

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, Dr. 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, informed the Commission of Ryder's request to include their subsidiary, Cardinal Logistics Management Corporation, in its self-insurance program. Upon motion by Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Parker Warren, the motion was approved with a unanimous vote. She then discussed K-Mart's request for a reduction in their security deposit. Chairwoman Quinn called for the Commissioners to convene an En Banc hearing. Her office will schedule the hearing.

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

Chair's Report: Chairwoman Quinn reviewed the outcomes of the State Workplace Culture Survey conducted in February 2024. She also addressed the Commission's current personnel vacancy rate, noting that retirements are affecting the rate. Additionally, Chairwoman Quinn described her meeting with Kaileah Gaynor, the Commission's DBM Analyst.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Mary Ahearn assured the Commissioners that 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 have been resolved. She 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 addressed the significant risks associated with vaping, including a high potential for lead and uranium exposure. He also informed the commissioners about the global and national increase in tuberculosis cases. Additionally, Dr. Reichmister shared an article detailing a study on bravery, featuring a man who, despite contracting polio and living his life in an iron lung, pursued a career in law.

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