

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday July 25, 2024

**Call to Order:** Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

**Present:** Chairwoman Maureen Quinn and Commissioners, James R. Forrester, Asha Joseph Jefferson, Allan H. Kittleman, Morris Martin, Howard L. Metz, Ju Y Oh, Delia Turano Schadt, and Tracey Parker-Warren.

**Staff Members Present:** Scott Curtis, Assistant Attorney General, Theresa A. Cornish, Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Medical Director, Amy Lackington, Administrator, and Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary of the Commission.

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

The minutes of the Commission meeting on July 11, 2024 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Forrester, the amended minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

**Chair's Report:** Chair Quinn reminded the Commissioners that Wendy Redden's retirement celebration is being held today. She encouraged all to stop by and wish Wendy well. She reminded the Commissioners that the MWCEA conference in Ocean City is only seven weeks away. The Commissioners discussed what to include in the "Breakfast with the Commissioners" program as well as how to conduct the program. Chair Quinn advised that the conference schedule is up to the board for the conference and the Commission will continue to try to be a part of the planning for future conferences. Theresa Cornish addressed the extent to which insurance corrections can be made prior to requiring Commissioner approval. Additionally, she briefed the Commissioners on a revised procedure that will be implemented within the Interpreter Program. The new procedure will have CompHub send an additional notification to parties that have requested an interpreter if the request has not been filled and is still being actively worked on.

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

**New Business:** Scott Curtis reviewed the revised Power Attorney form with the Commissioners. He advised that since Md. Estates and Trusts Code Ann. § 17-109 allows state agencies to make their own forms. He stated that this form was edited to be used for staff who review for legal accuracy. Once this form is approved for use, this will be the only Power of Attorney form to be accepted. The Commissioners discussed the proper use for the forms, weighing the different scenarios in which the form will be used. Chair Quinn verified that at this time, guidance was being asked from the Commissioners, not approval. Scott Curtis confirmed and stated that this form will need to be reviewed by the public before becoming the official form. He did state that the use of this form is not designed with accommodations, however, electronic signatures are allowed.

Commissioner Parker-Warren discussed with the Commissioners Md. Code, Lab & Empl, §9-503, specifically about how cases are handled prior to 2005. She also discussed with the Commissioners some of the inappropriate behaviors of attorneys in the hearing rooms.

**Medical Alerts:** Dr. Jerome Reichmister discussed an article from the Journal of the American Medical Association indicating that the use of cannabis in early pregnancy effects gestational heart disease and pre-eclampsia. He also advised that according to an article in the Journal of Kidney Diseases, patients with more physical activity patients have fewer kidney stones. Dr. Reichmister explained the correlation between depression and memory loss. The more a patient is depressed, the greater loss of memory.

**Adjournment:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Schadt and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

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Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary