

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 21, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, Allan Kittleman, Asha Joseph-Jefferson, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh and Delia Schadt.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Dr. Jerome Reichmister and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary, via telephone.

Guests attending: Anne Hoke, Esq.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on August 24, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second by Commissioner Metz, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn discussed the MWCEA conference, which begins October 1st. There will be "Question Boxes" at the Registration Desk and WCC table for attendees to write questions for the Breakfast with the Commissioners. There will be no prepared topics and no CompHub questions for the Breakfast. CompHub Sessions will be available on Monday and Tuesday for one-on-one assistance with questions. Amy Lackington sent out a list of social events, some of which require an attendance count. Please email Amy if you plan to attend those events.

CompHub updates are still ongoing. FileNet is very slow in the migration of the files to CompHub. Claim at a Glance is particularly impacted by the migration. It is still difficult to find old claims. Once the migration is complete it will be easier to find all claim files.

The issues with the building continue. Please let David Jones know about issues with services. Ownership is declaring that everyone who works in the building is an independent contractor or works for a third party. The Commission sent a letter demanding proof of coverage and is awaiting a response.

Chair Quinn asked Commissioner Kittleman to discuss the Medical Fee Guide Committee. Commissioner Kittleman discussed an upcoming in person meeting on October 26, 2023 to possibly revisit a prescription drug fee guide. The committee has asked others to speak about this regulation, which is expected to be structured very similar to the 2011 proposed regulation.

Old Business: Stacey Roig, Director of Insurance reported that the Yellow Transportation bankruptcy is still unresolved although the attorney for Liberty Mutual Insurance, the holder of the Surety Bond, has contacted the Commission to discuss options.

New Business: Commissioner Martin discussed upcoming events to benefit Kids Chance MD. A bowling event will take place in College Park, MD on November 8, 2023. Information about a future Gala will be coming soon. Andrea Ball was named the new Executive Director. She is busy building the Board with the retirement of Tom Phelan. MWCEA activities in Ocean City include a sign-up board for \$100 donations, a Corn Hole tournament and the Fun Run. Please support these activities as much as possible.

The Commissioners discussed the hearing locations for Baltimore County Government (Baltimore City) versus Baltimore County Board of Education (Abingdon). The Commissioners also discussed Duty Commissioner start and end days and times and how the CompHub changes to viewing queues impacts the timing to addressing items in the queue, especially Requests for Emergency Hearings and Settlements. The Commissioners discussed CompHub questions and concerns, including items in the queue that need to be redirected while a Commissioner is on vacation. Some requested changes cannot be made right now but the team is working on the next release, which should address many of the items that are of concern. There is no backlog of CompHub Support emails and problems are being addressed daily.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including his recommendation to get the new COVID vaccine and the flu vaccine this year. Both are effective against the newest variants.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Kittleman and second by Commissioner Evans and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary