

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, at 11:00 AM
69 W WASHINGTON, 9TH FLOOR, CHICAGO, and VIA WEBEX**

Board Members Present via Webex:

Mark Denzler
Karen Harris
Robert Karr
Jill Kastner
Juan Carlos Lopez
Louise Medina
Sean Stott
Mitchell Horwitz

Not Present:

Aaron Anderson
Tim Drea
Denne Knell
Mark Prince

IWCC Members Present in Person:

Michael J. Brennan, Chairman
Ronald Rascia, General Counsel
Annette Roti, Chief of Staff
Whitney Martin, Research and Education Manager
Michele Kowalski, Secretary of the Commission
Cole Garrett, Deputy Legal Counsel (Via WebEx)
Kris Tharp, Conf. Asst. to the Chairman (Via WebEx)

On Monday, September 15, 2025, at 11:02 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. Denzler, seconded by Mr. Stott, the Minutes of the June 16, 2025 Board Meeting were unanimously approved as presented. Upon Motion by Mr. Denzler, seconded by Mr. Stott, the Minutes of the June 30, 2025 Board Meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

As to Old Business, Chairman Brennan relayed that the Medical Fee Advisory Board will be discussing solutions to establishing fees for certain DRG Codes.

In New Business, Chairman Brennan stated that he has been in meetings with the Governor's office regarding a \$2 million budget shortfall for the IWCC in FY 27. He relayed that the Commission saves money where it can, including holding hybrid training sessions, however there is still an upcoming deficit. Mr. Denzler asked for the budget data and Chairman Brennan said he would send it to him.

Also in New Business, Chairman Brennan relayed that 11 arbitrators were reappointed, Arbitrator Soto was appointed Commissioner, and Khama Sharp has been appointed as an Arbitrator.

Chairman Brennan relayed that the IWCC went 24 weeks without a late arbitration decision.

With no New Business or further business to discuss, and no members of the public at the meeting, Ms. Kastner moved to Adjourn the Meeting, Mr. Horwitz seconded the Motion, and the Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM.