

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday June 6, 2024

**Call to Order:** Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**Present:** Chairwoman Maureen Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Asha Joseph Jefferson, Ju Y. Oh, and Delia Turano Schadt.

**Staff Members Present:** H. Scott Curtis, Assistant Attorney General, Theresa Cornish, Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Medical Director, Stacey Roig, Director of Insurance, Compliance, and Reporting Division, and Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary of the Commission.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the Commission meeting on May 23, 2024, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Forrester, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

**Closed Session:** At 9:43 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Forrester seconded by Commissioner Oh and upon unanimous vote, pursuant to GP §§3-305(13), LE §§9-402, 9-403, 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, advised the Commissioners UPS Ground Freight, Inc.'s request for a reduction of their security deposit. After consideration and upon motion by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Evans, the motion was approved with unanimous vote.

**Open Session:** At 10:00 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Oh and second from Commissioner Evans, and upon a unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

**Chair's Report:** Chairwoman Quinn welcomed Theresa Cornish to the Commissioners as the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission. She outlined the collaborative efforts planned with Ms. Cornish, especially with the Interpreter and Appeals Offices, to enhance the Commission's services. According to an article in the Daily Record, all state agencies are required to submit a report on redefining their carbon emissions, which the Chair will address with the appropriate staff. On May 31st, Chairwoman Quinn, along with Stacey Roig, Director of IC&R, attended the Governor's Fraud Task Force meeting discussing data sourcing and the dissemination of the NCCI Data report with other agencies. The meeting also addressed insurance broker licensing issues for workers' compensation insurance, and some training/CEUs was discussed. Additionally, Chairwoman Quinn informed the Commissioners that the security protocol is under review to ensure precise logging of work done after public hours, seeking the Commissioners' feedback to enhance security measures after hearings are completed.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**New Business:** Commissioner Evans addressed the issue of the increasing requests to vacate statistical award orders when employers/insurers fail to file contesting issues before the consideration date. She stated that she rejects all such requests unless there is a reasonable excuse or justification for missing the consideration date. She explained that this practice is based on her training and sought confirmation on its appropriateness. The Commissioners also discussed the challenges Johns Hopkins has faced in issuing TTD payments to employees before claims are submitted. Chairwoman Quinn suggested the regulations may need to be amended and asked if any Commissioners were interested in working with the defense bar to update the rules

**Medical Alerts:** Dr. Jerome Reichmister reviewed several studies reported in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) and the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (JOEM). One study in JAMA indicated that synthetic nicotine substitutes in vapes are more potent and addictive than traditional nicotine, yet they remain unregulated. Another study reported in JAMA highlighted a study suggesting that introducing peanut butter early could reduce or prevent peanut allergies in infants. JOEM reported a study associating frequent teleworking with increased blood pressure, higher LDL cholesterol, and changes in liver function. These changes are attributed to decreased physical activity and increased food consumption. Another JOEM study revealed that 20% of stroke patients arriving at the ER have high or elevated troponin levels, though not all ERs perform this test as it is not part of standard care. Dr. Reichmister informed the Commissioners about his intention to conduct educational sessions for small groups of employees.

**Adjournment:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Evans and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

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Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary