

Online Insurance Verification System Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Conference Call Meeting

Members Present: Jay Starling, The Honorable Greg Tucker, Lt. Frost (for Michael Robinson), Charles Angell, George Cooper

Members Absent: Julie Magee, Jeff Bradwell, Michael Robinson, Harvey Fischer, Greg Erath, Ken Needham, The Honorable Patrick Davenport, Alex Hageli, Ken McFeeters

Others Present: Sherry Helms, Daniel Urquhart, Brenda R. Coone

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 by Mr. Starling.

Roll Call

Mr. Starling conducted the roll call.

Approval of September 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not established during the meeting so the minutes from the September 18, 2013 meeting were not adopted.

OIVS Update

Ms. Helms revisited concerns reported during last month's meeting regarding the need to identify whether law enforcement inquiries are being sent during traffic stops or doing investigations of vehicles that are inoperable, but registered due to municipal ordinances. The department has received responses from registrants indicating that their vehicles are inoperable. The source of the web service inquiry is law enforcement. If the vehicle is truly inoperable, the registration must be revoked in accordance with Section 32-7A-11(a)(2), Code of Alabama 1975. When the vehicle is repaired and becomes operable again, the registrant must register the vehicle again and obtain another license plate. If, however, the web service call was initiated during a traffic stop, and the registrant did not have insurance on the verification date, the registrant must remit the required reinstatement fee. The department continues to investigate this matter.

Ms. Helms also reported that the department has received reports that the law enforcement community does not always use the OIVS web service to verify evidence of insurance at accident scenes and traffic stops. In an effort to address this issue, the department sent a memorandum to the law enforcement community requesting that they use the web service rather than rely solely on the physical evidence of insurance presented by the vehicle operators. The physical evidence might reflect a policy that is no longer in effect for various reasons. The web service is designed to return an accurate assessment of whether a policy is in effect or not.

Registration transactions have been removed from the questionnaire process. This change was made to address the issue of insurers providing customers with binders that are presented to licensing officials in order to obtain/renew motor vehicle registrations. The binders, however, are not entered into the insurers' systems until the next day so the department receives "unconfirmed" responses during the reverification process.

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The questionnaire generating process is now based on law enforcement inquiries and the motor vehicle registration reverification process.

Mr. Cooper asked if the reverification process could produce statistics regarding the number of dropped insurance policies in order to identify registrants who obtain insurance for the purpose of registering the vehicle and then immediately terminating the policy. Mr. Starling said that he was sure that statistics could be made available on the number of dropped policies; however, the statistics would include the number of policies that were legitimately dropped because the vehicle was sold and no longer needed to be insured. DOR will investigate.

Ms. Helms provided the following OIVS statistics through October 10, 2013:

Approx. 18 million OIVS requests

Approx. 960,000 OIVS requests from law enforcement

Approx. 6,278 law enforcement officers

Approx. 106,000 questionnaires have been mailed to registrants

Approx. 56,000 Notices of suspensions have been mailed to registrants

Insurers were sent reports via email for the period May 14, 2013 through September 16, 2013. The purpose of the reports is to determine if accurate OIVS responses are being returned and if there are any issues associated with connectivity between their systems and the web service.

In November, the department will send letters to registrants who have reported NAICs not associated with insurance companies licensed to write policies in Alabama. The letter will explain the requirements of the law and provide instructions on what steps need to be taken in order to comply with the law regarding this matter.

New Business

The next IICMVA Meeting will be held in Boston, MA next Wednesday through Friday. Mr. Starling will be attending and providing a progress report on Alabama's program.

Mr. Cooper reported that during the meeting industry will be discussing how the IICMVA model is working as well as listening to updates from jurisdictions and industry. A discussion will be held regarding publishing a universal wsdm for the web service model like the one Alabama is using.

DOR will have a pilot county meeting tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. An update of the advisory council meeting will be provided to counties and DOR will address any concerns counties may have regarding OIVS.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the advisory council is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held via conference call. A conference call invitation, agenda, and the meeting minutes will be sent to all advisory council members.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m. by Mr. Starling.

Respectfully submitted by: Brenda R. Coone