

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 08, 2020**

Call to Order: Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Present: Chairman Aumann and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh and Tracey Parker-Warren established a quorum. Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Steven Jones, Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington, Jerome Reichmister, M.D. and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission.

Closed Session: At 9:18 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Metz 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 a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance & Regulation Division reported that LifeBridge Health has requested an additional subsidiary in their self-insurance program. They are requesting to add Grace Medical Center, formerly known as Bob Secours Hospital effective November 1, 2019. After discussion and a motion from Commissioner Martin with a second from Commissioner Forrester, and unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

Mr. Jones also provided information regarding Alliance Coal.

The meeting was reopened at 9:24 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Martin and second of Commissioner Evans and upon unanimous vote.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 am on an open meeting line allowing the public to attend the remainder of the meeting.

Present: Chairman Aumann and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren. Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Jerome Reichmister, M.D., Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission.

The Chairman reminded all outside guests who were attending via telephone to please mute their phones and reminded them that this is a meeting of the Commissioners and not an open forum for questions, comments, etc.

A list of guests who called in to this Open Meeting is attached to the Minutes.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the September 10, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Evans and second of Commissioner Metz, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman Requested that the Commissioners review certain claims to determine if they are actual COVID-19 cases. The Commission created the list by capturing claims with the word "COVID" and/or "Coronavirus" in the description; however, the cases were not always related to COVID or exposure to the virus. The Chairman also discussed possible legislation in the next legislative session. The Budget Advisory Committee met to review the proposed budget for FY2022.

The Committee's main focus was to be certain of adequate funding to complete CompHub and go live by January 1, 2021. The Commission plans to run the old and new systems side-by-side for at least a year to provide a phase-in approach to the crossover to the new system. The Chairman reported that a waiver has been requested to fill the two vacant Commissioner Assistant positions. He also asked the Commissioners to begin to review requests for continuances more closely so that the Commission is not continuing too many cases unnecessarily, thus adding to the backlog.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Forrester discussed a Bethlehem Steel hearing loss case and the Chairman reminded all of the Commissioners that Commissioner Forrester will continue to handle all of the Bethlehem Steel hearing loss cases.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister provided several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.:

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary