

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday July 11, 2024

Call to Order: Chair Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Present: Chair Maureen Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Asha Joseph Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Y. Oh, and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff Members Present: H. Scott Curtis, Assistant Attorney General, Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Medical Director, Stacey Roig, Director of Insurance, Compliance, and Reporting Division, and Amy Lackington, Acting Secretary.

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the Commission meeting on June 27, 2024, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Metz and seconded by Commissioner Kittleman, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

The Minutes of the Commission's emergency meeting on June 29, 2024, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Martin, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair's Report: Chair Quinn announced that the Commission has a new Budget Analyst from the Department of Legislative Services. The Commission's pending claim numbers are down even though 25,000 issues were filed between January 2024 and June 30, 2024. Claims are being scheduled faster as a result. Chair Quinn brought up an issue occurring with the use of the Commission's Consent Request for Document Correction form. It has come to her attention that this form is being processed without the consent of both parties. She stressed that there must be consent of both parties before any requested changes are made – no exceptions. Commissioner Forrester proposed a computer-generated form that routes to all parties before it can be filed. Further discussion was held about the possibility of modifying the form to mandate two signatures before it can be filed.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Commissioner Martin raised the issue of requests for emergency hearings being filed before the consideration date has passed. Discussion was held about this and also included the handling of emergency hearing requests in cases of extremely traumatic injuries. Commissioner Martin distributed and discussed flyers for Kids' Chance of Maryland events. Discussion was held regarding issues brought up by Commissioner Parker-Warren of hearings being requested without an IME having taken place and attorneys arriving late to hearings.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Medical Director, advised the Commissioners that fish oil taken by individuals with no history of cardiovascular disease increases the risk of AFIB and

stroke in certain patients. Fish oil taken by those individuals with a history of cardiovascular was found to reduce the chance of a second major stroke. Popular weight loss drugs now on the market (ex. Mounjaro) have been found to be more effective at one year than other popular weight loss drugs (ex. Ozempic). It is very important that patients having a surgical procedure while taking these weight loss drugs advise their doctor and anesthesiologist as these drugs delay gastric emptying before surgery. Dr. Reichmister also discussed a study that found a relationship may exist between having a stroke, and a myocardial infarction. Doctors have found that at 3 days after admission for a stroke patients have been found to also have a micro emboli in their brain.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Kittleman and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Amy S. Lackington, Acting Secretary