

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 12, 2023

Call to Order: Acting Chair, Maureen Quinn, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Acting Chair Quinn, Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Turano Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Dr. Jerome Reichmister and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the December 8, 2022 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon a motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Evans, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Acting Chair Report: Acting Chair Quinn discussed travel and referred the Commissioners to a list of conferences available for the coming year. The MWCEA Conference in September is the only mandatory attendance conference for the Commissioners. Please let Amy Lackington know your selections so that travel arrangements can be made for you. Acting Chair Quinn will be more involved working with MWCEA. Due to budget concerns, there will be some changes to the conference program. The Commissioners discussed possible scenarios for change. Acting Chair Quinn discussed concerns regarding building security and courtroom security at all hearing sites. There was some discussion regarding installation of metal detectors and other security measures at all hearing sites. Mary Ahearn discussed the cost concerns and the need for more space and personnel to properly install and use metal detectors. Other security measures discussed, included a new "escape door" that was recently installed in Public Service and possible installation of video cameras. Acting Chair Quinn put Commissioner Evans in charge of developing a task force to look at security and make recommendations for what is needed.

Acting Chair Quinn discussed a recent medical emergency in Beltsville and recommended a training session for security officers to include medical emergencies and active shooter situations. Dr. Reichmister will put together a package of information on how to handle a medical emergency in line with HIPAA. Acting Chair Quinn asked that a presentation be set up with the MD Ethics Commission to provide information on how to properly handle gifts on the annual ethics statement. Stacey Roig will coordinate that presentation. Acting Chair Quinn discussed weather related closings and asked that Theresa Cornish provide information on what Baltimore City and all county schools are doing in the post-COVID era of virtual learning. Acting Chair Quinn will make all final decisions on weather closings. Acting Chair Quinn asked the Commissioners not to open a site, even if they are there, if it was previously closed by the Commission. Acting Chair Quinn discussed the calendar and even distribution of dockets at some of the more inconvenient locations. Setting dockets requires three (3) months' notice for leave requests; however, Acting Chair Quinn will give three (3) days of leave per year to each Commissioner to use when (3) months' notice is not possible. The days will only be granted without the required notice if Acting Chair Quinn is available to take the docket. During the legislative session (January – April), short notice is the best notice because legislative hearings will take priority. Finally, Acting Chair Quinn announced that EnBanc Commission hearings will be assigned to retired Commissioners to hear. She also asked that the Commissioners try to solve problems from the bench while all parties are present and reset hearings before the parties leave the hearing site.

Old Business: Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel, reported that the attorney fee reform Regulations are to be published in the MD Register on Friday, January 13th. Acting Chair Quinn asked Commissioner Metz to prepare and send her a synopsis of the proposed regulations. Acting Chair Quinn asked that Commissioner Metz and Mr. Curtis work with Cindy Cauthorne, Hearing Division Director, for the training of the Commissioner Assistants on the new calculations of the attorney fees. Final adoption of the proposed Regulations will be on the Agenda for a future Commission meeting date.

New Business: Commissioner Parker-Warren discussed the new hearing site in Cumberland at the Fairfield Inn and Commissioner Martin agreed that the hearing site is nice. There are some changes that the new location brings, and everyone is starting to get used to those changes. Commissioner Metz discussed a trending situation where light duty is needed but not available with the employer so the claimant is sent to an outside entity that may be a charitable organization and the payment for the light duty is being claimed as a charitable contribution. Commissioner Parker-Warren asked about processing VRH requests. Mary Ahearn reminded the Commissioners that VRH requests should be annotated and then the Assistant is notified that if the request is denied, the Assistant will issue a Memorandum. If it is approved, without selecting “approved” in the system, the Assistant routes it upstairs to Amy Lackington to put the case on the VRH list. Nothing is issued if it’s approved.

Acting Chair Quinn will be briefing the Economic Matters Committee in the House of Delegates, at their request, on January 17th. There have been some changes to both ECM and Finance on the Senate side. As well as the subcommittees for the 2023 general session.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister reported on several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including a discussion on the Damar Hamlin injury and, an upcoming discussion on opioids and pain management in general. The pain management presentation and discussion will take place on a future Commission meeting day. Commissioner Quinn commented that she asked Dr. Reichmister to serve as an ambassador with the medical community to keep doctors interested in treating workers’ compensation claimants.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Acting Chair

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2023

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

Present: Acting Chair Quinn, Commissioners James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Turano Schadt. Commissioners Kathleen Evans and Tracey Parker-Warren were present for the meeting but were delayed and were not present at the time of closure of the meeting.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Steven Jones, Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington, by telephone, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the January 12, 2022 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon a motion of Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Metz, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:31 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Forrester 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 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 Westinghouse Electric Company has requested a change to their security deposit. After discussion and motion by Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Forrester and with a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Jones also reported that Ryder Systems, Inc. has requested to add a subsidiary, COOP Technologies, to their self-insurance program. After discussion and motion by Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Martin and with a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Jones also reported that Sheppard Pratt Health, Inc. has requested to add a subsidiary, Family Services, Inc., to their self-insurance program. After discussion and motion by Commissioner Parker-Warren and second of Commissioner Kittleman and with a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Open Session: At 9:41 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Parker-Warren and second from Commissioner Kittleman and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Acting Chair Report: Acting Chair Quinn turned the meeting over to Amy Lackington (participating by telephone) to discuss registration deadlines for the IAIABC conference in April. Security Risk Protocols were also discussed by Ms. Lackington. The procedure is to notify Ms. Lackington when a claimant is determined to be a possible security risk and a code is entered in the claimant file to quietly notify Security and the Commissioner of a possible security risk. When the code is shown next to the claimant's name on the docket, the Commissioners should make every attempt to take those claimants first. Acting Chair Quinn thanked Ms. Lackington for her presentation and moved to a question-and-answer session with Katherine Thompson, Esq., Staff Counsel to the MD Ethics Commission. The session was held via telephone with the Ethics Commission. Jennifer Allgair, Esq., Executive Director of the Ethics Commission also attended the meeting. The discussion was centered on gifts, including what is allowed, what is not allowed and what needs to be reported on the annual ethics statement. Questions were asked and answered, and the WC Commission was advised to contact the Ethics Commission with individual situations and questions. Ms. Thompson will send contact information and more general information to

Stacey Roig for distribution to the Commissioners and others in attendance at the meeting. Acting Chair Quinn thanked the Ethics Commission guests for their time and important information in the Q&A session.

Acting Chair Quinn asked Commissioner Evans to discuss a security meeting. Commissioner Evans reported that she has scheduled a meeting with Mary Ahearn, CEO and David Jones, CFO, to discuss new security concerns and possible courses of action. The meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2023 and Commissioner Evans will report the information to the Commissioners at the Commission Meeting on February 23, 2023.

Acting Chair Quinn reported that Dr. Reichmister is working with a company to provide all-inclusive training for active shooters, first aid and CPR. More details will be available in the near future. Acting Chair Quinn also reported on judicial salary increases 2023-2025.

Acting Chair Quinn reported that she attended the MWCEA Board meeting where the format of the annual convention was discussed in detail. The MWCEA conducted a survey that produced 95 responses about the annual convention. Most responses supported staying in a larger hotel so all attendees could stay together in the same hotel. The length of the convention and the Ocean City location also received support in the survey results. A change to the Wednesday program was also requested.

Old Business: Commissioner Metz discussed light duty that is contracted out to charitable organizations and some of the challenges of using that method of providing light duty work when an employer doesn't have any light duty jobs available. The Commissioners discussed the challenges and benefits and will continue to evaluate the use of this type of light duty program on a case-by-case basis.

New Business: Commissioner Forrester began a discussion of proposed regulations awaiting final approval. Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel requested that the meeting be closed for advice of counsel.

Closed Session: At 10:31 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Forrester and second of Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, pursuant to GP §§3-305(7), LE §9-744, the Commissioner entered into a closed session for the purpose of receiving advice of legal counsel.

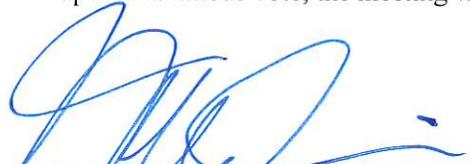
Principal Counsel, Scott Curtis answered questions and provided legal advice to the Commissioners regarding the proposed regulations.

Open Session: At 10:50 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Forrester and second from Commissioner Oh and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

New Business – continued: Commissioner Forrester discussed an unreported opinion on Conley v. Trumbull Insurance Company on appeal in The Court of Special Appeals of MD (now known as The Appellate Court of MD).

Mary Ahearn alerted the Commissioners to a mileage rate increase that was effective January 1, 2023.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.



Maureen Quinn, Acting Chair



Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 9, 2023

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

Present: Acting Chair Quinn, Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Turano Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Jerome Reichmister, MD, Amy Lackington, by telephone, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the January 26, 2022 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon a motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Oh, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Acting Chair Report: Acting Chair Quinn discussed the program at a recent MD State Bar Association meeting featuring Commissioner Metz as one of the program speakers. The meeting was well attended including by our Commissioners. The Commissioners discussed the Correction Form and a possible name change to reflect the real intention of the form. Acting Chair Quinn also discussed the speed of the computers at the regional sites. Mary Ahearn explained that the Commission is in the process of replacing them but it is a process that requires several upgrades to technology beyond just the computers. Commissioner Schadt discussed the Spring program for the MSBA meeting, which is scheduled for April 27th. Mentoring and best practices training are key topics. May 11th is the MSBA "Hot Tips" program, which will be pre-recorded. The Commissioners moved to a discussion on the use of "CROR" and how the use of that code impacts the path of claims. Acting Chair Quinn discussed the current status of cases pending. There are about 2,000 regular cases and only 400 over 30-days. Acting Chair Quinn discussed pending legislation with hearings underway. The Commission will continue to monitor proposed and pending legislation.

Old Business: The Commissioners moved to the next agenda item to open a discussion on the proposed regulations regarding attorney fees. Commissioner Parker-Warren motioned to table the discussion to the next meeting on February 23rd to allow for the comment period to close. Commissioner Oh seconded the motion and, after unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

New Business: Acting Chair Quinn welcomed Michael Daney, Program Chair for the 2023 MWCEA Convention to be held October 1-4, 2023 in Ocean City, MD. The Commissioners discussed program ideas for discussion by the MWCEA Program Committee.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed a program for the Commissioners on April 27th at 10:30am regarding new guidelines for opioids. It will be an opportunity for the Commissioners to ask questions and have an open discussion with experts in the subject matter. Dr. Reichmister is also working on a CPR/First Aid/Active Shooter course for Security staff. The date is still to be determined. Dr. Reichmister also discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.


Maureen Quinn, Acting Chair


Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 2023

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

Present: Acting Chair Quinn, Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Turano Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington, by telephone, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the February 9, 2023 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon the motion of Commissioner Metz and second of Commissioner Parker-Warren, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Acting Chair Report: Acting Chair Quinn discussed the budget hearings, and all went well. There was also discussion regarding Commissioners switching locations of their dockets and the Commissioners confirmed that Duty stays with the Commissioner assigned in the Duty Roster, it does not stay with the Baltimore City location.

Old Business: Commissioner Metz discussed comments received from the public by the Commission regarding proposed changes to COMAR 14.09.04 (Attorney Fees). Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel, proposed a change to the Statement of Purpose for clarification. He will prepare a change to the language for the Commissioners to discuss at that March 9th meeting. The Commissioners also discussed the implementation of the new fee calculations and the possibility of confusion and complications when older claims come before the Commission and fees are to be calculated differently based on the date of the claim filing. There was also a concern about retainer fee documents not aligned with what would actually be paid under the proposed regulations. The Commissioners will continue the discussion at the next meeting,

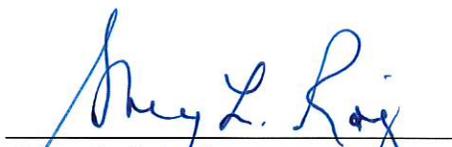
New Business: Commissioner Evans discussed a meeting with Administration, Fiscal and Security to discuss a change to security protocols at the hearing sites. The discussion included installation of metal detectors at the hearing sites, starting with a test site in Baltimore City. The Department of Budget and Management is receptive to a test site to see how this will all work and the costs of installation and security to monitor the detectors. Acting Commissioner Quinn discussed building security and access to the building at 10 E. Baltimore Street and some upcoming changes. Commissioner Kittleman discussed a meeting that he is having to discuss and plan a mock trial type presentation for MWCEA in October.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister did not attend this meeting so there were no medical alerts presented.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.



Maureen Quinn, Acting Chair



Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 09, 2023

Call to Order: Acting Chair, Maureen Quinn, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Acting Chair Quinn, Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Turano Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington (by telephone), Jerome Reichmister, M.D. and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Guests attending: Several members of the public attended this meeting and they are listed on the attached page, which is part of these Minutes.

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

Acting Chair Report: Acting Chair Quinn opened the meeting with thanks to Commissioner Martin for organizing the Commissioners attendance at the Kids' Chance bowling fundraiser on March 8th. Acting Chair Quinn also announced that several office switches are happening and the office of our new Commissioner, Asha Jefferson, is being set up for her arrival on March 14, 2023. Acting Chair Quinn offered thanks to David Jones for his work with DGS and the landlord to settle a dispute regarding access to the building and security. Acting Chair Quinn also noted that when a medical emergency arises, we must call 911 from the landlines in the courtrooms or anywhere in the building because the use of the landline notifies David Jones and his team, including security personnel. A recent medical emergency brought this to light. In addition, it became clear that additional defibrillators are needed, and AED's will now be available on all five floors at 10 E. Baltimore Street, in addition to all regional sites.

Old Business: Acting Chair Quinn asked Commissioner Metz to discuss the final approval of the proposed changes to COMAR 14.09.04 – Attorney Fees. Acting Chair Quinn then turned the meeting over to Commissioner Metz to discuss public comments and a proposed change to the Statement of Purpose and a clarification to 14.09.04.03(B)(a)(i). Commissioner Metz discussed his thoughts and opinions on each item. Commissioner Metz then made a Motion to accept the proposed changes to COMAR 14.09.04, as clarified and presented at this meeting. Commissioner Oh seconded the motion and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Kittleman asked for a discussion to determine if there will be a one tier or two-tiered calculation of fees based on the date that the claim was filed. The Commissioners debated the advantages and disadvantages of a one tier versus a two tier fee structure. After discussion, Acting Chair Quinn made a motion that was later amended to read as follows:

All fee calculations in a claim will be governed by the fee regulations in place on the date of the filing of the claim, which would adopt a two-tiered calculation of fees. Commissioner Kittleman seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows: Commissioner Evans – nay, Commissioner Kittleman – aye, Commissioner Metz – nay, Commissioner Parker-Warren – aye, Commissioner Oh – nay, Commissioner Martin – aye, Commissioner Forrester – aye, Commissioner Schadt – aye, Acting Chair Quinn – nay. The vote was 5-aye and 4-nay. The ayes have it and the motion passed.

New Business: Commissioner Martin discussed an incident in a courtroom involving a SWAT Officer and possible threatening behavior. Commissioner Martin requested that the committee implementing enhanced security discuss whether officers should leave their guns in their cars and not bring them into the building.

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

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Acting Chair

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chairwoman Quinn, Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Turano Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the March 9, 2023 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon the motion of Commissioner Evans and second of Commissioner Kittleman, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote as amended to correct a typographical error in the vote count in "Old Business".

Closed Session: At 9:04 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman 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 Commissioners 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 LifeBridge Health has requested to add Practice Dynamics as a subsidiary to their self-insurance program. After discussion and motion by Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Martin and with a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Open Session: At 9:06 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Metz and second from Commissioner Kittleman and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Closed Session: At 9:06 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, pursuant to GP §§3-305(7), the Commissioners entered into a closed session for the purpose of conferring with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Legal Advice of Counsel: Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel provided legal advice to the Commission.

Open Session: At 9:14 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Forrester and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chair Report: Chairwoman Quinn reported that in approximately six to eight weeks CompHub will be ready to deploy. The process will mean a shutdown of the system from Wednesday until the following Monday morning. Everyone will be working hard during those days to keep the transition as smooth as possible. The Annual MWCEA Conferences have been set for the next two years. Please add September 15-17, 2024 and September 14-17, 2025 to your calendars. The Workers' Compensation Oversight Committee will be appointing Commissioner Ju Oh as the Commission Ex Officio representative on the Oversight Committee. Commissioner Oh will be replacing Chairwoman Quinn in that role. Defibrillators are in the process of being delivered and installed at all Regional sites and in Baltimore.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: No Report

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Parker-Warren and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chair

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

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

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 27, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Chairwoman Quinn, Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Asha Joseph Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Ju Oh, Delia Turano Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, and Jerome Reichmister, M.D. David Jones attended via telephone to record notes for the Minutes on behalf of the Secretary of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the April 13, 2023 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon the motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Martin the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair Report: Chairwoman Quinn reported she was attending the IAIABC conference in Clearwater, FL this week. Chairwoman Quinn also reported that the property manager for the 10 e. Baltimore Street building will no longer be the property manager effective April 30, 2023. The pending case load is terrific, around 2,500 cases. Priority level 2 cases are a little off (46%) and should be about 30%. Chairwoman Quinn will start taking dockets in May and June. Each Commissioner will have one case added to each of their dockets. A new court reporter (stenographer) has been hired and will begin on May 3; she is a former federal court reporter. As of July 1, all hearings for Baltimore County Government cases will be moved to Baltimore City and no longer in Abingdon. This change will not change the number of days the Commission will hold hearings in Abingdon.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Evans discussed settlements that are contested and the need to have medicals in the file for these types of settlements. The Commissioners discussed different scenarios where they would deny the settlement and send it back for medical information.

Commissioner Kittleman discussed the importance of exhibits being uploaded at least three days in advance of the hearings. The consensus among the Commissioners is that it is consistent across most cases that exhibits are not uploaded at least three (3) days in advance of the hearing. Dr. Reichmister suggested the Commission develop a checklist for attorneys about what is needed for the hearing.

Chairwoman Quinn reminded the Commissioners that Ethics Filings are due April 30th and MWCEA conference accommodations and meals must be reported.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Jefferson and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chair

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 11, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

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

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, David Jones, Steven Jones, Amy Lackington, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the April 27, 2023 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Evans and second by Commissioner Schadt, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:35 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Evans 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. Dr. Jerome Reichmister excused himself from the room due to the subject of discussion.

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 three subsidiaries. LifeBridge Health & Fitness was requested as a new subsidiary to be added to the self-insurance program of LifeBridge Health, Inc., with an effective date of April 1, 2023. The proposal was reviewed and discussed. After a motion by Commissioner Evans and second of Commissioner Forrester, the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

LifeBridge Metropolitan Anesthesia LLC was requested as a new subsidiary to be added to the self-insurance program of LifeBridge Health, Inc., with an effective date of April 1, 2023. The proposal was reviewed and discussed. After a motion by Commissioner Parker-Warren and the second by Commissioner Martin, the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

LifeBridge Suburban Anesthesia, LLC was requested as a new subsidiary to be added to the self-insurance program of LifeBridge Health, Inc., with an effective date of April 1, 2023. The proposal was reviewed and discussed. After a motion by Commissioner Metz and second by Commissioner Kittleman, the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 9:39 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Forrester and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting. Dr. Reichmister returned to the room.

Chair's Report:

- Chair Quinn gave a review of the NCCI conference in Orlando. It is clear that the workers' compensation insurance industry has deep financial strength and all trends are stable.
- Chair Quinn also announced a new Court Reporter will be starting with the Commission on May 23rd, and who is also coming with federal court experience. We now have a total of 16 Court Reporters and 4 new Security Officers starting soon.

- David Jones, CFO, was asked to discuss the facility changes given that the COVID-19 emergency status is officially over at midnight. Mr. Jones stated that the placement of the tables in the courtrooms will change only slightly to allow for the seating arrangement of pre-COVID to return to each courtroom. All tape will be removed from the floors and, all emergency and other COVID related signage will be removed. In general, the facilities will be moving toward pre-pandemic placement. Chairwoman Quinn asked the Commissioners for their preference on the placement of the witness chair and the consensus among the Commissioners was that the witness chair should return to the witness stand as it was before the pandemic.
- New metal detectors are to be installed and operational on June 1, 2023. Chair Quinn discussed the flow through the lobby when the metal detectors are in place and operational.
- David Jones also reported that all regional hearing sites will be getting new computers and Cambridge and LaPlata are being approved for updated and larger bandwidth. In addition, Mr. Jones added that June 1st is the target date for all parties to be allowed in the courtrooms, as we did pre-COVID.
- Mary Ahearn, CEO, announced that CompHub training for all Commissioners is scheduled for July 20, 2023. CompHub is targeted to roll out on August 14, 2023. Ms. Ahearn also reminded the Commissioners to bring in Commission-owned laptops for security updates on a regular basis.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Parker-Warren announced that on May 19th, three Morgan University students will be coming to the Commission to observe and learn about the Commission and workers' compensation. One of the students is a law student at the University of Baltimore.

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

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Parker-Warren and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 25, 2023

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

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Dr. Jerome Reichmister and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the May 11, 2023 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Kittleman, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report:

- Chair Quinn discussed Landlord/Tenant issues in Baltimore and LaPlata. Hearings will continue at the Fairfield Inn in Cumberland until December 2023 and then return to the Comfort Inn in LaVale.
- Chair Quinn announced that Pending Case numbers are still in good shape. She thanked the Commissioners and staff for their part in keeping the case numbers in a good range.
- Chair Quinn discussed some ethical situations to be aware of in relation to gifts received by State employees, including the Commissioners.
- Chair Quinn also announced that two new Claims Reviewers have been hired and will be starting soon.
- Chair Quinn also reminded the Commissioners that CompHub training will be held on July 20, 2023. Training will begin after the meeting at 10:00am. This is mandatory training.
- Mary Ahearn, CEO discussed new computers and bandwidth upgrades that are expected to be installed and ready for use by the end of June.
- The discussion continued regarding the placement of witness chairs and the ability for the Commissioners to be able to see the witnesses during their testimony. The situation will be addressed by facilities management.
- Commissioner Parker-Warren discussed garage safety and suggested returning to the installation of mirrors at the garage entry from the alley for safety when entering and exiting the garage.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: No Report

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

Other Announcements: Commissioner Martin discussed requests for placement on the docket and multiple WCC hearing locations in the same day. Scott Curtis announced that a student from St. Andrews University will be coming to the Commission. He will be following Scott and observing a hearing docket.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Oh and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 8, 2023

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

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners James Forrester, Kathleen Evans, Asha Joseph Jefferson, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Amy Lackington and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the May 25, 2023 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Parker-Warren and second by Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved as amended to include a discussion regarding exterior mirrors at the garage entry. The Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report:

- Chair Quinn discussed the selection of panels for the Commissioners at the MWCEA Conference in October. The Commissioners decided on their respective panels and the information will be forwarded to the MWCEA.
- Chair Quinn provided new information regarding the sight line issue in the Cambridge and Abingdon Regional sites. Chair Quinn and Mary Ahearn visited the sites and found that in both locations a higher chair will solve the sight line issue. New chairs have been ordered for both sites.
- Chair Quinn discussed a recent attack to a WCC employee on Baltimore Street near the parking garage. Chairwoman Quinn has contacted the Downtown Partnership and Baltimore City Police regarding additional security in the area.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Forrester relayed a question regarding CompHub training times in the afternoons when the attorneys are not in court. Mary Ahearn responded that the morning sessions are demos for the Beta Testers. Additional training times will be available for the public in the afternoon.

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

Other Announcements: Commissioner Forrester asked that all Commissioners check their dockets for prescription specialty cases and to continue them so they can be placed on the prescription specialty docket. Some prescription cases are being assigned to regular dockets.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Joseph Jefferson and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 22, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Steven Jones, Scott Curtis, Dr. Jerome Reichmister and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel, introduced Neave Crichton from Aberdeenshire, Scotland and the University of St Andrews. Ms. Crichton is here visiting the various court systems in Maryland, including the MD Workers' Compensation Commission. She will be learning about the US Court system during her stay in the US.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the June 8, 2023 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Metz and second by Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:35 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman 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. Dr. Jerome Reichmister excused himself from the room due to the subject of discussion. Ms. Crichton also excused herself from the room during the closed session.

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 another subsidiary to the self-insurance program, Center for Hope. The proposal was reviewed and discussed. After a motion by Commissioner Evans and second of Commissioner Kittleman, the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 9:39 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Oh and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting. Dr. Reichmister and Ms. Crichton returned to the room.

Chair's Report:

- Chair Quinn updated the Commissioners on safety in and around the building. The Baltimore City Police Department will be providing foot patrol Officers between Howard and Charles Streets, Monday-Friday from 3:00pm – 5:00pm.
- Chair Quinn also discussed the development of a template for settlement agreements by the MSBA NIWC section. The template will put the same paragraphs in the same places in every agreement. This will be more efficient for the attorneys and for the WCC settlement review process.
- Chair Quinn also announced that CompHub is on target for an August 14th rollout. Internal training is starting, and external training will begin in July. There will be morning and afternoon

training sessions available. The attorneys are the largest group to be trained. Insurance and Voc Rehab also have a lot of upgrades and changes that will require training sessions.

- Chair Quinn discussed the computer upgrades at some Regional Hearing Sites. Commissioner Martin discussed an issue with one of the new computers at Abingdon and printers not connected to the computers on the bench. She has reported it to the IT Department. Commissioner Parker-Warren agreed that she has experienced the same issues. Commissioner Forrester discussed the network speed at Cambridge. Mary Ahearn, CEO, explained that we are waiting for approval from DoIT on our request to upgrade the bandwidth. Commissioner Evans asked about the new computer installation at Beltsville.

Old Business: Commissioner Evans discussed a recent situation in Montgomery County cases where four (4) cases were on one docket and three (3) cases were on another docket at the same regional site but, only one attorney was present to represent the county and all seven (7) cases were being heard at the same time.

New Business: Commissioner Kittleman announced that a Fee Guide Committee meeting is scheduled for August and various topics will be discussed, including a possible Prescription Fee Guide. Chairman Quinn announced that she will be attending the IAIABC meeting in Denver, CO. She asked all Commissioners who also plan to attend to make their travel arrangements as soon as possible. Commissioner Forrester discussed attorney fees requested by an attorney in a case. Chair Quinn discussed the change of location for hearings on Baltimore County Government cases from Abingdon to Baltimore City.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed his presentation at the MWCEA on regenerative medicine and he would like to present a much more in-depth discussion on this very important topic. Commissioner Oh asked about a case in the United Kingdom where an injured worker lost fingertips and the hand was sewn into the abdomen. Dr. Reichmister explained this procedure was done for skin grafting and it is an old procedure. Commissioner Parker-Warren asked about the age of an injury that is classified as “acute”. Dr. Reichmister also discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Kittleman and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 20, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Asha Joseph Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Amy Lackington, by telephone, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the June 22, 2023 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Evans and second by Commissioner Kittleman, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report:

- Staff employees received a COLA increase and also at least one Step increase on July 1, 2023. Depending on the month of hire, some received two Steps July 1 and others will receive their second Step on January 1, 2024.
- Chair Quinn announced that the number of cases in all categories looks good and continues to have a low backlog.
- Chair Quinn also announced that the pilot program for the use of metal detectors will begin in Beltsville. Mary Ahearn stated that the metal detectors are in the building and will be assembled soon with a deployment expected in September.
- Chair Quinn reminded the Commissioners that CompHub training is underway and Commissioner training will start at 10:00am today.
- Chair Quinn discussed a successful meeting she and Dr. Reichmister had with MedChi.
- Chair Quinn reminded the Commissioners that the IT Security Awareness Trainings that are sent to everyone are mandatory and must be completed by a certain date. The courses are now being sent quarterly, which will allow more time to complete them but, it is still best practice to complete them immediately upon receipt.
- Chair Quinn discussed the SAWCA conference in San Antonio in November and announced that several members of the Legislature both Senate and House members have accepted the invitation to attend the conference.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Martin provided an update on Kids' Chance. The golf outing was a success with 126 golfers participating. The MWCEA Conference in October will have both a Fun Run and a Cornhole Tournament. A second Bowling Event will be held in College Park on November 8, 2023. The Kids' Chance Gala will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at the Museum of Industry in

Baltimore. The event will be a dinner from 5:30pm until 9:30pm. Commissioner Martin asked all the Commissioners to save the dates and plan to attend.

