

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 13, 2020**

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Present: Chairman Aumann and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh and Maureen Quinn established a quorum. Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Steven Jones, Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission.

Closed Session: At 9:17 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Forrester 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 Greater Baltimore Medical Center has requested an increase in retention effective August 1, 2020. After discussion and a motion from Commissioner Quinn with a second from Commissioner Metz, and unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

The meeting was reopened at 9:20 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Quinn and second of Commissioner Forrester and upon unanimous vote.

The meeting reconvened at 9:32 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, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren. Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Jerome Reichmister, M.D., Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington, 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 July 23, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Quinn and second of Commissioner Metz, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman discussed the excellent progress of the reduction of the backlog of cases, in particular, the over 30 days cases. The Chairman stated that the Commissioners will see a scheduling change beginning in November 2020 with appointments beginning at 9:00am and ending at 1:00 p.m. with no break, except to sanitize. This will reduce the number of hearings by three per docket per day. However, the backlog is under control enough at this time that the loss of hearings will not impact the backlog to the negative. Virtual hearing dockets will continue and are here to stay. The Chairman discussed the SAWCA Conference in July and the success of the structure of the conference and the sessions. The IAIABC will also host a virtual conference in September. The Commission's

participation will be limited due to cost. Committee Chairs for the IA from the Commission will be permitted to attend. The budget situation for the State is still critical and cuts in budgets are going to be necessary. The Chairman is working with the Governor's Office and DBM because the Commission is independently funded and any cuts to our budget have no impact on the general fund. He is hoping that the Commission can be excused from furlough days and other cuts. The enterprise modernization continues to move forward at an excellent pace.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Forrester asked for input from the Commissioners for a claims litigation meeting on August 20th in which Commissioner Forrester will be participating. If there are any suggestions for topics to be discussed or information to be shared, please pass it along to Commissioner Forrester before August 20th. Commissioner Quinn asked that Commissioner Forrester share the gratitude of the Commission for all of the work that has been done during the pandemic and the spirit of cooperation shown by all.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister will be presenting a limited anatomy training session on the knee to the Commissioners and staff immediately following this meeting on MS Teams.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.:

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary