment, I will give you
20 an opportunity to make a public comment after everyone on this
21 list has spoken.

22 Before we begin, I want to ask everyone to please
23 press their respective mute buttons to minimize unintended
24 background noises. At this time, I can hear a little bit of
25 background noise. So if you can please check to make sure

1 you're muted. Okay. Please unmute when you wish to speak and
2 please make sure to state your name before you begin speaking
3 for our hearing reporter.

4 Okay. Why don't we formally get started. Thank you
5 for participating in today's conference call. Again, my name
6 is John Cortes. I'm an Industrial Relations Counsel for the
7 Division of Workers' Compensation.

8 This is our noticed conference call public hearing for
9 the evidence-based update to the Medical Treatment Utilization
10 Schedule, also known as the MTUS. The Division is proposing to
11 make an evidence-based update to the MTUS by adopting the
12 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, or
13 ACOEM's Workplace Mental Health Guideline: Anxiety Disorders
14 module.

15 Now, I'd like to take a moment to introduce the other
16 DWC staff members on this conference call today. As I've
17 mentioned, I'm joined by Maureen Gray, the Division's
18 Regulations Coordinator. Also on the call is George Parisotto,
19 the DWC's Administrative Director, and finally joining us is
20 Dr. Raymond Meister, the DWC's Executive Medical Director.
21 Our hearing reporter today is Lynnette Gertz.

22 The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on
23 the proposed amendment to the regulations, and we welcome any
24 comments you have about them. Please note we will not ask
25 questions, respond to, or discuss anyone's comments, although

1 we may ask for clarification or ask you to elaborate further on
2 any points you are presenting. All of your comments, both
3 given verbally here today, and those submitted in writing, will
4 be considered in determining what revisions, if any, we make to
5 the proposed regulations.

6 Please restrict the subject of your comments to the
7 proposed regulations. We usually ask that you limit your
8 comments to three minutes in length. However, since so far no
9 one has signed up to speak, we will allow you to speak without
10 the normal three minute time limit.

11 I will call the names of those who have indicated
12 they wish to comment today and I apologize in advance if I
13 mispronounce anyone's name. All testimony will be taken down
14 by the hearing reporter. Our hearing reporter has the green
15 light to seek clarification of any word or phrase or request a
16 speaker to slow down if need be.

17 When everyone on this list has had a chance to make
18 their public comment, I will check to see if anybody new has
19 joined our call or anybody else has additional comments. This
20 hearing will continue as long as there are people on this call
21 who wish to comment on the proposed regulations, but it will
22 close at 5 o'clock this afternoon. If the hearing continues
23 into the lunch hour, we will take at least an hour break.

24 Finally, all written comments can be submitted by fax
25 at the following number: Area code 510-286-0657 or to the

1 following e-mail address; dwcrules@dir.ca.gov. And that's all
2 lower case. Again, dwcrules@dir.ca.gov. Written comments
3 submitted by fax or by email will be accepted until midnight
4 tonight.

5 For those who do not wish to speak today but want to
6 be notified of any subsequent changes or the final adaptation
7 of the MTUS evidence-based update, please provide your complete
8 name and email address to the same address mentioned above.
9 Again, the email address is dwcrules@dir.ca.gov. Any notice of
10 changes or final notice to the evidence-based update to the
11 MTUS will be sent to everyone who requests that information.

12 With that, I know that there hasn't been anyone signed
13 up yet, but I'm going to ask once again. Does anyone wish to
14 make a public comment today? I will give this a few minutes or
15 a few seconds.

16 Does anyone wish to make a public comment?

17 Perhaps any latecomers who joined us after we started
18 the phone call.

19 Okay. So if we do not have anyone who wishes to make
20 a verbal comment today, the time is 10:08, and this public
21 hearing is now closed. Thank you so much.

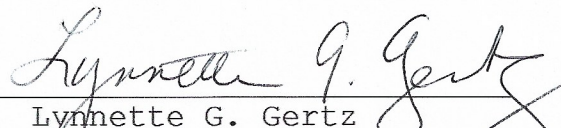
22 (The proceedings adjourned at 10:08 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lynnette G. Gertz, Official Hearing Reporter for the State of California, Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Workers' Compensation, do hereby certify that the foregoing matter is a full, true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in shorthand, and with the aid of audio backup recording, on the date and in the matter described on the first page thereof.

Dated at Santa Ana, California this 11th day of June 2021.


Lynnette G. Gertz
Official Hearing Reporter
Workers' Compensation
Appeals Board