

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 14, 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 via telephone.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington via telephone Jerome Reichmister, M.D. and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on November 9, 2023, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second by Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:31 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, discussed a list of open claims for International Paper Company that was prepared and distributed for review by the Commissioners in the meeting package. After further discussion, Commissioner Martin made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Kittleman and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote. Ms. Roig also reported that the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) requires an increase in security. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Evans. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Finally, Ms. Roig reported that MGM Resorts International requires an increase in security. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 9:40 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 discussed the conference schedule for 2024 and asked the Commissioners to please let Amy Lackington know what conferences they plan to attend. The SAWCA conference in November will include some of our Legislators, which has proved helpful in their awareness of workers' compensation issues that may affect our state. Mary Ahearn reported that most of the requested changes to the Decision Memo in CompHub have been completed, with the exception of the Temporary Total present & continuing calendar. A space for the court reporting initials or name is also still in process. Chairwoman Quinn also reported on discussions with the parking garage management company regarding Commission designated spots. There will be four spots per day reserved for the Commission, please use those spots first before parking elsewhere in the garage. Issues in the alley continue and the Commission is working through them.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Kittleman reported that the Medical Fee Guide Committee had a meeting at Chesapeake Employers' Insurance offices on November 27, 2023, which allowed for virtual attendance

of the meeting. The next Medical Fee Guide Committee will be in-person only on January 11, 2023 (note that this meeting has since been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.) Commissioner Kittelman discussed the importance of consensus on the committee, which is currently divided with discussions continuing. Commissioner Forrester discussed usual and customary dockets. The Commissioners discussed WCC Subpoenas not being honored by some medical providers and hospitals. Chairwoman Quinn will request a meeting with the parties and their attorneys and the Chairwoman and our Principal Counsel.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister discussed several medical alerts of interest to the Commissioners, including Outcomes of male vs female surgeons, hypertension amongst married couples, blood types related to COVID, getting the proper amount of sleep (7 hours) and alcohol consumption.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Kittelman and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary