



Propagating the New Work Disability Prevention Paradigm for Disability Benefits & Workers' Comp Systems

The Workability in Michigan Summit Sponsor Program Fact Sheet

Invitation for Sponsors:

You are invited to partner with **Workability in Michigan** as a sponsor to lend support to our upcoming Summit on preventing needless work disability in Lansing on April 30 and May 1, 2009.

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 under the leadership of co-chairs Anthony Burton, MD and Libby Child. 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.

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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.



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
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*See www.workabilityim.org for more informatio



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 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 Should You Become A Sponsor?

Sponsoring the 60 Summits Project events makes good sense if (a) you agree it's the right thing to do, or (b) you foresee direct business benefit, or (c) you see market value in being visibly associated with the target audience for this kind of cutting edge event.

- **It's the right thing to do.** Some of our sponsors want to contribute to worthwhile activities and see this inspiring grassroots effort to improve "the system" in Michigan as deserving their support. This project can make Michigan financially stronger, and a better place to do business.
- **Business benefits.** Some of our sponsors see that their own organization will potentially benefit from the fruit of a successful Summit – an improved stay-at-work and return-to-work process that produces better human and economic outcomes. They want to lend their strength to the Summit by providing visible endorsement as well as financial support.
- **Market visibility.** Some of our sponsors' organizations benefit from visible association with this cutting edge thinking and an initiative that has been hailed as "brilliant and fresh...a blueprint for positive change." All sponsors of this event will be listed by name with logo on signage and attendee materials at the Summit. Those who contribute will receive complimentary passes to attend the Summit. The number of passes depends on sponsorship level. See enclosed Sponsorship Contribution form.

If you have questions about sponsorship, please contact:

- Steve Ohman at 616-391-7741
- Janiece Nichols at 616-540-5285

Find out more:

- See attached Sponsorship Commitment and Enrollment form for details.
- For Michigan information, go to: <http://www.workabilityim.org/>
- For information about the ACOEM work disability prevention report, the 60Summits Project, and the national expert Dr. Jennifer Christian who will facilitate our Michigan Summit on April 30-May 1, 2009, go to: <http://www.60summits.org/>

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