

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 8, 2022

Call to Order: Acting Chair Quinn 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 and Delia Schadt.

Staff members attending were Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Steven Jones and Stacey Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the August 25, 2022 Commission meeting were reviewed and upon motion of Commissioner Quinn and second of Commissioner Kittleman, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:35 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Quinn and second of Commissioner Martin 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 and to discuss a personnel matter.

ICR Report: Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, reported on updates to the self-insurance of The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P) and explained that the claims need to be reviewed to determine the appropriate amount to be held in reserve by the Commission. The Commission also needs to determine amounts paid out by the Uninsured Employers' Fund. Mr. Jones asked that the claims be reviewed by the Commissioners to determine the risk of reopening and reserves that may be required for the claims. Chairman Aumann assigned the claims to the Commissioners from a list provided by IC&R. Findings should be reported to the Chairman as soon as they are complete.

The Chairman discussed a personnel matter with the Commissioners.

Open Session: At 10:00 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Quinn and second from Commissioner Kittleman and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman provided an update on CompHub and the presentation that will be made at the MWCEA Conference. The project is now being managed in-house by Kevin Nauman, CIO and while the "Go Live" date is not known at this time, the project is moving forward at a much better pace. The Chairman thanked Mary Ahearn and Kevin Nauman for their vigilance in getting CompHub back on track. The Chairman reported that the insurer payback this year was due mainly to vacant PIN's and the ongoing challenges to filling open positions. The Chairman also discussed upcoming conferences including IAIABC, MWCEA and SAWCA. The topics are growing beyond COVID, and the subject matter being discussed is important and a big factor in the rebuilding of attendance at the conferences. The Commission continues to support the educational value of these conferences.

New Business: Commissioner Metz discussed Decision Memos and the formulas used to calculate benefits. Death claim pop-ups are not always correct, and some templates are inaccurate. The Chairman asked the Commissioners to share their similar experiences with Commissioner Metz so that he can develop a comprehensive list of what needs to be reviewed and/or changed.

Old Business: No Report

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts that were of interest to the Commissioners, including infertility claims in the workplace due in part to the use of formaldehyde in cleaning products; studies that have shown that Dermatologists treating skin conditions are the highest prescribers of antibiotics and, a report from the National Center for Health Statistics finding a 25% increase in the number of deaths due to alcohol consumption between 2019 and 2020 and a 30% increase in the number of deaths due to opioids over the same period.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Quinn and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary