

**Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 09, 2021**

Call to Order: Chairman Aumann 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, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Steven Jones, Amy Lackington, Jerome Reichmister, M.D. and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission.

A public attendee was A. Harold DuBois, Esq.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the November 18, 2021 Commission meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Quinn and second of Commissioner Evans, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:33 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Metz and second of Commissioner Forrester 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.

Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance & Regulation (ICR) Division discussed with the Commissioners the following :

| SELF-INSURED | | Motion by: | Second | Action |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Barrett Business Services | | Quinn | Parker-Warren | motion approved |
| Miller & Long | | Forrester | Martin | motion approved |

The meeting was reopened at 9:42 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Evans and after unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Aumann announced several WCC staff retirements and discussed hiring efforts are underway as hiring is difficult in many areas of need at the Commission. The Chairman announced that the rollout of CompHub is expected in the near future. The SAWCA Conference was well attended and the WCI conference begins next week in Orlando. Conferences are beginning to be scheduled for 2022. The Chairman also discussed organizational changes due to retirements and the emergence of more online document filing. Consolidation of duties and work responsibilities is expected.

The Chairman asked Commissioner Morrisann Martin to discuss Kids Chance of MD upcoming activities. Commissioner Martin reported that the Bowling Night is rescheduled for February 6, 2022 from 6:00pm until 10:00pm. The 30th Anniversary Gala will be held on April 30, 2022 at the B&O Museum. Two tables have been set aside for the Commission. Tickets will be \$175 per person. Dress is semi-formal with black tie optional.

The Chairman reported that the Legislative Oversight Committee held a special meeting with the Board of the Uninsured Employers' Fund ("UEF") to discuss the special report that was prepared after a review and audit of UEF operations. The Chairman also reported that there will be a change in leadership of the Economic Matters Committee with the current Chair, Delegate Derrick Davis, set to become Treasurer of

the State of MD. Senator Kelly remains Chair of the Finance Committee with Senator Feldman the Co-Chair of the Finance Committee.

Old Business: Commissioner Forrester discussed docket sizes and Mary Ahearn, CEO reported that docket sizes are back to pre-COVID levels. Commissioner Parker-Warren discussed IME credits for no-show claimants. Commissioner Quinn requested clarification on determining the amount of the credit. The discussion will be revisited at the January 13, 2022 meeting.

New Business: Commissioner Parker-Warren discussed some attorney behaviors that need improvement. Commissioner Evans expressed concern with some attorneys combining hearings with some of the more remote locations, such as LaPlata with Beltsville, and the overall difficulty of several attorneys requesting to be heard first at one of the locations to try to make it to the other location. Commissioner Forrester discussed law firms hiring new attorneys and they are requesting to bring the new lawyers to hearings for observation purposes, which he is allowing. The Commissioners agreed that accommodating this request is good for the new lawyers and the Commissioners.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister presented several interesting medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Quinn and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary