

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 9, 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 Oh, Delia Schadt, and Tracey Parker Warren.

Staff Members Present: Mary Ahearn, Chief Executive Officer, Theresa Cornish, Chief Operating Officer, Amy Lackington, Administrator, Jerome Reichmister, Medical Director, Stacey Roig, Director of Insurance, Compliance, and Reporting Division, Cindy Cauthorne, Director of Hearings, and Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission meeting on April 25, 2024, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Martin, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:35 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman seconded by Commissioner Forrester 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 Commission of Ryder's request for the addition of the subsidiary, Cardinal Logistics Management Corporation (Cardinal), to its self-insurance program. Upon motion by Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Parker Warren, the motion to add was approved with a unanimous vote. Stacey Roig discussed K-Mart's request for a reduction in their security deposit. Chairwoman Quinn called for the Commissioners to convene an En Banc hearing. Chairwoman Quinn's office will schedule the hearing.

Open Session: At 10:15 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kettleman and second from Commissioner Evans, and upon a unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn discussed the results of the State Workplace Culture Survey that was conducted February 2024. She also shared that the Commission's personnel vacancy rate is steady at eleven percent. She advised that this is due to current retirements. Chairwoman Quinn described her meeting with the Commission's DBM Analyst, Kaileah Gaynor.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Mary Ahearn advised the Commissioners that the issues with CompHub have been resolved as well as the problems related to the identification of interpreter cases on the docket sheet and the disappearance of hearing location & date when a decision memo is sent back by the Commissioner's Assistant. Mary confirmed that the fix was implemented on 5/7/2024 so any decisions memos returned after 5/8/24 would reflect the hearing information.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Jerome Reichmister discussed how vaping is tied to a high risk of exposure to lead and uranium. He also advised the Commissioners that cases of tuberculosis are rising worldwide and in the United States. Dr. Reichmister provided an article on a study of courage about a man who, after contracting polio, spent his entire life living and practicing law in an iron lung.

CompHub Training: Cindy Cauthorne, Director of Hearings, provided the Commissioners with additional training in CompHub.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Schadt and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary