

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, 100 WEST RANDOLPH STREET
CHAIRMAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM
HELD ON APRIL 26, 2013 at 1:00 PM**

Present at the meeting:

Chairman Michael Latz
Richard Alesky
Mitch Abbett
Aaron Anderson
William Lowry

Not present at the meeting:

Phil Gruber
John Carpenter

Present by telephone:

Michael Carrigan
Mark Denzler
David Halffield
Mark Prince
Sean Stott
David Vite

IWCC staff present at the meeting were:

Kimberly Janas, Secretary of the Commission (via phone)
Ronald Rascia, General Counsel

Chairman Michael Latz called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present. There was a motion by Mr. Aleksy, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 23, 2013.

Next, Chairman Latz provided the Board members with an update on activities and projects at the Commission. The Commission recently hosted its biannual judicial training program. This most recent program included a variety of different speakers, including presentations by Chairman Latz and other members of the Commission's staff on a variety of topics, such as how to write more effective decisions. Chairman Latz informed the Board that the Commission was still waiting for the appointment of the two open Commissioner positions. In the interim, Chairman Latz and Commission Donohoo are sharing the responsibility of covering the two open Public member positions. In addition, the Commission is also waiting for arbitrator appointments. However, Chairman Latz noted that the current rotation of arbitrators and the revised schedule has sufficiently addressed all arbitrator coverage needs for the time being. In addition, Chairman Latz informed the Board that the Commission was moving forward with several operational projects. By May 20, the Commission's IT Department will replace the computers in the Data Entry Department with much more efficient units. The Commission has hired a new Mainframe Computer Programmer, a position that had been previously unfilled for several years. Finally, Chairman Latz concluded his update by noting that the Commission was examining the feasibility of adding a hearing site in Southeastern Illinois.

Next, Ms. Janas provided a report on regulatory and legislative activity affecting the Commission. She provided a brief summary of several bills pending before the General Assembly involving workers' compensation, including Senate Bill 1873, which addresses the regulation of Group Workers' Compensation Insolvency Pools and House Bill 2919, which would create a State-run workers' compensation insurance company. In terms of rulemaking activities affecting the Commission, Ms. Janas informed the Board that the rules implementing the Preferred Provider Programs introduced in Public Act 97-18 have been published in their final form in the Illinois Register and are effective March 4, 2013.

Chairman Latz then moved on to discuss new business before the Board. He informed the Board members that some of the attendees of the 2:00 pm status calls at the Commission had exhibited poor behavior, including the use of inappropriate language directed towards the Commission staff conducting the call. Chairman Latz stated that he would not tolerate this behavior from anyone appearing at the call. He distributed to the Board a notice to be posted outside of the Oral Argument Room which outlines the expectations of conduct by those appearing at the call and also the responsibility of attorneys for the behavior of non-lawyer assistants. There was a motion by Mr. Carrigan, seconded by Mr. Aleksy, and unanimously carried to recommend that this notice be posted at the Commission.

There was a motion by Mr. Alesky, seconded by Mr. Vite, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.