



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

November 12, 2025

A business meeting of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board of Directors was conducted remotely via Teams and in person at the Board's Central Office at 442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100, Augusta, on Tuesday, November 12, 2025.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rohde (*Executive Director/Chair*), Penny Picard, Glenn Burroughs, Paul Gendreau, Ronnie Green (*Directors*), and Richard Hewes (*General Counsel*) attended in person. Directors Lynne Gaudette and Serina DeWolfe attended via Teams.

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Director Rohde called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with over 30 people participating in person and via Teams. Board members introduced themselves for the recording.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes of the October 14, 2025 Business Meeting of the Board of Directors

Director Picard MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS WRITTEN; Director Green SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. IME Subcommittee

The IME subcommittee conducted interviews with two applicants. Neither meets the criteria to be appointed as Board Independent Medical Examiners though. One doctor did not have an active treating practice, and the other is not presently set up to examine patients in Maine.

2. Personnel Subcommittee

The Personnel subcommittee plans to interview applicants for the position of mediator next month. The Board is waiting for Human Resources to post the position. There are no Administrative Law Judge or Board member reappointments this year.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Caribou Office

The Board continues to work with Gagnon's Rental Properties, the owner of the Board's future office space in Caribou, to prepare the premises for occupancy in 2026. The Board can remain in its current location through March of 2026. Deputy Directors Lindsay Lizzotte and Bryan Ouellette have invested a substantial amount of work into this office move.

2. GEA Report

The Board's Government Evaluation Act report has been submitted to the legislature as required by statute. During the next legislative session, the Board will appear in front of the Labor Committee to discuss the report and respond to questions.

3. NCCI Report

The presentation from NCCI for the annual medical report went well. No changes to the medical fee schedule were suggested.

IV. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

1. Hardship Petition

The pro se employee in the case of *Charles v. Maine Staffing Services* has filed a petition for an extension of benefits due to extreme hardship under §213(1). The Board will review this petition at the next meeting. The employee has not exhausted available benefits under §213 and a petition for benefits is pending before ALJ Rooks.

2. Personnel

The Advocate division continues to be impacted by vacancies. There are currently two vacant advocate positions in Augusta. The hiring process is slower than usual due to changes at DAFS.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Rules Group Updates

The rules group met on November 6th to work on Chapters 1 and 4 and to review Chapter 20, which will consolidate EDI rules. The group will meet again on November 20th to review Chapters 1 and 3.

2. Legislation Updates

The Legislative Council met in late October to review proposed legislation. LR 2871 An Act to Clarify Indemnification When Seeking Remedy for Labor Law Violations will advance to the legislative process. This bill is more of a Department of Labor bill than a workers' compensation bill, but the Board will monitor it. LR 2588 An Act to Require Notices of Discontinuance and Reduction of Compensation to Be Sent via Certified Mail will not move forward.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month in 2026.

Director Gendreau MOVED TO ACCEPT THE 2026 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE AS PROPOSED. Director GREEN SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Picard MOVED TO ADJOURN. Director Gendreau SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 5-2.** (*Directors Burroughs and Green opposed.*)

The meeting formally adjourned at 10:17 a.m.