

**Workers' Compensation Board
Wednesday September 29, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

By Phone: Connie Wold, Board Chair
Sally Curey, Member
Roger Ousey, Member
Moises Ceja, Member
Robert Pardington, Managing Attorney
Joy Dougherty, Presiding ALJ
Katy Gunville, Board Executive Assistant
Terry Bello, Administrative Services Manager
Greig Lowell, Project Manager
Autumn Blake, Transcription Coordinator
Katelyn Miller, Board Review Specialist

Attendees:
Elaine Schooler, SAIF Corporation
Kevin Anderson, SBH Legal
Jennifer Flood, Ombudsman for Injured Workers

Call to Order

Chair Wold called the meeting to order.
WCB offices still remain closed to the general public. The public and WCB staff are participating in this meeting via telephone.

Roll Call

Greig Lowell took roll, reflected in the attendee list above.

Approval of Agenda and Order of Business

Member Woodford moved for approval of the agenda and order of business. Member Ousey seconded. Motion passes.

Approval of Past Minutes

Member Ousey moved for approval of minutes from June 30, 2021. Member Curey seconded. Motion passes.

Division Reports/Updates

Administrative Services Division: Administrative Services Manager, Terry Bello, started with an update on WCB facilities. This update included the renewal of leases for the Bend and Coos Bay offices and the addition of a Klamath Falls office/facility at the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) campus. Staff and visitors to the Klamath Falls facility would be subject to OIT's rules and policies when using or visiting. Terry also shared that Administrative Services is involved in the State's Reintegration/Reimaging committee that is tasked with determining what

going back to work will look like post-pandemic. Terry assured that while post-pandemic policies will be consistent with the State's policies, WCB's post-pandemic policies will be specialized to meet its unique needs. As for the budget for the biennium, Terry said it is in a good place despite uncertainties from the pandemic. Training money has been restored to the budget. Administrative Services is also focused on improving technology to support all processes by making sure there are enough data ports and bandwidth at all WCB offices and locations. In regards to policy, the management team has been re-evaluating current policies to ensure WCB policies are the best they can be.

Hearings Division: Presiding ALJ Joy Dougherty shared that last March when hearings shifted to telephonic or video hearings it became apparent that some cases are best suited for in-person. As of October 1, 2021, parties will be able to file a motion to have a case in-person. Hearings Division has looked at what the Oregon Courts are doing and at the guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority and Centers for Disease Control when creating the processes for holding these in-person hearings. Priority for in-person hearings will be given to expedited cases and cases where certified interpreters aren't available. These cases will be centralized in Salem with Presiding ALJ Dougherty and Assistant Presiding ALJ Marshall.

Board Review: In August, Board Review welcomed new Acting Managing Attorney Robert Pardington. Robert reported that things are moving smoothly and he is working on fine tuning internal processes to make sure decisions are made accurately and timely. Like the rest of State offices, Board Review reopening January 1, 2022. Robert also reminded that DCBS email addresses will be changing soon. This will affect incoming Requests for Board Review filed via WCB's Request email.

New Business

Chair Wold shared that per OAR 438-021-0010(1) the Board is required to hold quarterly meetings. These meetings are helpful at keeping everyone up to date.

Public Comment

Chair Wold asked if there was any public comment. No comments were made.

Announcements

No announcements were made.

Adjournment

Chair Wold asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Ousey moved to adjourn. Member Woodford seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.