

IME Provider Selection Committee Minutes

December 4, 2025 - 10:00 AM

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Members Present:

Jeff Steel
Ronda Gilliland
Joey Atencio
Cary Carter

Members Absent:

Juliana Garcia, M.D.

WCA Staff:

Donna Jojola
Catherine Sanchez

Public Present:

None

Review of Minutes: The minutes of July 9, 2025, meeting was reviewed and approved as is.

Action: Mr. Atencio moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda: The current agenda has been reviewed and approved.

Action: Mr. Atencio moved to accept the agenda as submitted. Mr. Steel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Member Terms: Three members were approved by the Advisory Committee.

Member Terms

1. Juliana Garcia, M.D. term expires in July 2025. She would like to stay on for an additional term through July 2026.
2. Cary Carter term expires in July 2025. He would like to stay on for an additional term through July 2026.
3. Margie Nitterauer resigned from the committee. Andrew Palmer was approved as the new member to replace that vacancy. His term expires in July 2027.

Ms. Gilliland requested an updated list of current committee members' roster with term dates.

Action: Ms. Jojola will update and send the current list to the IME members.

Policy Review: Three policies were distributed to the members via email to for review. The policies included:

1. Criteria for Inclusion on the List of Approved Independent Medical Examiners for Workers' Compensation Judges
2. Protesting the Inclusion of a Particular Health Care Provider on the List of Approved Independent Medical Examiners for Workers' Compensation Judges
3. Removal of a Particular Health Care Provider Upon Occasion of Suspension from the Practice of Medicine

Ms. Gilliland will provide copies of the policy book she has (which includes minutes etc.) so that the Medical Cost Containment Bureau (MCC) can have this information in their files.

Action: Ms. Gilliland made the motion to ask Michael Holt, General Counsel for the NM WCA, to review these policies for possible edits/updates. Ms. Gilliland moved to accept the proposal to present Mr. Holt with the three policies for review and editing. Mr. Atencio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Access to Medical Care Challenges in Rural Areas: The Advisory Council requested the IME Committee to explore opportunities to expand the access to IMEs for the upcoming construction work in southern New Mexico. The following opportunities were identified:

- **Discussion of Options and Resources:** The committee briefly reviewed various strategies. One suggestion included engaging with organizations such as Kids Chance, the Workers' Compensation Association, and the local medical society in that region of the state.
- **Application Process Reform:** Members discussed the feasibility of opening the IME application process year-round, with approvals scheduled for the June and December meetings. This change would allow clinicians to submit applications at any time, removing the current restrictions that limits submissions to March 1-May 31 annually.
- **Documentation and Policies:** Ms. Sanchez noted that the MCC does not currently have access to prior applicant documentation or requests, nor do they have copies of the policies previously provided. Ms. Gilliland will reach out to her assistant to obtain information from the medical society in that area.
- **Outreach and Conferences:** Mr. Carter will share information at the upcoming Kids Chance conference next week. MCC staff will also consult with Mr. Holt about the proposed process changes. MCC will copy Ms. Gilliland's IME manual for MCC records. Committee members agreed to forward any previous application documentation for providers who applied for IME participation, as the MCC does not have those records either.
- **Future Engagement:** The MCC expressed interest in attending conferences, requesting a complimentary booth to distribute IME information. Additionally, MCC will provide Mr. Carter with brochures for his upcoming conference.
- **Next steps:** Committee members will continue to explore ideas collaboratively to identify effective ways to attract more IME provider applications.

IME Provider List for 2025-2026: Mr. Carter suggested we add the location for the IME providers to the IME Provider List for a more comprehensive list of providers and the areas they serve. The group agreed this was a good idea. Ms. Gilliland asked if the members could receive the current list of IME Providers. Action: Donna Jojola will distribute to the IME Provider List to the committee members.

The meeting was open for Public Comment: There were none.

Action: No action needed.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Mr. Carter made the motion to adjourn, and Mr. Atencio seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:36am. The next meeting is set for June 24, 2026, at 9:00 am at the WCA.