MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON JUNE 16, 2025, at 11:00 AM 69 W WASHINGTON, 9TH FLOOR, CHICAGO, and VIA WEBEX

Board Members Present via Webex:
Mark Denzler
Tim Drea
Karen Harris
Robert Karr
Jill Kastner
Denne Knell
Juan Carlos Lopez
Louise Medina
Sean Stott
Mitchell Horwitz (in person)

Not Present:
Aaron Anderson
Mark Prince

IWCC Members Present in Person:
Michael J. Brennan, Chairman
Ronald Rascia, General Counsel
Annette Roti, Chief of Staff
Michele Kowalski, Secretary of the Commission
Cole Garrett, Deputy Legal Counsel (Via WebEx)
Kris Tharp, Conf. Asst. to the Chairman (Via WebEx)

On Monday, June 16, 2025, at 11:00 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 Brennan began the meeting by welcoming a new Member of the Board, Juan Carlos Lopez.

Upon Motion by Mr. Denzler, seconded by Mr. Drea, the Minutes of the March 17, 2025, Board Meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

As to Old Business, Chairman Brennan relayed that he had appeared before the House and Senate Committees and that the IWCC budget was sufficient for this upcoming fiscal year. However, legislative change is needed to avoid a budget shortfall, and he is awaiting direction from the Governor's Office.

As to New Business, Chairman Brennan asked for a Motion to go into Closed Session to interview the Arbitrator Candidates and/or Commissioner Candidates pursuant to Sections 2 (c) (1) and (3) of the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Kastner so moved, Mr. Horwitz seconded the Motion, and the Motion carried unanimously. The Board moved to Closed Session at 11:06 AM.

At 12:38 PM, after discussion in Closed Session, upon Motion by Mr. Denzler, seconded by Ms. Kastner and approved unanimously, the Board reconvened in Open Session. A verbatim audio-visual recording of the Closed Meeting was made within the WebEx application and will be maintained by the Commission.

Discussion ensued about the significance that should be given to the Arbitrator evaluations by the Bar. Chairman Brennan stated that one thing to keep in mind is whether the comments are isolated or repetitive.

The Board agreed to reconvene on June 30th to relay the recommendations of each caucus.

With no New Business or further business to discuss, and no members of the public at the meeting, Mr. Drea moved to Adjourn the Meeting, Mr. Horwitz seconded the Motion, and the Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM.