

# *Workers' Compensation Board*

## *Meeting Minutes*

May 12, 2022

**Thursday, May 12, 2022**

### **I. Call to Order**

Workers' Compensation Director Charles Collins called the Board to order at 9:09 am on Thursday, May 12, 2022. The meeting was held in Anchorage, Alaska, and by video conference.

### **II. Ethics Training**

Assistant Attorney General Kevin Higgins provided ethics training to the board members.

*Break 10:00am-10:16am*

### **III. Roll call**

Director Collins conducted a roll call. The following Board members were present:

Bradley Austin	Randy Beltz	Pamela Cline	Christopher Dean
Sara Faulkner	Bronson Frye	Christina Gilbert	Anthony Ladd
Sarah Lefebvre	Jason Motyka	Robert Weel	

Director Collins noted that member Matthew Barth was excused, and member Anthony Ladd arrived after the roll call. Members Micheal Dennis, Nancy Shaw, and Lake Williams were absent. A quorum was established. Director Collins introduced the senior staff present.

### **IV. Public Comment Period 10:15 am- 11:15 am**

Janice Shipman –

- Opposes 8 AAC 45.500(D), which requires Reemployment Specialists to submit a copy of their billing to the Reemployment Benefits Administrator (RBA).
- This was proposed in 2009, and the board did not vote to approve it.
- Reemployment Specialists operate private practices, and this amendment would allow the RBA to dictate private practices. It would allow the administration to determine what is or is not considered fraudulent billing. There is currently no definition for fraudulent billing.
- Reemployment Specialists hold a Masters's level education and national certification.

Norman Silta – Representing Redoubt Vocational Services

- Agreed with comments made by Janice Shipman.
- Proposed changes are a bit too vague. Too subjective. More detail is needed.

- Requested a workgroup of rehabilitation specialists, RBA, and Division staff to review the regulations.
- Requested the RBA provide training.

Josetta Cranston – Representing

- Provided written public comment.
- Agreed with comments made by Janice Shipman.
- Opposed proposed regulations as written.

Dan LaBrosse – Representing DAL Enterprises

- Provided written public comment.
- Opposed proposed regulations as written.

Karen Davis – Representing Davis Vocational Services

- Provided written public comment.
- Agreed with comments made by Janice Shipman.
- Requested the RBA provide training.
- Requested that the Division establish an annual meeting of the rehabilitation specialists.

Jackie Doerner – Representing OSC Vocational Systems, Inc.

- Agreed with comments made by others.
- Requested that the Division establish a work group and annual meetings of the rehabilitation specialists.

#### V. Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the agenda was made by member Frye and seconded by member Lefebvre. The agenda was approved by a unanimous vote.

#### VI. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to adopt the minutes from the January 13-14, 2022 regular Board Meeting was made by member Austin and seconded by member Weel. The minutes were adopted without objection.

#### VII. Director's Report

Director Collins discussed board member changes and active legislation.

Director Collins reviewed the list of Board Designees. A motion to accept the board designees was made by Member Frye seconded by member Lefebvre. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Officer Alexis Hildebrand provided an overview of Division staffing and the FY22 budget performance year-to-date.

A motion to accept the 2023 Hearing Calendar was made by member Frye and seconded by member Lefebvre. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Reemployment Benefits 2021 Annual Report**

Reemployment Benefits Administrator Stacy Niwa presented the 2021 Reemployment Benefits Annual Report.

*Lunch Break 11:46am-1:15pm*

**IX. Old Business**

A vote to take up old business was made by member Frye and seconded by member Weel. The motion was rescinded by member Frye and member Weel seconded the recension.

**X. New Business**

Member Lefebvre motioned that the Division revisit the body of regulations in tandem with Dept of Law and rehab spec community, and member Frye seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by member Frye and seconded by member Lefebvre. The motion passed unanimously.

*Meeting Adjourned 5:00 pm*