

**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