



STATE OF MAINE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
Board of Directors' Business Meeting

January 19, 2016

A business meeting of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, at the Workers' Compensation Board Augusta Central Office.

PRESENT: Paul H. Sighinolfi (*Chair*), Ron Green, Glenn Burroughs, Emery Deabay (*via telephone*), Gary Koocher, and Andy Charles (*via telephone*).

NOT PRESENT: Richelle Wallace

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sighinolfi called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes of 11/10/2015.

Director Koocher MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF 11/10/15; Director Green seconded. **MOTION PASSES 5-0-1** (*Chair abstained*).

III. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

No subcommittee meetings were held since the last meeting.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. SAWCA Presentation

Director Sighinolfi moderated a panel at the Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators annual meeting. The panel discussed a constitutional decision reached in a Pennsylvania matter, *Protz*. The decision held a provision of their Act was unconstitutional because there was a delegation of legislative authority to a body, not part of the legislature, the American Medical Association.

Director Sighinolfi participated in a second presentation where a panel of executive directors discussed the transition from private practice to state government.

2. Civil Service Review Panel

The Civil Service Review Panel has completed its project, and a report will be given to the Governor within the next month.

3. CompPharma Meeting

CompPharma, a group of pharmacy benefits managers, invited Director Sighinolfi to participate in an executive directors' panel. Among other things, the CompPharma meeting discussed physicians dispensing pharmaceuticals, and drug compounding. Director Sighinolfi handed out at the meeting a brochure produced by CompPharma on the physician dispensing problem.

4. IAIABC Year-End Meeting

Director Sighinolfi attended the annual Board of Directors meeting of the IAIABC. Budget, staffing, educational planning, membership expansion, and the 2016 convention were discussed.

5. Performance Evaluations

Performance evaluations were completed for 15 senior staff Board employees.

6. Pain Management Group

Materials are being collected for the pain management group, and the group will soon be expanded to include additional physicians.

7. Meeting on Workers' Compensation Legislation

Director Sighinolfi met with the Senate Chair of the Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development Committee to discuss the bill submitted by the Board. Some have raised concerns about the proposal to raise the assessment cap for the agency.

8. Bomb Threat

A bomb threat was called in at the Disability Rights Center, which is located between the Augusta Regional Office and the Advocate Office. The threat was determined to be not credible.

V. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

1. Staff Update

Daniel Harrington will be promoted into the Management Analyst position in the Office of Monitoring, Audit and Enforcement starting in February.

Kimberly Ward was hired to fill the position vacated by Anne Poulin when she retired.

2. Rule Writing

Rules will be updated to address the latest law changes for the filing of wage statements. Rules are also being developed to clarify the vocational rehabilitation process.

3. Coordination with the Attorney General's Office

Deputy General Counsel Seanna Crasnick, has been working with the Attorney General's office to clarify the process for revoking business licenses.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Legislation

LD 1553, *An Act to Improve the Workers' Compensation System*: The Revisor's Office made a non-substantive change to Section 4 of the bill. The public hearing has not been scheduled.

2. Meeting Frequency

Directors discussed the frequency of Board meetings. It was decided that the meetings should remain scheduled as is for now.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. 100th Anniversary of Maine Workers' Compensation Act

Director Sighinolfi suggested commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Workers' Compensation Act either at Comp Summit, at the IAIABC convention, or a special event.

2. Office Space

Portland Offices: The renovations of the new space on Forest Avenue are moving along quickly and should be completed by the end of February. The move of both the Regional and Advocate offices will occur March 17-22, at which time hearings and mediations will not be held. Telephone numbers will remain the same.

Central Office: The Deering Building, where Central Office is located, will be renovated in 2016. During the renovations, the office will need to be moved temporarily. Director Sighinolfi will attend a meeting to discuss details.

Director Burroughs MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER; Director Koocher seconded. **MOTION PASSES 5-0-1** (*Chair abstained*).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Koocher MOVED TO ADJOURN; Director Burroughs seconded. **MOTION PASSES 5-0-1** (*Chair abstained*).

The meeting formally adjourned at 11:06 a.m.