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**Official Order
of the
Commissioner of Insurance
of the
State of Texas
Austin, Texas**

Date:

Subject Considered:

The FY 2012 Annual Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group at the Texas Department of Insurance

The Commissioner of Insurance (commissioner) considered the proposed FY 2012 Annual Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group (REG) at the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). Labor Code §405.0026 requires the commissioner to adopt an annual research agenda for the REG. To accomplish this, TDI must publish a proposed research agenda in the *Texas Register* for public review and comment. Upon request, the commissioner must hold a public hearing on the proposed research agenda.

In October 2011, on TDI's website, the REG requested research agenda suggestions from stakeholders and the general public. The REG also queried legislative offices for input regarding the FY 2012 Research Agenda.

TDI published the proposed FY 2012 Research Agenda for comment on the TDI website and in the December 30, 2012, issue of the *Texas Register*. TDI received no formal comments and no requests for a public hearing.

FY 2012 Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group at the Texas Department of Insurance

1. Completion and publication of the sixth edition of Workers' Compensation Health Care Network Report Card (required under Insurance Code §§1305.502(a)-(d) and Labor Code §405.0025(b)).
2. An annual examination of the frequency of employers and workers' compensation claims participating in certified health care delivery networks (required under Insurance Code §2053.012(a) and Labor Code §405.0025(b)).
3. An annual update of return-to-work outcomes for injured workers, including an examination of the characteristics associated with injured workers and employers who could benefit most from return-to-work outreach and coordination efforts (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a)(4)).
4. An update of the 2010 analysis of injured worker access to medical care provided under the workers' compensation system, including an analysis of access to medical care through TDI-certified workers' compensation health care networks (required under Labor Code §405.0025(a) and (b)).

5. An update of the 2010 biennial study to estimate employer participation in the Texas workers' compensation system (required by Insurance Code §2053.012(a) and Labor Code §405.0025(a)(6)). The report is due on December 1, 2012.

6. An update of the 2010 Setting the Standard biennial report on the impact of the 2005 House Bill (HB) 7 legislative reforms on the Texas workers' compensation system. In accordance with Insurance Code §2053.012(a) and Labor Code §405.0025(b), this report presents results on the affordability and availability of workers' compensation insurance for Texas employers as well as the impact of certified workers' compensation health care networks on return-to-work outcomes, medical costs, quality of care issues and medical dispute resolution. The report is due on December 1, 2012.

IT IS THEREFORE THE ORDER of the Commissioner of Insurance that the FY 2012 Annual Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group at the Texas Department of Insurance, as specified herein, is hereby approved and adopted, effective immediately.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

ELEANOR KITZMAN
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

RECOMMENDED BY:

DC Campbell
Director
Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group

Attest:

Sara Waitt, General Counsel
Texas Department of Insurance

Commissioner's Order No. _____