

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2025, at 10AM
69 W WASHINGTON, 9th FLOOR, CHICAGO, IL 60602,
1803 RAMADA BLVD., #B201, COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234, and via WEBEX

Board Members Present

Chairman Michael J. Brennan
Commissioner Kathryn Doerries
Commissioner Carolyn Doherty
Commissioner Christopher Harris
Commissioner Stephen Mathis
Commissioner Marc Parker
Commissioner Amylee Simonovich
Commissioner Raychel Wesley

Not Present

Commissioner Maria Portela
Commissioner Frank Soto

IWCC Staff Present In Person

Ron Rascia, General Counsel
Michele Kowalski, Secretary of the Commission
Whitney Martin, Manager Research and Education
Andie Tipton, Private Secretary
Cole Garrett, Deputy Legal Counsel (via WebEx)
Kris Tharp, Confidential Assistant to the Chairman (via Webex)

On December 8, 2025, at 10:00 AM, Chairman Michael J. Brennan called the Workers' Compensation Commission Meeting to order. Michele Kowalski took roll and verified a quorum was present. Upon Motion by Commissioner Mathis and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on September 15, 2025 were unanimously approved as presented.

As to Old Business, Chairman Brennan referred to a previous issue presented before the Medical Fee Advisory Board. He explained that the Illinois Hospital Association does not have sufficient data available to establish fees for certain DRG Codes. Instead, parties will continue to rely on the Frequently Asked Questions methodology to resolve conflicts.

In New Business, Chairman Brennan gave an update about the budget shortfall stating that the IWCC was poised to get through this year. He has had meetings with the Governor's Office, but nothing has been resolved for the next fiscal year.

As to New Business, Chairman Brennan discussed a new internal policy about Artificial Intelligence developed with the assistance of Cole Garrett. The policy prohibits IWCC employees from using AI tools in any aspect of their work for the Commission.

Next, Kris Tharp updated the Board about a new location for Kankakee hearings. The Kankakee Library was no longer available, so he was able to secure the Kankakee Sheriff's Office as a location for 2026.

Next, Chairman Brennan stated that Arbitration decisions are currently on a 13-week streak without a late decision and he hopes it will continue.

Finally, there was some discussion about remands and the process before the Commission.

There being no members of the public on the call, Commissioner Parker Motioned to Adjourn, Commissioner Doherty seconded the Motion, and the Motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:33AM