The Commissioners then discussed the ongoing situation of attorneys with double hearings on different dockets on the same day and trying to cover both hearings. This negatively impacts the facilities, court reporters, security personnel and all other parties to the case, even if the double hearings are at the same location. The Commissioners agreed that they want to work with the attorneys, but the attorneys need to be honest with their requests so together a solution can be worked out that works for everyone.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister briefly presented a new Primer he has prepared on Heart Disease and Hypertension. Dr, Reichmister also discussed the meeting with MedChi and their desire to use the AMA 6th Edition Impairment Ratings. The Commission will be staying with the 4th Edition at this time.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 10, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Howard Metz and Delia Schadt.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, David Jones, Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Amy Lackington, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Guests attending: Nancy Coursin, Esq. and Robert Bershad, Esq. on behalf of the MD State Bar Association and Anne Hoke, Esq.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the July 20, 2023 Commission meeting were reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Evans and second by Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn requested that several updates be provided to the Commissioners by members of the Commission staff. The updates required a closed session.

Closed Session: At 9:33 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote, pursuant to GP §3-305(7) and 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 and for the purpose of conferring with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. All guests were asked to remain outside the room during the closed session.

Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel, discussed access to claim information and provided legal advice to the Commissioners. Mr. Curtis and Stacey Roig, Director of the Insurance Compliance & Reporting Division, provided an update on Yellow Transportation to the Commissioners. Ms. Roig and David Jones, Chief Financial Officer, discussed the Legislative Audit Report and the response by the Commission.

Open Session: At 10:13 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Forrester and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

New Business: Chair Quinn moved the Agenda to New Business to accommodate our guests from the MSBA, Nancy Coursin and Robert Bershad, for a demonstration of a template in development for Settlement Agreements. Ms. Coursin and Mr. Bershad provided several examples of the template and how the data entry and final product will function. The Commissioners asked questions and provided feedback.

Old Business: Chair Quinn asked Mary Ahearn, Chief Executive Officer, to provide an update on CompHub and what can be expected over the next several days. Mary Ahearn reported that the data migration process from WFMS to CompHub is underway. WFMS is shutdown so no annotations or updates can be made in the WFMS system. It is only possible to view and/or print documents. Ms. Ahearn discussed Death Claims in CompHub with no decision memo available yet. The Assistants will be using Merge Doc to create and commit Orders and then go back to CompHub for routing of the Orders. Worksheets and printing of Orders will be done in MergeDoc. The Assistants will also be using email and printing of Orders for the first month to be certain that all is working as expected. Everyone

will be able to log in to CompHub starting at 8:00am on Monday, August 14, 2023. The Helpdesk will be receiving CompHub Support emails and act in a triage role to route the questions to subject matter experts within the Commission. Kevin Naumann, Chief Information Officer, sent out a list of support and training materials for additional information.

Stacey Roig, Secretary of the Commission, provided a final list of information on file with the Governor's Appointments Office for each seat on the Commission. This list is for the Commissioners to keep for their records.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed a new Primer he has prepared, "Heart Disease and Hypertension". Dr. Reichmister also discussed the differences between the 4th, 5th and 6th Editions of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment and other medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Metz and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 24, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Howard Metz and Morrisann Martin.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis via telephone, Amy Lackington, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Guests attending: Anne Hoke, Esq.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on August 10, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second by Commissioner Evans, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn asked Mary Ahearn to discuss the January 1, 2024 Advisory Loss Costs Filing report, which is provided to the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA). Ms. Ahearn reported that this year the report also includes the 2021 and 2022 data from Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company, which was not included in prior years. The report indicated a 10.6% overall decrease in pure premium loss costs. The full report will be available on the MIA website.

Chair Quinn asked Amy Lackington to provide an update on the MWCEA conference in October. Ms. Lackington reported that Commissioner Parker-Warren will not be attending the conference this year. Commissioner Kittleman volunteered to cover the session on medical cannabis.

Old Business: Chair Quinn asked Commissioner Evans to provide a security update to the Commissioners. Commissioner Evans reported that the metal detector program was working well, and the Commission will be rolling it out to the regional hearing sites over the next month, beginning with Beltsville on August 28th. Notice of the rollout is posted on the Commission website and flyers are posted on the doors of the regional sites. The new metal detectors are working well.

New Business: Chair Quinn asked Mary Ahearn to provide an update on the CompHub deployment as we reach Day 10 in CompHub. Ms. Ahearn reported that CompHub was deployed on August 14th with some expected bugs and hiccups. There are over 5,000 users in CompHub and some of the issues are user errors. The EM Team is staying in the city to be close to the Commission and staying late and returning early in the morning to address the issues. Some of the errors can be fixed and others are long term programming and policy issues to be addressed at another time. Ms. Ahearn also asked the Commissioners not to wait until the Commission meetings to tell her the problems they are having. Please make the EM Team aware of issues as they happen. The Commissioners discussed several processes that are a problem and requested that they be changed or otherwise addressed. The migration of the documents from FileNet to CompHub is taking much longer than expected but, there are over one billion documents to migrate to the new system. Ms. Ahearn is working with the EM Team to address and correct the issues. Some items can be fixed now but, others need another Release to change for the future. Please continue to be patient.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Evans and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 21, 2023

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

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, Allan Kittleman, Asha Joseph-Jefferson, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh and Delia Schadt.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Dr. Jerome Reichmister and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary, via telephone.

Guests attending: Anne Hoke, Esq.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on August 24, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second by Commissioner Metz, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn discussed the MWCEA conference, which begins October 1st. There will be "Question Boxes" at the Registration Desk and WCC table for attendees to write questions for the Breakfast with the Commissioners. There will be no prepared topics and no CompHub questions for the Breakfast. CompHub Sessions will be available on Monday and Tuesday for one-on-one assistance with questions. Amy Lackington sent out a list of social events, some of which require an attendance count. Please email Amy if you plan to attend those events.

CompHub updates are still ongoing. FileNet is very slow in the migration of the files to CompHub. Claim at a Glance is particularly impacted by the migration. It is still difficult to find old claims. Once the migration is complete it will be easier to find all claim files.

The issues with the building continue. Please let David Jones know about issues with services. Ownership is declaring that everyone who works in the building is an independent contractor or works for a third party. The Commission sent a letter demanding proof of coverage and is awaiting a response.

Chair Quinn asked Commissioner Kittleman to discuss the Medical Fee Guide Committee. Commissioner Kittleman discussed an upcoming in person meeting on October 26, 2023 to possibly revisit a prescription drug fee guide. The committee has asked others to speak about this regulation, which is expected to be structured very similar to the 2011 proposed regulation.

Old Business: Stacey Roig, Director of Insurance reported that the Yellow Transportation bankruptcy is still unresolved although the attorney for Liberty Mutual Insurance, the holder of the Surety Bond, has contacted the Commission to discuss options.

New Business: Commissioner Martin discussed upcoming events to benefit Kids Chance MD. A bowling event will take place in College Park, MD on November 8, 2023. Information about a future Gala will be coming soon. Andrea Ball was named the new Executive Director. She is busy building the Board with the retirement of Tom Phelan. MWCEA activities in Ocean City include a sign-up board for \$100 donations, a Corn Hole tournament and the Fun Run. Please support these activities as much as possible.

The Commissioners discussed the hearing locations for Baltimore County Government (Baltimore City) versus Baltimore County Board of Education (Abingdon). The Commissioners also discussed Duty Commissioner start and end days and times and how the CompHub changes to viewing queues impacts the timing to addressing items in the queue, especially Requests for Emergency Hearings and Settlements. The Commissioners discussed CompHub questions and concerns, including items in the queue that need to be redirected while a Commissioner is on vacation. Some requested changes cannot be made right now but the team is working on the next release, which should address many of the items that are of concern. There is no backlog of CompHub Support emails and problems are being addressed daily.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including his recommendation to get the new COVID vaccine and the flu vaccine this year. Both are effective against the newest variants.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Kittleman and second by Commissioner Evans and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 12, 2023

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

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Asha Joseph-Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Adeyemi Adeyemo and, via telephone, Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on September 21, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Metz and second by Commissioner Kittleman, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:35 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman 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 into a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

ICR Report: Adeyemi Adeyemo of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, reported on the restructuring Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) and the merger with Doctors' Hospital (DH), which was acquired by Luminis Health, Inc. Approval of the merging of the two separate self-insurance programs of AAMC and DH under the parent as Luminis Health, Inc is being requested. The IC-1 Report for 2023 required that the payroll be reported in the total of the two hospitals through the parent where payroll is managed and reported. The information was reviewed and discussed. After a motion by Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Forrester, the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Stacey Roig, Director of Insurance, Compliance & Reporting reported that the Yellow Transportation surety holder had approved release and payment of the security and payment is expected by the following week. Commissioner Forrester discussed the management of the funds.

Open Session: At 9:46 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn reminded the Commissioners that Open Enrollment for health benefits begins October 16th and continues until November 9th. Chair Quinn also discussed the MWCEA conference, which was a great success. The new format of the Breakfast with the Commissioners was much better without a planned topic and the open forum for questions and answers. It also allowed the Commissioners to enjoy breakfast with attendees and not up on stage, which everyone enjoyed. Chair Quinn discussed the Budget Advisory meeting, which is today (October 12th) with Heather Krauss still chairing the committee and several new appointees to the committee. The Medical Data discussion with NCCI is scheduled for next week.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Martin announced that Kids Chance MD raised \$10,000 from the "sign-up board" at the MWCEA. A bowling event will take place in College Park, MD on November 8, 2023. There are many attorneys from the College Park area who came to the event in Timonium and Kids'

Chance would like to make the event convenient for as many as possible. Commissioner Martin asked the Commissioners to bring the flyers about the event to the hearing sites to make them available in all locations.

Commissioner Kittleman discussed the Medical Fee Guide Committee meeting on October 26th at 12:00PM. This will be an “in-person only” meeting. The meeting will focus on a discussion of a Prescription Fee Guide for everyone and not to stop doctors from dispensing.

Commissioner Evans discussed the small dockets that all the Commissioners are seeing. Mary Ahearn will discuss with IT and the EM Team to see what may be causing the smaller dockets.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including new studies regarding the use of medical cannabis, as well as recreational use of cannabis.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Martin and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2023

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

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Asha Joseph-Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Schadt and, via telephone, Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Amy Lackington and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on October 12, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Metz and second by Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:34 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Evans 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: Stacey Roig, Director of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, reported that ArcBest, Inc. requested an increase in retention. The information was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Forrester. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 9:38 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn reported that the Medical Fee Guide Committee meeting is today (October 26) in the 3rd floor meeting room. Thirteen (13) people have signed up to speak. The meeting starts at 12:00 PM. The SAWCA Conference is in San Antonio in mid-November and the Commission has a large representation, including several legislators. Dinner arrangements are being made for Thursday evening, November 16th, which is "Dinner on Your Own" on the schedule. It will be nice to go as a group for anyone who wants to join. The Uninsured Employers' Fund has proposed a bill to increase the employer compliance fine to a flat \$25,000. Chairwoman Quinn is discussing the bill with the Governor's Legislative Office and the UEF. This will be a New Business item on the November 9th Meeting Agenda.

Chairwoman Quinn asked the Commissioners to please report any CompHub problems with SIF cases to Cindy Cauthorne. She is working with the EM Team to fix open issues. Beltsville and LaPlata site leases are up for renewal in 2024. Fiscal Services is looking at several options to be considered.

Old Business: Commissioner Martin reminded the Commissioners that the Kids' Chance Bowling Event is November 8th in College Park. Please plan to attend.

New Business: Commissioner Schadt discussed UEF/SIF and General dockets printing separately, which is confusing when preparing for dockets. Mary Ahearn explained that the problem has been fixed and they will start to print all types of cases as one docket starting in November. Commissioner Metz discussed December dockets not being set and no notices out and it is the end of October. Mary Ahearn

explained that the docketing process is a multi-step process, and the program is being re-written to properly go through the various steps. The issues should subside by the time January dockets are set. Commissioner Metz also noted that requests for transcripts do not show the name of the Court Reporter and he asked that the Commissioners just note the reporter's name in the comments section of the Decision Memo.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including non-melanoma skin cancer deaths, the Long COVID virus and the FDA ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Oh and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 09, 2023

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

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Asha Joseph-Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington and, via telephone, Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on October 26, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Metz and second by Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:35 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman 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 into a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

ICR Report: Stacey Roig, Director of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, requested that Adeyemi Adeyemo present the three requests for changes in their self-insurance programs. Mr. Adeyemo reported that International Paper Company requested a reduction in security deposit. To review, the request was made in the October 26th meeting and was tabled by Chairwoman Maureen Quinn to allow for review of claims. The Commissioners requested that a list of claims be prepared for their review before the meeting on December 14, 2023. After further discussion, Commissioner Evans motioned to table the request for further review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Adeyemo also reported that Frederick Health requires an increase in security. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Parker-Warren and seconded by Commissioner Joseph-Jefferson. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Adeyemo also reported that Costco requires an increase in security. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Kittleman. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 9:44 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Parker-Warren and second from Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn asked Commissioner Martin to report on the Kids Chance Bowling Event on November 8th. Commissioner Martin declared the event a success. There was discussion of other similar events at different locations. Chairwoman Quinn reported that the Events Committee met this week, and the date is set for Employee Training on December 13, 2023, which is a Wednesday. No dockets will be scheduled for December 13th and 14th. The training event is a mandatory attendance event for all employees. The holiday gift exchange will be woven into the event after lunch. Chair Quinn discussed the SAWCA conference in San Antonio. Chair Quinn asked Mary Ahearn to discuss connectivity issues at the Cambridge regional site, which may be a hard equipment issue beyond the internet speed upgrade. Ms. Ahearn asked the Commissioners to please allow additional time when arriving at Cambridge to sign-in to the computer in the event that the equipment is replaced, and you need

to re-enter your credentials for access to the network. Internet speeds have been upgraded at Cambridge and LaPlata. Commissioner Kittleman reported that the Medical Fee Guide Committee met on October 26th. The meeting lasted about 2-1/2 hours and 30-40 people spoke at the meeting. The next meeting in November will be for committee members to discuss the testimony and comments provided to the Committee. No decisions will be made at this meeting. The next meeting will be in January and is in-person. The public may listen but not speak at this meeting. The legislative blackout period for new regulations is December 12 – February 4, 2024.

Old Business: The Commissioners requested and discussed some observations and requested some changes in CompHub. Commissioner Martin requested a website notice that there are no double dockets with LaPlata and other outlying regions. Double dockets will be considered but not guaranteed for Abingdon to Baltimore or Beltsville to Baltimore.

New Business: Chairwoman Quinn discussed proposed legislation to make a significant change to LE § 9-407. Commissioner Oh explained that the people who come to the employer compliance hearings care about their business and care about the rules and want to do it right. Fines need to be fair as well as a deterrent to continuing non-compliance. The point is to encourage those who need insurance to get insurance.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including Type 2 Diabetes, Long COVID, possible dangers to the use of topical medications and excess coffee consumption.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Martin and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 14, 2023

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

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Asha Joseph-Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren via telephone.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on November 9, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second by Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:31 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman 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 into a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

ICR Report: Stacey Roig, Director of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, discussed a list of open claims for International Paper Company that was prepared and distributed for review by the Commissioners in the meeting package. After further discussion, Commissioner Martin made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Kittleman and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote. Ms. Roig also reported that the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) requires an increase in security. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Evans. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Finally, Ms. Roig reported that MGM Resorts International requires an increase in security. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 9:40 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn discussed the conference schedule for 2024 and asked the Commissioners to please let Amy Lackington know what conferences they plan to attend. The SAWCA conference in November will include some of our Legislators, which has proved helpful in their awareness of workers' compensation issues that may affect our state. Mary Ahearn reported that most of the requested changes to the Decision Memo in CompHub have been completed, with the exception of the Temporary Total present & continuing calendar. A space for the court reporting initials or name is also still in process. Chairwoman Quinn also reported on discussions with the parking garage management company regarding Commission designated spots. There will be four spots per day reserved for the Commission, please use those spots first before parking elsewhere in the garage. Issues in the alley continue and the Commission is working through them.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Kittleman reported that the Medical Fee Guide Committee had a meeting at Chesapeake Employers' Insurance offices on November 27, 2023, which allowed for virtual attendance

of the meeting. The next Medical Fee Guide Committee will be in-person only on January 11, 2023 (note that this meeting has since been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.) Commissioner Kittelman discussed the importance of consensus on the committee, which is currently divided with discussions continuing. Commissioner Forrester discussed usual and customary dockets. The Commissioners discussed WCC Subpoenas not being honored by some medical providers and hospitals. Chairwoman Quinn will request a meeting with the parties and their attorneys and the Chairwoman and our Principal Counsel.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including Outcomes of male vs female surgeons, hypertension amongst married couples, blood types related to COVID, getting the proper amount of sleep (7 hours) and alcohol consumption.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Kittelman and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary