

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 26, 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 invited Commissioner Jefferson to provide an update on the sold-out Kid's Chance Crab Feast. Commissioner Jefferson reported that the event was a success despite the high temperatures and noted the attendance of several scholarship recipients. Chair Quinn also acknowledged the meaningful tribute presented in honor of Mark Vincent during the event.

Scott Curtis announced the hiring of Matthew Giguere as the new Assistant Attorney General for the Commission. He highlighted Mr. Giguere's strong background in labor and advocacy law. Chair Quinn added that Mr. Giguere's understanding of business models will be a valuable asset to the IC&R Division.

Chair Quinn informed the Commissioners that in light of the State's current budget constraints, a hiring freeze will be implemented, and voluntary position buyouts may be offered. She noted that additional details will be provided as they become available.

Closed Session: At 9:35 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Parker-Warren 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 several subsidiaries to the Archdiocese of Baltimore's self-insurance program. After discussion, Commissioner Kittleman made a motion to approve the additions, which was seconded by Commissioner Jefferson. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Open Session: At 9:45 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Kittleman and second from Commissioner Romano, and upon a unanimous vote, the Commission re-opened the meeting.

Old Business: Theresa Cornish announced that the decision memo update, originally scheduled for deployment last weekend, was delayed and will instead be deployed this week.

Chair Quinn informed the Commissioners she and Theresa Cornish will work together to develop procedures for notifying all Commission stakeholders in the event of CompHub outages. Commissioner Evans reported experiencing issues while using CompHub late in the evening. Chair Quinn explained that system updates are typically conducted after working hours, which may cause temporary disruptions.

Commissioner MacAlister discussed the possibility of the Commission notifying medical providers when insurance carriers are no longer paying claims. Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed that such notification is the responsibility is with the attorneys involved in the claim. Commissioner Kittleman raised a question regarding the new calculations for occupational deafness claims, specifically which claims fall under the updated guidelines. Following discussion, Scott Curtis and the Commissioners concluded that the new calculations apply not only to claims filed after the effective date but also to active claims filed prior to that date.

New Business: Chair Quinn, Commissioners and others celebrated the retirement of Amy Lackington, Executive Assistant. Chair Quinn congratulated Hilary Eanet on her promotion as Executive Assistant.

Medical Alerts: Dr. Reichmister presented findings from several recent international studies. He first reviewed a study published in a British medical journal examining the disability rates among adult smokers in the United States compared to non-smokers between 2019 to 2023. The study found that smokers, particularly women, who smoked had higher disability rates compared to non-smokers. The most common disabilities were related to vision, hearing, mobility, and cognitive function. Dr. Reichmister then addressed the rising mortality and disability rates associated with rheumatoid arthritis, noting regional differences. Western Europe and the United States have experienced increases in both, while Japan has seen a decline, and Africa continues to report the lowest rates. In response to Commissioner Parker-Warren's question regarding the disparity among rates, Dr. Reichmister cited factors such as variations in reporting practices, genetics, and environmental influences.

Dr. Reichmister referenced a recent article published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, which discussed a German study comparing musculoskeletal complaints among remote and in office workers. The study found a higher incidence of muscular and skeletal discomfort among individuals working from home.

Dr. Reichmister discussed a Japanese study examining men aged 40 to 59, which found that many experience symptoms comparable to female menopause, attributed to age-related declines in testosterone levels.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Kittleman and seconded by Commissioner Parker-Warren, and upon a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Chairwoman

Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary