

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
COMMISSION REVIEW BOARD MEETING
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, 100 WEST RANDOLPH STREET
CHAIRMAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM
HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2012 at 10:00 AM**

Present at the meeting:

Chairman Mitch Weisz
Arbitrator Milton Black
Arbitrator Douglas Holland
Velisha Haddox, Office of the Governor

Present by telephone:

Commissioner Mario Basurto
Commissioner David Gore
Robert Hanaford, Attorney, Robert H. Hanaford, Ltd

IWCC staff present at the meeting were:

Carolyn Parks, Executive Director of the Commission
Ron Rascia, General Counsel
Dennie Michelle Zankel, Deputy General Counsel
Lola Dada-Olley, Deputy General Counsel

Chairman Mitch Weisz called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present. There was a motion by Arbitrator Holland, seconded by Arbitrator Black, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the meeting held on July 31, 2012.

Next, Executive Director Carolyn Parks reported on communications received since the last meeting of the Board. Ms. Parks indicated that very few "complaints" had been communicated to the Commission and there have been no walk-in complaints. Most of the communications that she had received were phone calls with no follow-up contact. These communications did not involve the conduct of Arbitrators or Commissioners. They involved issues such as the accommodating petitioners regarding requested changes for hearing sites, or issues more appropriately directed to Central Management Services. Cases that involved other state agencies were rerouted back to the Governor's Office of Citizen Action.

There was a complaint filed by a petitioner's spouse against an arbitrator. She alleged that the arbitrator's medical condition at the time of hearing rendered that arbitrator incompetent to make a decision in her husband's case and that the decision should be vacated. She further alleged that the decision of Commission panel that affirmed the decision of the Arbitrator should also be rendered moot. The petitioner's case is currently pending on appeal in circuit court.

General Counsel Ron Rascia recommended the formal complaint be reviewed by the Commission legal department to determine whether the complaint states a claim within the jurisdiction of the Commission Review Board and prepare a formal response to the Complainant. The consensus of the board was that as the decision is currently under review with the circuit court and that the arbitrator is no longer at the Commission, there is no further remedy the Commission can offer and no further review by the Commission Review Board was necessary.

Discussion was further had as to whether placing Complaint forms online would stream-line the process to better allow the Commission Review Board to address Complaints. Chairman Weisz also suggested that guidelines explaining how to make such a complaint should also be placed online.

There was a motion by Velisha Haddox, seconded by Arbitrator Holland, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.