

**Maryland Workers' Compensation  
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 12, 2020**

**Call to Order:** Chairman R. Karl Aumann called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Present:** Chairman Aumann and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Maureen Quinn, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Amy Lackington, Scott Curtis, Jerome Reichmister, M.D. 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 October 22, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting were reviewed and, upon motion of Commissioner Parker-Warren and second of Commissioner Quinn, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that it has been eight months since the last in-person meeting of the Commissioners and the decision to return to a virtual meeting was made last minute in accordance with the Governor's recent comments. The Chairman reminded the Commissioners of the importance of social distancing, frequent handwashing and always wearing masks. He asked that the Commissioners not allow furniture to be moved in the hearing rooms as the furniture has been placed for precise social distancing. The Chairman also thanked the Security Officers for the extra steps that they are taking on to keep the hearing sites cleaned and sanitized. If we are not diligent, we may have to eliminate in-person hearings, which is not something that we want to do if it can be avoided. The one-hour lunch break has been eliminated from the schedule for the next few months. The Chairman asked the Commissioners to provide feedback to him on how that is working out and if it should be continued. The Chairman announced that Budget hearings will be virtual for the 2021 legislative session and no dates have been set at this point. The Chairman also reported that the virtual conferences have worked better than expected, although not to the level of in-person conferences. Several members of the Commission have been involved with the conferences to continue to network with our colleagues. The Chairman also reported that the backlog is not too bad but asked the Commissioners to continue to be diligent in carefully reviewing requests for postponements and continuances. He asked that the Commissioners encourage the parties to advise the Commission as soon as possible when issues are resolved so that another case can be set in that space on the docket. Video hearings are continuing and are being scheduled as quickly as possible. COVID case reviews have been submitted by most of the Commissioners and the Chairman asked that any case reviews that have not been submitted be sent to him as soon as possible.

**Old Business:** Mary Ahearn reported that the last of the changes to the uploading of documents have been completed. It is now possible to designate the party to whom the documents or exhibits belong, which should eliminate much of the confusion. Commissioner Martin commented that uploading exhibits the day of the hearing is still a problem. She asked that a Notice be added to the Commission webpage to

remind everyone to timely file their exhibits and not wait until the last minute to upload and provide them to the other parties in the claim.

**New Business:** Commissioner Forrester reported that Multi-Specialty now has a neurologist on staff. He also reported that Premium Orthopedics is performing functional capacity evaluations without approval by the insurers and refusing to share results until paid for the evaluation. Commissioner Forrester also suggested that when the parties to an Order Nisi hearing come to an arrangement on the issues, emails be sent to advise everyone that the hearing will not go forward. Currently, there is no way to remove the issue from the docket in the system.

**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 10:07a.m.:

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R. Karl Aumann, Chairman

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Stacey L. Roig, Secretary

Public Attendees to Commissioners' Meeting  
November 12, 2020

<b>Name</b>	<b>Law Firm, Company or Other Affiliation</b>
Cindy L. Armstrong, Esquire	* Erlandson, Vernon & Daney, LLC
Matthew LaFontaine, Esq.	* Cohen, Snyder, Eisenberg & Katzenberg P.A.
Paul G. Donoghue	* Rollins, Smalkin, Richards & Mackie, L.L.C.
Theresa M Brennan	* CorVel Corporation   Baltimore
Jacqueline Proctor	* Workers' Compensation Commission
Nancy Allen	* Workers' Compensation Commission
Christine Krone	* Schwarts, Metz & Wise