

**Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 10, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Acting Chair, Delia T. Schadt called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m.

**Present:** Acting Chairman Schadt, Commissioners James Forrester, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Steven Jones, Amy Lackington, Scott Curtis, Theresa Cornish, Dorothy Smith and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the October 27, 2022 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Forrester and second of Commissioner Oh, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

**Closed Session:** At 9:29 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Metz and second of Commissioner Parker-Warren 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 Commissioner entered into a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

**ICR Report:** Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, reported that the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) has requested to add a subsidiary, UPMC Western Maryland, to their self-insurance program. After discussion and motion by Commissioner Metz and second of Commissioner Martin, and with a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

**Open Session:** At 9:31 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Forrester and second from Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

**Acting Chair's Report:** No Report

**Old Business:** No Report

**New Business:** Commissioner Forrester discussed the use of interpreters in Video Remote Hearings (VRH) and the challenges in the video setting and language barriers with interpreter services. After discussion the Commissioners decided to discuss the topic again at the December 8, 2022 meeting.

Mary Ahearn introduced Theresa Cornish and Dorothy Smith, who provided detailed information on setting interpreters and what happens when there are last minute cancellations of interpreters. Dorothy Smith requested that the Commissioners contact her with details when the quality of an interpreter is not acceptable. In addition, Dorothy requested that the Commissioners contact her with the names of the interpreters who perform well, so the Commission can specifically request them when making interpreter assignments in the future. Mary Ahearn shared that the Commission is looking into the possibility of contracting directly with specific interpreters. The Commissioners requested a specific voir dire to be used, if agreed by all the parties, when an interpreter is brought to a hearing by one of the parties or their counsel.

Scott Curtis reported that it was announced at the MSBA Section Counsel Dinner that a settlement document is being developed to be available to all members, which will place all of the boilerplate items in the same place to make them easier to find and review. Commissioner Schadt will be the Commission connection as this agreement is developed.

**Medical Alerts:** No Report as Dr. Reichmister did not attend this meeting.

**Adjournment:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Parker-Warren and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

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Delia T. Schadt, Acting Chair

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Stacey L. Roig, Secretary