

Workers' Compensation Board
Thursday, December 7, 2022
10:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

By Phone/In-Person Staff: Connie Wold, Board Chair
Sally Curey, Member
Roger Ousey, Member
Jenny Ogawa Member
Moises Ceja, Member
Robert Pardington, Managing Attorney
Joy Dougherty, Presiding ALJ
Katy Gunville, Board Executive Assistant
Terry Bello, Administrative Services Manager
Katelyn Crowe, Transcription Coordinator
Melanie Chin, Board Review Specialist
Joshua Waltman, Procurement and Contract Assistant
Jordan Schueller, Personnel Contact/ Executive Assistant

Attendees:

Kevin Barrett, SAIF
Cathy Ostrand-Ponsioen, WCD
Kevin Anderson, SBH
Kristin Eager, Tax Services

Call to Order

Chair Wold called the meeting to order.

The public is participating in this meeting via a telephonic audio link; WCB Chair, Members and staff are participating in-person at WCB's Hearing Division in Salem.

Roll Call

Robert Pardington took roll, as reflected in the attendee list above.

Approval of Agenda and Order of Business

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

Approval of Past Minutes

Member Curey moved for approval of minutes from September 8, 2022. Member Ceja seconded. Motion passes.

Division Reports/Updates

Administrative Services Division: Terry Bello, manager of the Administrative Services Division (ASD) provided the update. For an Information Technology (IT) report- WCB has implemented portal focus group to improve and enhance our portal. In February we will be doing

a strategic planning meeting with DCBS IT&R to restart and reprioritize projects as we adapt to the post-pandemic environment. Kudos to DCBS and WCB staff on rollouts of new programs and technology updates such as multi-factor authentication, agency cell phones, Workday, and Yubi keys. The DCBS report catalogue tool (used by DCBS divisions and WCB) is at end of life. WCB and IT&R are updating and refining our reports before moving to the new system. As for facilities: we have removed some pandemic features like plexiglass barriers and prior-mandated signage, with Pendleton the final facility to modify. Our Bend office has new ergonomic benches. New ergonomic furniture for Eugene and Medford offices is coming soon. We are working on finalizing updated facility contracts with Ontario and Roseburg. Jordan Schueller started on Nov. 14, 2022, as WCB personnel coordinator, on the ASD team. There were no questions for Ms. Bello.

Hearings Division: Joy Dougherty, Presiding Administrative Law Judge, provided the update for the Hearings Division. We are four months into full reopening and shifting to a hybrid environment. We are working on facility agreements. ALJs are traveling to remote locations again. There have been 16 trips in last three months, so about 3 trips per month, which is a good pace. We expect remote location hearings to increase. Our mediation scheduling is running four months out. Member Ogawa asked whether Portland claimant's attorneys were taking more cases in rural counties, due to the availability of remote litigation proceedings, and if so has this reduced the rate of workers' not represented by legal counsel in rural locations. PALJ Dougherty responded that she doesn't have official data, but she has heard anecdotally that the answer is yes. Member Ousey asked about the percentage of in-person versus remote proceedings. PALJ Dougherty said that about 50% of folks wanted in-person, and 50% wanted telephonic or video.

Board Review: Robert Pardington, Managing Attorney for the Board Review Unit, provided the update. He welcomed Member Jenny Ogawa. Notes that board review "lost" staff attorney Van Quan due to her promotion to the ALJ corps. As for other new staff changes, managing attorney Pardington announced that Melanie Chin is now board review specialist and Katelyn Crowe is our transcription coordinator. There were no questions for Mr. Pardington.

Public Comment

Chair Wold asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Announcements

No announcements were made.

Adjournment

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