

Workers' Compensation Agency Goals and Accomplishments

Kevin Elsenheimer and Chuck Hadden Podcast

You know the Workers' Compensation Agency is a statutory agency; it has been around for over 100 years now. The mission of the Agency is very simple: it's to put into effect the Workers' Compensation Act and the goal of that act is also simple—it is to make sure injured workers get back to work as quickly as possible and back to the maximum level of health as quickly as possible and to do so as efficiently as possible as well. \$277 million dollars is a lot of money but there is still more work that can be done. There are places where we can save taxpayers and tax paying businesses in this state money in the future. We're going to look at health care costs, trying to keep control of those to make sure that we get the maximum value out of every dollar spent possible. We're going to look at our own internal structure to make sure that we're maximizing the use of our people here in Lansing. But the bottom line is we're not going to stop until we've got the best workers compensation agency in the entire country.

One of our goals is to be as competitive as possible; we're competing against other states for companies that might want to locate here in Michigan or even around the Midwest. We want to have the most efficient, most cost-effective and best workers' compensation agency in our area if not the entire country. We've lowered costs in this state in the workers' compensation area by 27.7%, but we've got more work to do. We can make sure that we are lean in terms as how we operate here in Michigan and we can also make sure we're controlling health care costs to the extent possible but still getting people back to work. And you know what else is important about that, we've asked and our workers in Michigan are very happy with the care they are getting here in Michigan. That's a good thing and something we want to continue.

I'm hearing a lot of good things about it. They feel like we're on the right path and we're back in control of this fund that we fund and quite frankly that makes a big difference to us. It is also being watched with my counterparts in other states. How did you get this done? How can we be better at this? It's one of those things other states are looking at and probably are going to emulate as time goes on.