

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 27, 2020**

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:27 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 Mary Ahearn, 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 August 13, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Parker-Warren and second of Commissioner Evans, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman discussed the announcement that NCCI is recommending a 9.8% reduction in average premium, which is excellent news for insurers and policy holders. The Chairman also announced that the backlog is now approaching normal volume levels. Beltsville has always maintained the highest volume and the pandemic did not change that situation. All dockets have been reviewed for any opportunity to add dockets to Beltsville and adjustments have been made by Amy Lackington. Several new dockets were added to Beltsville over the next two (2) months. November will be a new schedule format to streamline the dockets. The Annual Report is being prepared and is on schedule to be issued timely. The Chairman had no new information regarding the MWCEA and any plans for the 2020 conference. Decisions will be made and finalized soon. The Chairman reported that remote working has been successful and continues to be effective. He expressed thanks to all of the staff for their hard work from all locations to keep the work flowing smoothly. Commissioner Quinn commented that Jim MacDonald has been especially helpful with all parties in the virtual hearing and the uploading of documents. Commissioner Quinn also commented that many times the parties to the case have not been prepared properly for a virtual environment and Jim has been very helpful getting people online, even with extremely short notice.

Old Business: Commissioner Evans asked about the expected date for the exclusive use of the new Settlement Worksheet. Mary Ahearn responded that the new worksheet has been posted but, the Commission allows approximately 30 days for the parties to begin using it exclusively. Commissioner Martin reported that the contact tracing program does not have a dropdown box for LaVale (Allegheny County). Mary Ahearn will report the issue to IT to correct.

New Business: No Report

Medical Alerts: Chairman Aumann thanked Dr. Reichmister for all his hard work on the training session that he provided on August 13, 2020. Dr. Reichmister reminded everyone to please be safe, be cautious, wear masks, use frequent hand washing, social distance and stay home as much as possible. Dr. Reichmister also provided several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.:

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Public Attendees to Commissioners' Meeting
Thursday, August 27, 2020

Name	Law Firm, Company or Other Affiliation
Angela Garcia Kozlowski, Esq	Franklin & Prokopic
Antonio R. Lopez	Schenker, Krause & Lopez (employees of Zurich American Insurance)
Douglas M. Gross, Esq.	Law Offices of Douglas M. Gross LLC