

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2023

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

Present: Chairwoman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Asha Joseph-Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Schadt and, via telephone, Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Amy Lackington and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on October 12, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Metz and second by Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:34 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman 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 into a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

ICR Report: Stacey Roig, Director of the Insurance, Compliance and Reporting Division, reported that ArcBest, Inc. requested an increase in retention. The information was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Forrester. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 9:38 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn reported that the Medical Fee Guide Committee meeting is today (October 26) in the 3rd floor meeting room. Thirteen (13) people have signed up to speak. The meeting starts at 12:00 PM. The SAWCA Conference is in San Antonio in mid-November and the Commission has a large representation, including several legislators. Dinner arrangements are being made for Thursday evening, November 16th, which is "Dinner on Your Own" on the schedule. It will be nice to go as a group for anyone who wants to join. The Uninsured Employers' Fund has proposed a bill to increase the employer compliance fine to a flat \$25,000. Chairwoman Quinn is discussing the bill with the Governor's Legislative Office and the UEF. This will be a New Business item on the November 9th Meeting Agenda.

Chairwoman Quinn asked the Commissioners to please report any CompHub problems with SIF cases to Cindy Cauthorne. She is working with the EM Team to fix open issues. Beltsville and LaPlata site leases are up for renewal in 2024. Fiscal Services is looking at several options to be considered.

Old Business: Commissioner Martin reminded the Commissioners that the Kids' Chance Bowling Event is November 8th in College Park. Please plan to attend.

New Business: Commissioner Schadt discussed UEF/SIF and General dockets printing separately, which is confusing when preparing for dockets. Mary Ahearn explained that the problem has been fixed and they will start to print all types of cases as one docket starting in November. Commissioner Metz discussed December dockets not being set and no notices out and it is the end of October. Mary Ahearn

explained that the docketing process is a multi-step process, and the program is being re-written to properly go through the various steps. The issues should subside by the time January dockets are set. Commissioner Metz also noted that requests for transcripts do not show the name of the Court Reporter and he asked that the Commissioners just note the reporter's name in the comments section of the Decision Memo.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including non-melanoma skin cancer deaths, the Long COVID virus and the FDA ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Oh and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary