

**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 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Impairment Ratings. The Commission will be staying with the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

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Stacey L. Roig, Secretary