



Preventing Needless Work Disability

The Workability in Michigan Summit Fact Sheet

Who We Are:

Workability in Michigan is a new state-based organization that has partnered with The 60 Summits Project, which is taking a grass-roots approach to transforming North American disability benefits and workers' compensation systems and the outcomes they produce. The plan for the umbrella non-profit organization is to inspire people in a variety of professions and organizations to join together as volunteer groups and then to support them as they:

- Plan and convene Summit meetings in all 50 US states and 10 Canadian provinces on the topic of improving how the stay-at-work and return-to-work (SAW/RTW) process works. In the Summit meetings, all stakeholders sit side by side in a workshop format to:
 - Learn about the new work disability prevention paradigm now codified in a ground-breaking report entitled "Preventing Needless Work Disability by Helping People Stay Employed" from the American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine (ACOEM).
 - Decide whether and how to implement each of the guideline's recommendations and make plans to take the first concrete steps towards improving the SAW/RTW process in their own daily practice, organization, community, and state/province.
- Continue to propagate the work disability prevention paradigm among their colleagues and constituencies, and take action to implement on-going, positive changes in disability benefits and workers' compensation systems at the personal, organizational, community and state/provincial level.

Workability in Michigan held a feasibility meeting in September 2007, and now has a solid and motivated planning committee that has been meeting regularly since January 2008. We are a group of volunteer experts from a variety of professions and organizations who are passionate about promoting safer, healthier working lifestyles and preserving the employability of Michigan's workforce while at the same time protecting the productivity and profitability of Michigan's employers.

What We Are Doing:

We are planning a statewide multi-stakeholder Summit for April 30-May 1, 2009. The purpose is to build agreement around a shared goal of preventing needless work disability by helping ill, injured and aging people stay employed in Michigan. We want to improve both human and financial outcomes of health-related employment disruptions by taking a fresh approach to the stay-at-work and return-to-work process in disability benefits and workers' compensation systems.

There will be about 120 attendees at our by-invitation event, to be held in Lansing, Michigan, with individually selected representatives from many parties who have an impact on whether ill or injured workers are able to stay at or return to work. They will be respected thought-leaders and action-oriented people from a variety of stakeholder groups: employers, healthcare providers, workers, claims administrators, managed care companies, unions, legislators, judges, etc.

The event will begin the evening of April 30 with an evening reception, and continue the next day, May 1, with a full-day meeting. Attendees will be seated in multi-stakeholder groups, learning more about each other's perspectives, exploring a fresh new model for disability benefits and workers' compensation systems, building a shared positive vision for how the stay-at-work and return-to-work process should go, and then looking for solutions. The Summit is being held at the Lansing



Workability in Michigan Summit: Preventing Needless Work Disability
c/o 60 Summits Project, Inc. - Michigan, c/o P3hr Consulting & Services, 3855 Sparks Dr. SE / Suite 102 Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: 616-285-0535; Fax: 616-285-0543

*See www.workabilityim.org for more informatio



Sheraton Hotel.

The framework for discussion will be the ACOEM report entitled "Preventing Needless Work Disability by Helping People Stay Employed" that calls for more communication and better collaboration among involved parties.

The expected outcomes of the Summit will be new relationships, a draft action agenda, and a consortium or coalition that plans to transform that action agenda into improved human and financial outcomes for both employees and employers.

Why Now?

ACOEM's report spells out many of the problems of needless work disability in the current system, including harm to the employee, disruption and cost to the employer, and waste due to reduced economic efficiency. The guideline also lays out a blueprint for improving the stay at work/return to work process to address these problems in a constructive way. Reducing waste and improving efficiency are ideas that always have merit, but there is special relevance to us in Michigan given current economic conditions.

The 60 Summits Project has gained traction and has generated activity throughout North America. In fact, Jennifer Christian, MD MPH, founder and Chair of the 60 Summits Project, recently has received awards acknowledging this work. She was one of six to receive President's Awards at the 94th Annual IAIABC Convention in Vancouver, BC. was named as one of Risk & Insurance magazine's 2008 Risk Innovators, and was also named as one of seven "Responsibility Leaders," an award sponsored by Liberty Mutual.

Find out more:

- For Michigan information, go to: <http://www.workabilityim.org/>
- For information about the ACOEM work disability prevention report, The 60 Summits Project, and Dr. Jennifer Christian, who will facilitate our Michigan Summit on April 30-May 1, 2009, go to: <http://www.60summits.org/>

December 23, 2008



Workability in Michigan Summit: Preventing Needless Work Disability
c/o 60 Summits Project, Inc. - Michigan, c/o P3hr Consulting & Services, 3855 Sparks Dr. SE / Suite 102 Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: 616-285-0535; Fax: 616-285-0543

*See www.workabilityim.org for more informatio