

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday June 27, 2024

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on June 6, 2024, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Jefferson, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:34 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Warner 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: David Jones, Chief Financial Officer, advised the Commissioners of the request from The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co.'s (A&P) request for reduction of their security deposit. After discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Warner and upon unanimous vote, the Commissioners have authorized the ability to negotiate a settlement of a reduction amount in A&P's security deposit.

Stacey Roig, Director of IC&R, discussed the process of determining the approval of waivers for governmental entities and the formula for determining a self-insured's security deposit.

Open Session: At 9:50 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Martin, and upon a unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn advised the Commissioners that the Beltsville BBQ will be held on July 17, 2024. She reminded the Commissioners that no alcohol is to be served or brought to the event. Theresa Cornish, Chief Executive Officer advised the Commissioners of the availability of the Registered Attorney Contact Information Report and that a user guide will be emailed to each of the Commissioners. She also stated that updates to the docket sheets will be done this weekend which will provide interpreter information as needed.

Old Business: Upon Commissioner Martins' request, the Commissioners discussed the new security protocol of hours covered by security after the hearings are over and the public is gone.

New Business: No new business

Medical Alerts: Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Medical Director, advised the Commissioners that the previous COVID vaccines and booster shots were not effective with the new strands of COVID. He also discussed how the use of cannabis and tobacco effect COVID patients in an increase of hospitalization. He advised the Commissioners of the increased use of fentanyl and opioids mixed with an animal tranquilizer. Dr. Reichmister presented a study that found that firefighters have an eighteen to twenty percent increase chance of colorectal cancers and a study that showed that a disruption in sleep activity rhythm can cause an increase of amyloid in the brain that can lead to an increase of Alzheimer's disease.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Kittleman and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman



Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary