Best Practices Committee Begins its Work

The Executive Committee, in starting this committee in early 2010, felt that as your national association, STRIMA® should be at the forefront in developing standards and gauging those standards to provide accountability and guidance to our members. State government is unique in many ways and if not STRIMA® then outside groups may impose their standards, policies, procedures and methods which may or may not be applicable to state government risk management programs.

As such, we are undertaking the effort to develop broad overall procedural guidelines that when implemented, give the state risk management agency the best opportunity for success. We define these overall procedural guidelines as "best practices." Wherever possible, state risk managers may take these best practices and adapt them to conform within the scope of their responsibilities within their own state. As part of this project, STRIMA® may later choose to validate those best practices lending credibility to each state's respective risk management program and may, as a reference, develop a library of policies, procedures and methods that have worked well for state risk managers.

The committee has designated these areas to focus on for now: Financial, Information Technology, Liability, Loss Control, Risk Management (general), Property, Underwriting and Workers' Compensation.

Jamie Fohl (Tennessee) as Chairperson has **two action items** for each Member:

(1) The first task is to look over the major categories (listed above) and pick *one or more* that is in your specific area of expertise. Email this information to Jamie **no later than January 13th.** By February 1st, Jamie intends to establish a subcommittee for each category and will use the information you send to fill these subcommittees with members willing to screen and review the suggested best practices that task number two is going to generate.

(2) The second important task is to review closely the attached spreadsheet with the work already done by last year's committee and make recommendations for further Best Practices not already on the spreadsheet. This is your chance to greatly contribute, so please do so. It is the goal of the committee to come up with an exhaustive list of Best Practices for each category. Please email your suggestions to Jamie **by the end of January**. Please categorize each suggested best practice so as to make it easier for Jamie.

Jamie and each subcommittee will then narrow the list down and make recommendations to the STRIMA Executive Committee at their April meeting.

If you have any questions for Jamie and to email your replies, his email address is: jamie.fohl@tn.gov . We thank you in advance.