

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

Board Members Present

Mitchell Horwitz

Board Members Present via Webex:

Mark Denzler

Tim Drea

Karen Harris

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

Cole Garret, Deputy Legal Counsel (Via WebEx)

Kris Tharp, Confidential Assistant to the Chairman (Via WebEx)

On December 11, 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.

Upon Motion by Mr. Horwitz, seconded by Mr. Drea, the minutes of the September 11, 2023 were unanimously approved as presented.

As to Old Business, Chairman Brennan stated that the Springfield office once again had flooding issues. Kris Tharp noted that the problem had been resolved and repairs were in process. The office is open for business. Next, the Chairman updated the Board on a pending lawsuit regarding Amish business owners who refuse to obtain workers' compensation insurance on religious grounds. Chairman Brennan stated that he was awaiting the action of the Attorney General in this matter.

Next, Chairman Brennan announced there would be Arbitrator Docket changes for January. He also announced that a 14th docket had been created in Cook County, and Arbitrator Brady would be handling calls for this Docket.

Chairman Brennan updated the Board on the Yellow Freight matter and stated that the self-insurance claims continued to be paid by the bond holder, Liberty Mutual.

Next, the Chairman stated that the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab would be presenting at the Medical Fee Advisory Board Meeting regarding their reimbursement rates set by the fee schedule.

As to New Business, Chairman Brennan stated that he has been reviewing an issue wherein insurance carriers unfairly cancel coverage and leave the IWBF responsible for the claims.

Chairman Brennan asked the members if anyone had any other new or old business to discuss. There was some general discussion about insurance carriers canceling coverage, and the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab reimbursement rates.

There was one member of the public on the call, with no comment. Having no further business to discuss, Mr. Drea moved to Adjourn the meeting, Mr. Denzler seconded the Motion and the Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.