

## **Adopted Fiscal Year 2024 Research Agenda Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group**

### **Introduction**

The commissioner of workers' compensation considers the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group (REG) at the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC).

Texas Labor Code §405.0025 requires the REG to conduct professional studies and research related to how effectively the workers' compensation system operates. Section 405.0026 requires the REG to annually publish a workers' compensation research agenda listing the topics the REG will study for that year.

DWC published the proposed research agenda in the September 15, 2023, issue of the *Texas Register* (48 TexReg 5192) and sought public review and comment. DWC received no comments and no requests for a public hearing.

### **Order**

It is ordered that the FY 2024 Research Agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group is adopted as follows:

1. Completion and publication of the 17th Edition of the Workers' Compensation Health Care Network Report Card (required under Insurance Code §1305.502(a)-(d) and Labor Code §405.0025(b)).
2. An update of the 2022 biennial study to estimate employer participation in the Texas workers' compensation system.
3. An update of key workers' compensation system trends to meet the requirements for the DWC Biennial Report required under Labor Code §402.066, including medical costs and utilization of care, return-to-work rates for injured employees, access to care for injured employees, and medical dispute resolution trends.
4. Income benefit adequacy in the Texas workers' compensation system.
5. An update of medical costs and utilization in the Texas workers' compensation system.

The REG will consider expanding the scope of the research projects or conducting more projects to accommodate stakeholder suggestions, subject to the resources and data available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Nelson" followed by a flourish.

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Jeff Nelson  
Commissioner  
TDI, Division of Workers' Compensation