

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 10, 2020**

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Present: Chairman Aumann and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, Allan Kittleman, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Maureen Quinn, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren established a quorum.

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

Closed Session: At 9:17 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Parker-Warren and second of Commissioner Metz 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 Division reported that Johns Hopkins Health System (JHHS) requires an increase in security deposit. After discussion and a motion from Commissioner Quinn with a second from Commissioner Parker-Warren, and unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

Mr. Jones also reported that MGM Resorts International requires an increase to the security deposit. After discussion and a motion by Commissioner Metz and a second by Commissioner Evans, and unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

The meeting was reopened at 9:24 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Quinn and second of Commissioner Parker-Warren and upon unanimous vote.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 am on an open meeting line allowing the public to attend the remainder of the meeting.

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, Jerome Reichmister, M.D., Amy Lackington, Scott Curtis, 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 November 12, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Metz, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that it is December and COVID is flaring again in our state and, the continued diligence of the Commissioners and staff will continue to keep in-person hearings possible. The Chairman reminded the Commissioners that masks are required and are to be worn at all times. The Chairman also complimented the Security Officers for the work that they are doing to keep the hearing sites sanitized and enforcing the COVID safety protocols. He asked the Commissioners to continue to support the efforts of the Security Officers.

The Chairman asked Mary Ahearn, CEO, to provide an update on the Enterprise Modernization project. Ms. Ahearn reported that the project is moving forward with a February target date for the first rollout of CompHub. The multi-factor authentication process has some issues in Bizagi, but the rollout target is still on track. The Chairman reported that legislative hearings will be starting in January and all testimony will be virtual with no testimony in person. The House and Senate Budget Subcommittees will be meeting together this year and taking testimony on budgets in one session, which will streamline the process for the committees and the agencies. Legislation regarding COVID presumptions is expected with the focus on public safety; however, there has been some talk about adding healthcare and retail workers. The Chairman discussed COVID cases and the Commission's mission to continue to look at facts and circumstances for each case and, especially with COVID cases that differ so much from one case to another. University of Baltimore School of Law has students ready to work with claimants in Medical Only cases and several Commissioners will be working with the school to help get the program up and running. The Chairman asked Commissioner Metz to comment on his proposed draft to restructure attorney's fees. Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel commented that the proposed changes will be addressed in the eight-year required review of agency regulations, which will be coming up this year. The Chairman also reported that the Commissioners' Meeting on December 17th will include all employees of the Commission. The Chairman also noted that the snow policy without schools in session is undecided at this time; however, a decision on a policy regarding the cancellation of hearings due to weather will be made soon.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Martin announced that she will be taking the position of Kids' Chance Liaison with the retirement of Commissioner Lauren Godwin. Commissioner Martin announced a golf outing in support of Kids' Chance to be held on July 19, 2021 at Rocky Point and she asked the Commissioner to attend.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister reminded everyone to continue with safety precautions of social distancing, washing hands frequently, wearing masks and avoiding crowds. Dr. Reichmister also provided several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58a.m.:

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Public Attendees to Commissioners' Meeting
December 10, 2020

Name	Law Firm, Company or Other Affiliation
Antonio R. Lopez	* Schenker, Krause & Lopez (employees of Zurich American Insurance)
Mark T. Krause	* Schenker, Krause & Lopez (employees of Zurich American Insurance)
Brian W. Rollyson	* Berman, Sobin, Gross, Feldman & Darby