

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2020

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Present: Chairman Aumann and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Maureen Quinn, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Scott Curtis, Mary Ahearn, Amy Lackington, Steven Jones and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the January 9, 2019 Commission meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Evans and second of Commissioner Martin, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Aumann reported to the Commissioners that the House budget meeting is complete and went very well. There were questions about some audit items and how the Commission had addressed them. The Senate budget hearing is January 24, 2020. The legislative session includes several Public Information Act bills this year, which we are monitoring. One of the bills in particular has created stir among most state agencies because it severely cuts the response time from 30 days to 7 days. The Uninsured Employers Fund (UEF) has entered a bill to allow it to increase its own rates. The Commission is also monitoring that bill. The Chairman also reported that SAWCA is changing its Summer 2020 Conference location due to a large construction project at the prior location.

Closed Session: At 9:49 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Quinn and second of Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, pursuant to GP §§3-305(13), LE §§9-402, 9-403, 9-405, 9-406 and 9-1104, and COMAR 14.09.13.12, the Commission entered a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

IC & R Report: Steven Jones reported on behalf of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division that Hebrew Home of Greater Washington requires an increase in security deposit. The matter was discussed, and upon motion of Commissioner Quinn seconded by Commissioner Forrester, the increase in security deposit was approved.

At a previous meeting, Mr. Jones reported that Coca Cola Refreshments USA, Inc. requested a decrease in security deposit. The matter was further discussed along with the status of claims filed with the Commission and, upon motion of Commissioner Forrester seconded by Commissioner Parker-Warren, the decrease in security deposit was denied.

The meeting was reopened at 9:54 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Parker-Warren and second of Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote.

Old Business: Assistant Attorney General, H. Scott Curtis presented the following changes to Regulations for final approval:
COMAR 14.09.08.01 – Guide of Medical and Surgical Fees – Definitions
COMAR 14.09.08.02 – Guide of Medical and Surgical Fees – Incorporation by Reference
COMAR 14.09.12.02 – Responsibilities of Insurers – Notices of Cancellations

After a brief discussion and a motion by Commissioner Evans and a second by Commissioner Parker-Warren, the changes were approved.

New Business: Commissioner Parker-Warren reported that she received an angry voice mail message from a claimant.

Medical Alerts: On behalf of Dr. Reichmister, Stacey Roig presented an article from JAMA on medical cannabis.

The Chairman reminded the Commissioners that a bowling event for the benefit of Kids' Chance Maryland will take place on Wednesday evening, February 26, 2020 at Bowlero in Timonium. He asked that all Commissioners please plan to attend.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Quinn and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary