

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2021**

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Present: Chairman Aumann and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, Allan Kittleman, Howard Metz, Maureen Quinn, Delia Schadt and Morrisann Martin established a quorum.

A roll call of staff members attending was not taken; however, Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, presented his report and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission, recorded the Minutes of the closed session.

Closed Session: At 9:14 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Martin 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.

Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance & Regulation Division reported that the following self-Insured entities require an increase in security deposit.

Barrett Business Services, Inc. - After discussion and a motion from Commissioner Quinn with a second from Commissioner Martin, and unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

Costco Wholesalers - After discussion and a motion by Commissioner Metz and a second by Commissioner Martin, and unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

FedEx Ground Package Systems, Inc. - After discussion and a motion by Commissioner Metz and a second by Commissioner Quinn, and unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

Montgomery General Hospital - After discussion and a motion to table this decision by Commissioner Quinn and a second by Commissioner Evans, and unanimous consent, the motion was approved with Chairman Aumann abstaining.

Southern MD Electric Cooperative - After discussion and a motion table the decision by Chairman Aumann and a second by Commissioner Quinn, and unanimous consent, the motion to table was approved.

The meeting was reopened at 9:26 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Evans and second of Commissioner Quinn and upon unanimous vote.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 am on an open meeting line allowing the public to attend the remainder of the meeting.

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

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Jerome Reichmister, M.D., Amy Lackington, Scott Curtis, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission.

The Chairman reminded all outside guests who were attending via telephone to please mute their phones and reminded them that this is a meeting of the Commissioners and not an open forum for questions, comments, etc.

A list of guests who called in to this Open Meeting is attached to the Minutes.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the January 28, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Metz, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that Joint Budget Committee meeting went very well. The Committee members were very interested in our Operations in the pandemic and the response was positive. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) has determined that the Commission, together with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Subsequent Injury Fund (SIF) make recommendations, working with the Uninsured Employers' Fund (UEF), to help the UEF resolve some financial and operational issues. A \$100,000 holdback from each budget will continue to be held until a report is completed and presented by September 1, 2021. The Chairman stated that he wants the process and the report to be as transparent as possible to make sure that the safeguards that keep the walls up between the Commission and the UEF and SIF remain in place because both appear before the Commission in contested claims.

The Chairman reported that several bills are being followed by the Commission, including changes to the Public Information Act and a few presumption bills. Kids' Chance 25-year anniversary is 2021 and a possible event of celebration may be planned for November 2021. The Chairman will keep all advised as plans develop. COVID vaccines are underway and a list of interested Commission staff has been sent to the Governor's office for future scheduling. Commissioner Quinn expressed a concern about a question on the vaccine application form regarding insurance.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Martin asked about last-minute settlements and the preferred way to code them.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister reminded everyone to continue with safety precautions of social distancing, washing hands frequently, wearing masks and avoiding crowds. Dr. Reichmister also advised that the latest CDC guidelines suggest double masking, along with avoiding crowds as much as possible. Finally, Dr. Reichmister urged all to take the vaccine when it is available because we can never eradicate these types of virus' but, we can suppress them if everyone takes the vaccine.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.:

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Public Attendees to the Commissioners' Meeting
February 11, 2021

Name	Law Firm, Company or Other Affiliation
Mark T. Krause	Schenker, Krause & Lopez (employees of Zurich American Insurance)
Barry D. Bernstein	Semmes