



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

**March 12, 2024**

A business meeting of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board of Directors was conducted remotely via Zoom and in person at the Board's Central Office at 442 Civic Center Drive, Augusta on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Rohde (*Executive Director/Chair*), Penny Picard, Lynne Gaudette, Glenn Burroughs, Ron Green, Serina DeWolfe, Paul Gendreau (*Directors*), and Richard Hewes (*General Counsel*)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Executive Director Rohde called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with 25 people participating in person and via Zoom. Executive Director Rohde reviewed the hybrid meeting format, remote participation procedures, and welcomed everyone attending in person. Board members and staff introduced themselves for the recording.

Director Richelle Wallace was in attendance for her last meeting. The Board thanked her for her many years of service.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Draft Minutes of 2/13/2024 Board of Director's Business Meeting**

Director Gaudette MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE February 13, 2024 BOARD MEETING AS WRITTEN; Director Burroughs SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

**III. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. IME Subcommittee**

The IME subcommittee has interviewed all four of the randomly selected doctors for this year. The subcommittee members agreed the process provided the subcommittee members with an effective way to communicate with the doctors directly.

**2. Framework Subcommittee**

The Framework Subcommittee continues to review reports and studies regarding benefit adequacy and employer costs. The subcommittee is also preparing a form to send to insurers/self-insurers to collect data about being made under Section 212 versus 213 during calendar year 2018. Executive Director Rohde thanked Directors Gaudette and

Burroughs for the hours they have spent reviewing information and attending committee meetings.

### **3. Budget Subcommittee**

The Budget Subcommittee met to begin the initial review for FY2025. The directors will discuss the annual assessment at the May Business meeting.

### **4. Personnel Subcommittee**

The Personnel Subcommittee is working to fill the anticipated mediator vacancy. Rita Bean, the mediator based out of the Bangor Office, is retiring after 39 years of State Service. The posting closes on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Interviews will be conducted with the goal of having a recommendation for the April meeting. The Board is also making plans for a Team Day later this year for agency employees.

## **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

### **1. General Updates**

- The May Board of Directors Business Meeting will be held at the Caribou Regional Office. The directors will hear and decide a hardship petition in Caribou right after the Board meeting.
- The Board is preparing to send out the letter regarding wage statement compliance issues.
- The EDI Proof of Coverage (POC) rule revisions are almost completed. This will bring the Board in line with IAIABC EDI POC standards.
- NCCI's advisory loss cost filing for April 1, 2024 is -19%, which continues the downward trend in recent years.
- The new Independent Contractor self-declaration process enacted pursuant to the 2023 amendment of 39-A MRSA § 105 going well since it was implemented last October.

## **V. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

### **1. Personnel**

The Board is still working to fill several vacancies. Interviews for the Augusta advocate position were held recently. Interviews are being held for the two open attorney positions in the Abuse Unit. Interviews were also recently conducted for the paralegal position in the Portland Office.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Legislation Updates**

- LDs 444 and 1857 are still on the Appropriations table.
- LD 1896 passed as a resolve. As drafted, monthly updates will begin in August 2024 with a final report due in August 2025.
- LD 2176 is still in Committee.

- LBHS will be wrapping up this session's work for the April adjournment.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There is no new business.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Director Wallace MOVED TO ADJOURN; Director Green SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-1.** (*Director Burroughs opposed.*)

The meeting formally adjourned at 10:23 a.m.