

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 8, 2021**

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 Jerome Reichmister, M.D., Amy Lackington, Scott Curtis and, by telephone, Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the March 25, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting were reviewed, and with a motion made by Commissioner Parker-Warren and second by Commissioner Evans, to accept the Minutes, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported on the status of pending legislation in the last few days of the 2021 legislative session. The COVID presumption bills do not appear to be moving forward because of many questions as to whether COVID is an occupational disease or accidental injury and the structure of a presumption. The Commission is finding few cases are being denied, and those that come before the Commission get an individual view by the Commission of the facts and circumstances for each case. The Chairman reported that the Commission will likely be required to participate in a study of the Uninsured Employers' Fund. The Commission, SIF UEF and DBM are all included and responsible for completing the study and report. The report is due by September 2021. Finally, the attorney fee bill has not moved forward.

The Chairman reported that the WCI Symposium will be moving forward in-person in Orlando, FL in mid- December 2021. The National Association of Workers' Compensation Judges, along with the ABA Workers' Compensation Section, will join WCI at their conference. SAWCA and the Regulator's Roundtable will also attend. The SAWCA Conference is proceeding with a hybrid event at The Homestead in mid-July. The Chairman asked that requests to attend any of these conferences be sent to Amy Lackington soon because out of state travel must be approved by DBM in advance. Locally, there will be other in-person conferences, including Kids' Chance and MWCEA. The Chairman asked Commissioner Martin to report on Kids' Chance events. Commissioner Martin reported that the Golf Outing is still scheduled for July 19th and is moving forward.

The Chairman reported that Joyce Campbell, a long time Commission employee who retired in 2015, passed away in March. The Chairman also reported that several retirements are expected this year.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: No Report

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister reminded everyone to continue with safety precautions of social distancing, washing hands frequently, wearing masks and avoiding crowds. Dr. Reichmister discussed concerns with COVID variants because they are more difficult to control. We should see less trouble with

variants as more people are vaccinated. Dr. Reichmister discussed Q-Collars and their use to help protect the brain from sports-related impacts.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Kittleman and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary