

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 24, 2021**

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m.

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

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

Closed Session: At 9:30 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Quinn and second of Commissioner Forrester 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 purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

Dr. Jerome Reichmister excused himself from the room for part of the discussion of the self-insureds.

Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance & Regulation (ICR) Division reported that Mercy Health Services Inc. has requested an increase in retention, and ICR is requesting an increase in security deposit. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Martin with a second from Commissioner Metz, and unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

Steven Jones also reported that LifeBridge Health Services, Inc. has requested an increase in retention. After discussion and a motion by Commissioner Forrester and a second by Commissioner Kittleman and unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

The meeting was reopened at 9:37 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Quinn and upon unanimous vote. Dr. Reichmister returned to the meeting room.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the June 10, 2021 Commission Meeting were reviewed. Upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Quinn, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that feedback from the community has been generally good regarding the decision to return to full, general call dockets in August. Many more cases can be heard with the general call and that is good for all parties. July 1st will mark the date of return to the office with a hybrid of remote work and in office work. The Chairman reported that the 9-1-1 Commission is meeting and has requested certain data from the WCC. The Commission is working on putting together that information for them. The WCC-UEF-SIF-DBM Committee is also meeting and working on their report to the legislature, which will be ready for presentation by September.

New Business: Commissioner Kittleman thanked the Commissioners for their assistance with his dockets so that he could attend his mother's funeral. Commissioner Quinn discussed the MWCEA program.

Old Business: Scott Curtis, Principal Counsel, discussed proposed changes to attorney fee calculations. Mr. Curtis also reported that there can be no new Regulation submissions until after the Reg Review submission is complete, which will be mid-October 2021.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed a CDC warning of a possible myocarditis link to the Moderna vaccine in young males. The cases have been mild, and all have recovered. Commissioner Forrester asked about young children not needing the vaccine. Dr. Reichmister discouraged not getting the vaccine when it becomes available to all ages. Dr. Reichmister also discussed pain and its sources, which can be very different from where the pain manifests itself.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Kittleman and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.:

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary