

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 13, 2023

Call to Order: Chair, Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chair Quinn, Commissioners James Forrester, Asha Joseph Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Lynn Oh, Delia Turano Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Chief Executive Officer, Scott Curtis, Assistant Attorney General, Steven Jones, Director of Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, and Amy Lackington, Acting Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the March 23, 2023 Commission meeting was reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:33 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Parker-Warren and second of Commissioner Oh 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 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 on the application of LifeBridge Health, Inc. (LifeBridge) requesting the addition of a subsidiary, Brinton Woods Health Care Center, LLC to its self-insurance program with an effective date of April 1, 2023. The proposal was reviewed and discussed. After a motion by Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Parker-Warren, the request from LifeBridge to add Brinton Woods Health Care Center, LLC as a subsidiary, was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 9:45 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Forrester and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chair's Report:

- Chair Quinn gave a review of new legislation as a result of the General Assembly 's 2023 Legislative Session, specifically: HB0590/SB0377 (Workers' Compensation – Benefits – Offset and Study); SB0839/HB0902 (Labor and Employment – Workers' Compensation – Hernia); and SB0071/HB0800 (Execution on a Judgment – Child Support Arrearages - Workers' Compensation).
- Training for security personnel (active shooter and CPR/AED) is taking place today in the 3rd floor meeting room. AED's are being installed in all public lobby areas at our hearing locations.
- The Commissioners were reminded to bring their Commission issued laptops in for updating each month. IT will send out a monthly reminder.
- Due to continuing renovations at the Comfort Inn in LaVale, hearings will continue to be held at the Fairfield Inn in Cumberland through August.
- Commissioners were reminded to complete their ethics forms by April 30, 2023.

- Chair Quinn discussed upcoming workers' compensation-related conferences and indicated Legislators would be invited to attend the MWCEA Conference in Ocean City in October and the SAWCA All Committee Conference in San Antonio in November.
- It was announced that the rollout date for the new CompHub system will be August 14, 2023.
- Discussion was held regarding occupational deafness vs. disease and last date of injurious exposure.
- A call was received from attorney Ari Laric who invited Commissioner participation in Firefighter Day.
- At the April 27, 2023 Commission meeting, Drs. Kornbluth and Brokaw will be presenting. On the same day the MSBA Spring Outreach virtual event geared toward the need to mentor new attorneys will be held. HotTips have been recorded and will be presented virtually. This may be a good break-out program at MWCEA for new attorneys.

Old Business: Commissioner Martin reported that Kids' Chance raised over \$10,000 from its bowling event and they are planning another one to be held in the fall. A golf outing is scheduled for July 17 at Rocky Point. The Gala is going to be held every other year per Mitch Gordon.

New Business: Commissioner Kittleman brought up the need for the Fee Guide Committee to meet this summer to discuss a prescription fee guide. Commissioner Metz discussed the issue of Montgomery County only providing one attorney for hearing coverage.

Medical Alerts: Tabled.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Quinn and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chair

Amy S. Lackington, Acting Secretary