

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 27, 2022

Call to Order: Chairman Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. and did a Roll Call to establish that there was a quorum.

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

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

Closed Session: At 9:18 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Evans 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 sole purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance & Reporting (ICR) Division reported that he would not be discussing Yellow Transportation at this meeting and is moving the discussion to the February 10th meeting. Mr. Jones discussed with the Commissioners a request. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded and, with a unanimous vote, the results are noted in the following chart:

SELF-INSURED	Motion by:	Second	Action
Washington Post Company	Quinn	Martin	Approved

The meeting was reopened at 9:23 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Parker-Warren and second of Commissioner Martin and after unanimous vote.

Call to Order: The meeting was reconvened after the closed session and Chairman Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

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

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

The only member of the public present for the meeting was Antonio R. Lopez

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the December 13, 2021 Commission meeting were reviewed and upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Evans, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Aumann discussed the Budget Committee meetings before the House and Senate subcommittees. The Chairman gave special thanks to Jay Moore and David Jones for their work on the budget. The Chairman discussed salary recommendations from the Judicial Compensation

Commission to be implemented over the next four years. The Chairman announced that the backlog of cases has returned to pre-COVID levels, and he thanked the Commissioners and staff for their part in making this a reality. The Chairman discussed personnel replacement challenges with 17 open positions at the Commission. Interviews are ongoing and the Commission is working hard to fill the positions with good candidates.

Old Business: Dr. Reichmister and Scott Curtis reported on IME no-show fees and Dr. Reichmister shared information that he has gathered from other Medical Directors across the country. Fees are determined differently by most jurisdictions but, the use of the Medical Fee Guide was recommended. Dr. Reichmister recommended using a Level 5 consultation fee of \$352.25 for 2022 as a guideline to order the fee based on a fair assessment and using the Medical Fee Guide as the basis for the amount.

New Business: Commissioner Parker-Warren asked about weather closure guidelines when schools don't close but go to virtual learning due to weather. The Chairman thought that the current policy should remain the same for now.

Commissioner Schadt reported that Commissioner Oh was the featured speaker on the MSBA Winter Panel discussion of handling specialty cases. Commissioner Schadt stated that the program was well presented with excellent speakers. The next program is scheduled for March 24th and will also be done virtually. The MSBA will be reaching out to the Commissioners to be speakers at these events and Commissioner Schadt asked that everyone consider accepting a speaker engagement. There are several new lawyers attending these virtual events. Commissioner Forrester also commented on the value of these events for new lawyers.

Commissioner Metz discussed attorneys not providing updates on cases on dockets when interpreters are needed.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister reminded all in attendance that COVID variants present risks and to be diligent about wearing masks and avoiding crowds. Dr. Reichmister also presented several interesting 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 10:06 a.m.

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary