

**Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 09, 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 Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington and, via telephone, Stacey L. Roig, Secretary.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the Commission meeting on October 26, 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 9:35 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Martin 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, requested that Adeyemi Adeyemo present the three requests for changes in their self-insurance programs. Mr. Adeyemo reported that International Paper Company requested a reduction in security deposit. To review, the request was made in the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and was tabled by Chairwoman Maureen Quinn to allow for review of claims. The Commissioners requested that a list of claims be prepared for their review before the meeting on December 14, 2023. After further discussion, Commissioner Evans motioned to table the request for further review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Adeyemo also reported that Frederick Health requires an increase in security. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Parker-Warren and seconded by Commissioner Joseph-Jefferson. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Adeyemo also reported that Costco requires an increase in security. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Kittleman. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

**Open Session: At 9:44 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Parker-Warren and second from Commissioner Martin and upon unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.**

**Chair's Report:** Chairwoman Quinn asked Commissioner Martin to report on the Kids Chance Bowling Event on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Martin declared the event a success. There was discussion of other similar events at different locations. Chairwoman Quinn reported that the Events Committee met this week, and the date is set for Employee Training on December 13, 2023, which is a Wednesday. No dockets will be scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The training event is a mandatory attendance event for all employees. The holiday gift exchange will be woven into the event after lunch. Chair Quinn discussed the SAWCA conference in San Antonio. Chair Quinn asked Mary Ahearn to discuss connectivity issues at the Cambridge regional site, which may be a hard equipment issue beyond the internet speed upgrade. Ms. Ahearn asked the Commissioners to please allow additional time when arriving at Cambridge to sign-in to the computer in the event that the equipment is replaced, and you need

to re-enter your credentials for access to the network. Internet speeds have been upgraded at Cambridge and LaPlata. Commissioner Kittleman reported that the Medical Fee Guide Committee met on October 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting lasted about 2-1/2 hours and 30-40 people spoke at the meeting. The next meeting in November will be for committee members to discuss the testimony and comments provided to the Committee. No decisions will be made at this meeting. The next meeting will be in January and is in-person. The public may listen but not speak at this meeting. The legislative blackout period for new regulations is December 12 – February 4, 2024.

**Old Business:** The Commissioners requested and discussed some observations and requested some changes in CompHub. Commissioner Martin requested a website notice that there are no double dockets with LaPlata and other outlying regions. Double dockets will be considered but not guaranteed for Abingdon to Baltimore or Beltsville to Baltimore.

**New Business:** Chairwoman Quinn discussed proposed legislation to make a significant change to LE § 9-407. Commissioner Oh explained that the people who come to the employer compliance hearings care about their business and care about the rules and want to do it right. Fines need to be fair as well as a deterrent to continuing non-compliance. The point is to encourage those who need insurance to get insurance.

**Medical Alerts:** Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including Type 2 Diabetes, Long COVID, possible dangers to the use of topical medications and excess coffee consumption.

**Adjournment:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Martin and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

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Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

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Stacey L. Roig, Secretary