Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes - Amended
Thursday, March 13, 2025

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

Present: Chairwoman Quinn, Kathleen A. Evans, James R. Forrester, Asha J Jefferson, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Delia T Schadt, and Tracey Parker-Warren

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Commission meeting on February 27, 2025 were reviewed by the Commissioners. Upon the motion of Commissioner Parker-Warren and seconded by Commissioner Kittleman, the minutes, as amended, were approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair Report:
Chair Quinn announced that the presentation of the Porth Award for Frank Lipschultz will be presented on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 2:30 pm. She invited the Commissioners who are available to attend the presentation.

The Uninsured Employer Fund (UEF)'s budget hearings have been completed. The budget analyst projected the UEF will become insolvent in FY2027. Chair Quinn discussed the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight and announced that she has appointed Commissioner Kathleen Evans to be our representative on that committee.

Chair Quinn announced that SB306, the Prescription Drug and Pharmaceutical Service Reimbursements bill, has successfully passed third reader and will now move to the House. The original bill underwent significant amendment. Chair Quinn commended Senator Beidle for requesting that the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board conduct a study on Workers' Compensation pharmacy issues. This study is due on March 1, 2026, six months before the Workers' Compensation Commission is required to adopt the Pharmaceutical Fee Guide in September 2026. Additionally, Chair Quinn shared a video recording of the Senate vote on the prescription bill, available on YouTube under https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl_fFcouBPk&list=PLJ-XD0yRQ-kWtTdIla4wq5kodU04DzdEt&index=40.

Chair Quinn discussed the employer compliance docket and highlighted Hilary Eanet's extensive expertise as an administrator. Hilary Eanet has expressed strong interest in continuing to oversee this operation. Chair Quinn announced that she will pair Hillary Eanet with incoming Commissioner Romano. To ensure a smooth transition, Commissioner Jefferson

and Chair Quinn will dedicate the next six months to working closely with Commissioner Romano on these dockets.

Commissioner Martin shared the success of the Kid's Chance bowling event, noting the event was sold out and the enjoyment had by all who attended. She remarked that attendees always appreciate seeing the Commissioners at these events. Commissioner Martin also announced that the crab feast is scheduled for June 25th, with a limited number of tickets available. Additionally, she addressed the concern regarding the upcoming golf tournament being held within one month after the crab feast.

Theresa Cornish announced the introduction of a new action in CompHub that will enable attorneys to search all notices sent to them by the commission based on date. This feature is set to be deployed over the weekend. She announced Maxwell Amoako as the new Deputy Director of Fiscal. She also informed the Commissioners that the position of Assistant to the Commissioner is being re-posted. In response to Commissioner Martin's inquiry about job fairs, Chair Quinn informed the commission that the agency will be actively participating in job fairs alongside other state agencies.

Theresa extended her gratitude to Dr. Reichmister for conducting medical terminology training sessions with various staff members, noting that the feedback on these sessions has been overwhelmingly positive.

Old Business: Commissioner Metz discussed the claim file issues that happen when attorneys who file an occupational disease claim and when that claimant dies, the attorneys will re-file as a death claim. Essentially creating two claims. Theresa Cornish advised the Commissioners that these are known issues that have already been addressed, and the fix will be deployed this weekend. She went on to address the previous issues with global settlements filed in CompHub. After many reviews of the process, the issue is the attorneys and their staff not fully completing the instructions.

Commissioner Forrester distributed a handout titled *"The Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission & The Pricing of RX Drugs"* to the Commissioners. The presentation explained various aspects of prescription drug practices, including how medication are prescribed, billed, and paid for. Chair Quinn and Commissioner Forrester also reviewed data on pharmaceutical pricing in workers' compensation cases, broken down by county and Baltimore City.

New Business: Commissioner Evans addressed the matter of ruling on objections to postponements in cases where there is no response from the opposing party. The Commissioners engaged in a discussion about the current Commission procedures for managing such requests. Scott Curtis clarified that these procedures are based on agency policy rather than codified regulations.

Commissioner Evans requested that recalled Commissioners be included in updates, reviews, announcements, and other materials that would assist them while sitting on the bench with the understanding that the recalled Commissioners will not participate in deciding Commission business. This will keep them informed of any new information that would help ensure they remain up to date on Commission matters.

Chair Quinn announced that the two new Commissioners, Stephane Romano and James MacAlister, will officially begin their roles on April 1st. She noted that the new Commissioners have ethical questions regarding their service as Commissioners and their current involvement in various committees and commissions. Scott Curtis informed the Commissioners that the Attorney General's Office has developed an internal resources website, which includes a section on bylaws for boards and commissions. He clarified that while the Commission does not have its own set of bylaws due to reliance on statutes and codes, the bylaws provided on the website reiterate the relevant statutes and include links to the applicable provisions.

Chair Quinn announced that Commissioner Martin would be attending the Commissioner meeting on March 27th, giving the Commissioners an opportunity to celebrate her retirement. Commissioner Kittleman extended heartfelt gratitude to Commissioner Martin and Commissioner Oh for their dedicated service to the Commission. He highlighted Commissioner Oh's friendship and her dedication to her colleagues, noting that she would be deeply missed by everyone. All Commissioners echoed his sentiments in agreement.

Medical Report: Dr. Reichmister advised the Commissioners of the rising rates of flu, covid and RSV. He also shared that the cases of measles in the USA are over 300 and rising and advised that the disease today is a highly contagious virus with terrible complications such as encephalitis and death. Studies have shown that this virus also can have a ten-year delayed complication of pan encephalitis which is also deadly. Dr. Reichmister discussed alcohol and the risk of cancer as well as how Pueblo Colorado has been facing a cannabis crisis.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and seconded by Commissioner Parker-Warren, and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary