

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