

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Special Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

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.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the April 23, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Quinn, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman stated that in-person hearings are expected to resume on June 8, 2020. 1700 cases were entered manually and scheduled for June. The July docket will be set soon. Video hearings will continue for those who request them, with at least one Commissioner per day scheduled to conduct these hearings. There have been about 100 requests for video hearings in May and most are scheduled within 10 days of the request. Emergency hearings are also being handled through video hearings. The workers' compensation community, in general, has done a great job of working together to keep things moving and getting things done. The Chairman also discussed the importance of attending conferences even if they become virtual for the near future. Most of the organizations have cancelled the in-person conferences through 2020 because of the coronavirus threat and travel bans and budget constrains for all jurisdictional and associate member companies and sponsors. The MWCEA Convention in September is still going forward for now. Finally, the Chairman asked that all Commissioners please sign-on and check for the Security Awareness training that is due May 22nd. This training is mandatory for all state agencies and everyone must complete it.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Evans asked about evidence exhibits and some difficulty with uploading into the system. Mary Ahearn explained that the website has information on how to split evidence files into smaller files for uploading. Commissioner Quinn asked about the expected daily schedule for cases and the Chairman explained that the earliest case is set for 9:00 am and the latest is set for 2:40pm with a one-hour break scheduled for 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm. Docket sheets will be available soon. Commissioner Quinn also asked about requests for continuances because IME's were previously scheduled for after the hearing date. The Chairman explained that if the continuance is granted, another case is being set in for that hearing date and time. The Commission is trying to get the oldest cases set and done as soon as possible. The Commissioners should use their best judgement if they think that they can proceed with the hearing. Commissioner Quinn also addressed the guests on the call and asked them not to hold a settlement until the last minute, If the plan is to settle, please do so and allow that hearing space to be used by another case, Commissioner Parker-Warren commented that settlements have become somewhat sloppy with worksheets not matching what is in the document and it appears that there is no review process before submission. The Chairman asked that the community please pay attention to quality to help the Commissioners move the settlements along.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister reminded everyone to please be safe, be cautious, wear masks, use frequent hand washing and stay home as much as possible.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Public Attendees to Special COVID-19 Commissioners' Meeting via Teleconference
Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Name	Law Firm, Company or Other Affiliation
Cindy L. Armstrong, Esquire	Erlandson, Vernon & Daney, LLC
Gretchen Rogers, Esq.	Berman, Sobin, Gross, Feldman & Darby
Mark E. Rollison, Esquire	Engel Law Group, PC
	Schenker, Krause & Lopez (employees of Zurich
Mark T. Krause	American Insurance)
Neydyn S. Gomez, Esq.	Antezana & Antezana, LLC
Stephan A. Timchula	Timchula & Smith, P.A.
Steven J. Meltzer	Schenker, Krause & Lopez
Suja M. Varghese, Assistant County Attorney	Baltimore County Office of Law
Tina Lane	Mitchell
ELIZABETH A. GUTZWILER, RHIT	Mitchell
Mark F. Grasso	Trazzi & Grasso
Rob N. Weston	Law Offices of Rob N. Weston
Douglas M. Gross, Esq.	LAW OFFICES OF DOUGLAS M. GROSS, LLC
Matt Trollinger, Esq.	Trollinger Law
Sara El-Shall, Esq.	Shultz Legal, LLC