

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 08, 2021**

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

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

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Jerome Reichmister, M.D., and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission. No members of the public attended this meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the June 24, 2021 Commission Meeting were reviewed, and with a motion made by Commissioner Quinn and second by Commissioner Schadt, to accept the Minutes, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman Reported that the over-30 days backlog is down to 3,000 cases, which is a great improvement. There is still work to be done to put the over-30-day case number below 1,000 but, we will continue making progress to that goal as we begin setting more cases daily. The August dockets have been set with 20 cases per docket. The Chairman also reported that Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel to the Commission, will be leading a panel of legal advisors to various state workers' compensation Boards and Commissions at the SAWCA conference. The discussion will include questions about COVID cases and how they are being handled by the various states, including whether employers and insurers are accepting or contesting COVID cases. Commissioner Martin asked about the number of COVID cases filed and if there had been a change without the presumption legislation. The consensus was that there had not been much change in the numbers without the presumption legislation. The Chairman reported that the IAIABC will host a hybrid conference in Louisville in October and, the WCI will be hosting an in-person conference in Orlando in December. The Chairman reported that internal interviews are beginning for the Director's position in the Court Reporting Division, and we are working on filling other positions that are open. The 9-1-1 Commission continues to request data and Stacey Roig is working on locating and providing the information they request.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: The Commissioners discussed various personnel movements within the workers' compensation community. The Chairman discussed empowering the security officers to handle the entry and dismissal of people at the hearings given concerns with calling dockets and new attorneys who may not know how the process works with larger dockets returning. The transition will be a work in progress, and everyone should try to be patient. Commissioner Evans asked about stipulations and the pandemic process vs. the formal process. After some discussion, the Commissioners decided to table the question and further discuss it at the July 22nd meeting. Scott Curtis discussed a call that he received regarding the C-51 process for medical providers.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister provided several medical alerts and information of interest to the Commissioners.

Chairman Aumann announced that Commissioner Maureen Quinn will be designated Acting Chairperson while Chairman Aumann is away in August.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Quinn and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary