



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

**August 30, 2016**

A business meeting of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, August 30, 2016, at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, Maine.

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Sighinolfi called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Draft Minutes of 7/12/2016.**

Director Deabay MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF 7/12/16; Director Burroughs seconded. **MOTION PASSES 6-0-1** (*Chair abstained*).

**III. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. IME Subcommittee**

The IME Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting to discuss the §312 application by John Guernelli, MD.

Director Burroughs MOVED TO APPROVE JOHN GUERNELLI, MD AS A §312 EXAMINER; Director Wallace seconded. **MOTION PASSES 5-1-1** (*Director Koocher opposed, Chair abstained*).

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**1. Timely Filing of First Reports**

A press release reminding employers of their workers' compensation obligations was drafted by Director Sighinolfi and Michael Bourque of MEMIC. Unfortunately, the release has not been published by any news media. Director Sighinolfi will, however, be getting out to some employer groups in the fall to discuss their workers' compensation obligations.

## **2. Conference Call with Dr. Eng and Peter Lowe**

A conference call was held with Dr. Michael Eng and Peter Lowe to discuss how to structure a medical marijuana presentation at the Comp Summit.

## **3. Active Shooter Discussion with Senior Staff**

A few senior staff members in the Portland office met with Director Sighinolfi to prepare for an active shooter emergency. Capitol Security has put together a presentation for state agencies.

## **4. IAIABC Phone Conferences**

Director Sighinolfi participated in numerous telephone conferences for the IAIABC Medical Committee and Board.

## **5. Emery Deabay Confirmation**

Emery Deabay's reappointment hearing was held before the Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development Committee. Director Sighinolfi and others testified in favor of the reappointment, which went very well.

## **6. FOAA Meeting**

Director Sighinolfi attended a training program on how to manage and process Freedom of Information Act requests for the state.

## **7. Meeting with John Leavitt**

John Leavitt, President of the Northern New England Carpenters' Union, met with Director Sighinolfi to discuss employee misclassification.

## **8. Meeting with Gallagher Bassett**

Director Sighinolfi and compliance staff met with Gallagher Bassett executives.

## **9. Central Office Move**

The Central Office moved on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Things were back up and running on the afternoon of July 18<sup>th</sup>. The Board is looking at adjacent space to move the Augusta Regional Office.

## **10. Meeting with Dr. Guernelli**

Director Sighinolfi met with Dr. Guernelli to discuss questions by the Board about his §312 examiner application.

## **11. Presentation to the Maine Healthcare Workers' Compensation Trust**

A presentation was given to the Maine Healthcare Workers' Compensation Trust. Director Sighinolfi discussed medical marijuana as it pertains to Maine workers' compensation.

## **12. WCI Meeting in Florida**

Director Sighinolfi attended the Workers' Compensation Institute meeting in Florida. He was asked to participate on a panel for the National Workers' Compensation Judicial

College. The panel discussed developing national issues in workers' compensation. Director Sighinolfi also presented to the Agents' Forum on issues unique to agents.

### **13. Comp Summit**

Time was spent in the month preparing for various Comp Summit sessions. The Comp Summit went very well, and Board staff played an important role in a number of sessions.

## **V. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

### **1. AIU Meeting with Coverage**

The Abuse Investigation Unit met with the Coverage Department to review interactions between the units. Processing of proofs of coverage and waivers was discussed.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Emery Deabay Reappointment**

Emery Deabay was reappointed to the Board of Directors in a hearing before the Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development Committee. Andy Charles, Ron Green, and Richelle Wallace will be up for reappointment at the beginning of 2017.

### **2. Office Space Update**

The Central Office has moved and everything is working out well.

### **3. Comp Summit**

Everything went smoothly for the Comp Summit. Director Sighinolfi received positive feedback about the presentations by Board staff.

### **4. Rulemaking Taskforce**

The Rulemaking Taskforce had its first meeting last week. It is comprised of General Counsel John Rohde, Director Wallace, Director Burroughs, Ben Grant, Nathan Jury, Elizabeth Brogan, Gregory Smith, Allie McCormack, Phil Bartlett, and Matt Harmon. The group plans to meet monthly.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Kids' Chance**

Kids' Chance was discussed during Bob Wilson's Comp Summit presentation, and afterward with some attorneys who are interested in forming a Maine chapter of Kids' Chance. The Board cannot solicit money for Kids' Chance, but can actively participate.

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Director Green MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION; Director Deabay seconded.  
**MOTION PASSES 6-0-1** (*Chair abstained*).

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## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Director Koocher MOVED TO ADJOURN; Director Deabay seconded. **MOTION PASSES 6-0-1** (*Chair abstained*).

The meeting formally adjourned at 1:43 p.m.