MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Board Members Present via Webex:
Mark Denzler
Tim Drea
Karen Harris
Mitchell Horwitz
Jill Kastner
Robert Karr
Denne Knell
Louise Medina
Mark Prince
Sean Stott

Not Present:
Aaron Anderson

IWCC Members Present in Person:
Michael J. Brennan, Chairman
Ronald Rascia, General Counsel
Annette Roti, Chief of Staff
Michele Kowalski, Secretary of the Commission
Whitney Martin, Research and Education Manager

On June 5, 2023 at 11:01 AM, Chairman Michael J. Brennan called the Workers' Compensation Commission Advisory Board meeting to order. Michele Kowalski took roll and verified that a quorum was present. Chairman welcomed new board member, Louise Medina and thanked her for serving on the Board. Chairman Brennan acknowledged the 22^{nd} anniversary of September 11^{th}.

As to Old Business, Chairman Brennan stated that in person Oral Arguments were proceeding in the Springfield and Collinsville offices. Chairman Brennan also announced the retirements of Arbitrators Fruth and Kane and welcomed the new Arbitrators Bae and Byrnes. He also relayed that Commissioner Baker took a new position as the General Counsel for Lt. Governor Stratton and wished her well.

As to New Business, Chairman Brennan announced that Yellow Corporation, a self-insured entity recently declared bankruptcy and that the Commission called the bond held by Liberty Mutual. He stated that there was a conversation with Liberty Mutual's counsel with the goal to make sure injured workers are paid as soon as possible.

Next, Chairman Brennan relayed that he informed the Bar about upcoming Arbitrator reassignments which will be effective January 1, 2024. He also stated that a 14^{th} Arbitrator call would be established in Cook County, also effective January 1^{st} and that the 2024 calendar is being drafted.

Mr. Denzler addressed the Board to bring a Medical Fee issue to the Board Members' attention. Chairman Brennan relayed that he received a copy of a $700,000 bill for a lumbar fusion that he planned to bring to the Medical Fee Advisory Board Meeting the same afternoon and expects that it will be a topic of discussion in December. Discussion ensured among the Board about how to address the procedure codes for surgical fees. Chairman Brennan stated that he would have more information to share at the next meeting.

Chairman Brennan advised that draft minutes for the Board Meeting held on June 5, 2023 and June 20, 2023 had been circulated and asked for a Motion to Approve. For the June 5th meeting, Mr. Denzler so moved, Mr. Drea seconded the Motion, and the Motion to Approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2023 carried unanimously. For the June 20th meeting, Mr. Drea so moved, Ms. Harris seconded the Motion, and the Motion to Approve the Minutes of the June 20, 2023 Board Meeting carried unanimously.

Chairman Brennan asked the members if anyone had any other new or old business to discuss. There was none.

Chairman Brennan asked if there was any member of the public on the call. Two members of the public were on the call and neither had comments. Mr. Drea moved to Adjourn the meeting, Mr. Denzler seconded the Motion and the Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 AM.