Workers' Compensation Board
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
10:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

In-Person Staff:

Joy Dougherty, Board Chair
Sally Curey, Member
Roger Ousey, Member
Moises Ceja, Member
Jenny Ogawa, Member
Kerry Anderson, Project Manager
Jacqueline Jacobson, Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Lauren Eldridge, Managing Attorney
Heidi Havercroft, Senior Staff Attorney
Katelyn Crowe, Transcription Coordinator
Baaba Ampah, Personnel Contact

In-Person/By Phone Attendees:

Elaine Schooler, SAIF Corporation
Ivo Trummer, SAIF Corporation
Jovanna Patrick, Hollander Lebenbaum & Patrick
Aaron Clingerman, Dunn & Roy PC
Jodie Phillips Polich, Jodie Phillips Polich
Keith Semple, Johnson Johnson Lucas et al
Kevin Anderson, SBH Legal
Cathy Ostrand, Workers' Compensation Division

Call to Order
Chair Dougherty called the meeting to order. The public and WCB staff are participating in this meeting via telephone and in-person in the Salem Office.

Roll Call
Katelyn Crowe, Transcription Coordinator, took roll, reflected in the attendee list above.

Approval of Agenda and Order of Business
Chair Dougherty asked for a motion to approve the agenda and order of business. Member Ogawa moved for approval of the agenda and order of business. Member Ceja seconded. Motion passes.

Approval of Past Minutes
Member Curey moved for approval of minutes from the July 30, 2024, meeting. Member Ceja seconded. Motion passes.

Division Reports/Updates
There was no report for the Administrative Services Division.

Presiding Administrative Law Judge, Jacqueline Jacobson, provided the report for the Hearings Division. She shared that Andrea Alanis-Miranda has been hired as the Hearings Division Program Manager and Support Staff Supervisor. Ms. Alanis-Miranda has previously been a Judicial Assistant in WCB's Salem office for about 8 years. Hearings Division is excited to have Ms. Alanis-Miranda in this new role. Also, hearings are being scheduled through the end of December 2024 in all locations. Mediation dates are up through June 2025. PALJ Jacobson and Amanda Pletcher are working on a plan to upgrade some of WCB's remote facilities. The updates would be to phones and internet.

There was no report for Board Review.

There was no report for WCB IT.

New Business

Discussion of the Biennial Review of Attorney Fee Schedules under ORS 656.388(4).

Communication about the review process was shared in the September issue of the Board's Case New and Notes newsletter. The Board is taking written and oral comments regarding the review of attorney fee schedules. Today's Board meeting, the November Board meeting, and possibly a December meeting are scheduled to allow for discussion and public comment regarding the review. To date, no written comments have been received by the Board. Board Chair Dougherty opened the floor for in-person public comment.

Jovanna Patrick of Oregon Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) provided comment. Ms. Patrick had nothing new to raise to the Board, but wanted to express her appreciation for the changes and responsiveness of the Board over the past few years, in particular with the bifurcation program in Board Review and the recent amendment to settlement fee caps. Changes like these help improve the practice of representing injured workers.

Board Chair Dougherty opened the floor for telephonic public comment. No comments were made. Public comment was closed.

Board Chair Dougherty opened the floor for Board Member discussion. There were no Board Member comments or discussion.

General Public Comment
None were made.

Announcements
Chair Dougherty shared that the Board's Attorney Fee Report has been published. Several questions have been raised regarding the report, so the Board plans to share what it plans to do in response to those questions in its next meeting on November 19, 2024. The November meeting will be a hybrid meeting that will utilize video and screen sharing for those who do not attend in person.

Adjournment
Chair Dougherty asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Ousey moved to adjourn. Member Curey seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.