

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 12, 2025

Call to Order: Chairwoman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Chairwoman Quinn, and Kathleen Evans, James R. Forrester, Asha J Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, James MacAlister, Howard Metz, Tracey Parker-Warren, Stephane Romano, and Delia Schadt.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Commission meeting on June 12, 2025 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon the motion of Commissioner Kittleman, and seconded by Commissioner Forrester, the minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair Report: Chair Quinn informed the Commissioners that the Commission's budget status will be confirmed with the close of the fiscal year. Final figures will be available in July and will be shared, along with additional updates, at the July Commissioners' meeting.

Chair Quinn provided updates on several hiring processes. The Executive Assistant interviews have concluded, and an announcement is expected soon. A new Assistant HR Director began last week. Scott Curtis noted that the final interviews for the Assistant Attorney General position will take place on June 13, 2025, followed by a meeting with the Attorney General to finalize the selection. Chair Quinn praised Scott Curtis for his leadership in the process. Stacey Roig mentioned that while interviewing for one position, a second position was approved, and they are able to fill both positions from the same applicant pool. Commissioner Parker-Warren asked about the status of the Commissioners' Assistant position. Chair Quinn reported that no qualified candidates have been identified yet.

Theresa Cornish reported that the decision memo for claims will be officially deployed this weekend. She confirmed that the memo will include the needed calculations

Closed Session: At 9:46 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Parker-Warren and seconded by Commissioner Jefferson 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 a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

ICR Report: Stacey Roig, Director of IC&R discussed the addition of the School of the Incarnation as a subsidiary of the Archdiocese of Baltimore's self-insurance program. After discussion, Commissioner Parker-Warren made a motion to approve the addition, which was seconded by Commissioner Forrester. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Stacey Roig also discussed the addition of the Carroll County Fire/EMS Department to the Carroll County Government's self-insurance program. After discussion, Commissioner

MacAlister made a motion to approve the addition, which was seconded by Commissioner Forrester. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 10: 19 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner MacAlister and second from Commissioner Parker-Warren, and upon a unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Commissioner Jefferson reminded the Commissioners that Kid Chance's crab feast is on June 25, 2025 and the RSVPs are due. She will submit the total attendance at the board meeting next week. She also reminded the Commissioners that the golf tournament will be held on July 24, 2025.

Medical Alerts Dr. Reichmister present findings from recent medical studies. He highlighted increasing evidence that both smoking and edible cannabis use, even as infrequently as three times per week, can result in respiratory effects similar to tobacco use, with edibles posing the higher risks due to the inconsistent dosing. He also cited data linking prenatal cannabis exposure to lower birth rates and higher risks of perinatal mortality. He cited a study from Iowa that emphasized that no level of lead exposure is considered safe, noting that regulatory agencies have progressively lowered the acceptable amounts and now recommend that any detectable amount is viewed as harmful. Dr. Reichmister shared encouraging results from a Chicago study on allograft bone and cartilage transplantation, where the majority of athlete study participants returned to their high-level sports and the non-athlete study participants reported significant pain reduction.

Commissioner Jefferson inquired about the safety of fluoride in drinking water and Dr. Reichmister affirmed that its continued use is based on longstanding dental recommendations, while acknowledging the debate on its use. Commissioner Forrester inquired about the use of the new non-opioid pain medication, Journvix. Dr. Reichmister noted that early research supports its effectiveness but raised concern about its high cost compared to existing non-narcotic alternatives. He did remind the Commissioners that these studies were sponsored by the pharmaceutical companies. Chair Quinn questioned if the use of this medication can prevent opioid addiction release. Dr. Reichmister acknowledged its potential as part of a broader range of non-opioid options.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Jefferson, and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.