

From: BWC e-communications
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BWC e-news - August 2009

BWC Board of Directors Votes to Strengthen Group Marketing Oversight

The BWC Board of Directors continues to enhance the agency's rate reform efforts. At its July meeting, the board voted to further strengthen the requirements for group sponsors. Group sponsors provide services to employers who qualify for group discounts. The new requirements will give us greater opportunities to ensure sponsor associations and their affiliates market their services accurately and responsibly.

Certification requirements will apply to the marketing methodologies of all sponsoring associations and their affiliates. Actions that could lead to revocation of certification include:

- Instructing prospective employers to provide false information on forms;
- Claiming the sponsoring association, affiliation or representative is endorsed by BWC; or
- Offering discounts or refunds that are unattainable.

We may apply the following sanctions if these rules are violated:

- Revoke certification of a sponsoring association; and/or
- Prohibit the addition of new participants to the sponsor's group.

Additionally, the board will hold its next public forum on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009. The forum will provide injured workers, business owners, medical providers, stakeholders and other interested parties with the opportunity to address board members on any issue. The board encourages participants to address issues related to: claim management; cost avoidance/cost reduction opportunities; suggestions for more responsive customer service; or resources we should provide for better service.

The board will hold the forum from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the William

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Green Building, located at 30 W. Spring St., Columbus.

The board encourages anyone interested in addressing the board at the public forum to pre-register by 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17. [Registration forms](#) are available online at ohiobwc.com. The board will also accept on-site registration. It will register speakers on a first-come, first-served basis.

The next BWC Board of Directors meeting is at 8 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, 2009, in Room 3, Level 2 of the William Green Building.

Division of Safety and Hygiene

This year, BWC's Division of Safety and Hygiene (DSH) celebrates the 21st anniversary of its training center. Since opening in 1988, the training center has offered 5,033 classes, which represents more than 375 course topics. More than 127,000 students have taken these classes.

The DSH training center is a continuing-education facility. It specializes in occupational safety and health programs. Our staff designs courses to:

- Emphasize practical application of safety and health principles;
- Help employers develop their own safety cultures; and
- Help reduce injury and illnesses exposure.

Ultimately, this reduces workers' compensation costs.

Training center courses also help employers meet mandatory government-regulated safety, occupational health and risk compliance standards. In addition, they help employers meet requirements for BWC safety and premium discount incentive programs.

We appreciate the continued support of Ohio employers. We remain committed to providing the highest level of occupational safety and health classes in the years to come.

Read Provider Update on ohiobwc.com

BWC now publishes the Provider Update online at ohiobwc.com. This quarterly newsletter provides any updates/changes to processes, procedures, systems or personnel that affect the medical provider community.

To view and download the latest issue, select BWC Library from the home page, then BWC publications and then [Medical provider publications](#). You can find Provider Update by scrolling down to the bottom of the page.

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