

**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 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM**

Present at the meeting:

Chairman Michael Latz
Mario Basurto
David Gore
Joann Fratianni

Present by phone:

Velisha Haddox

Not present at the meeting:

Robert Hanaford
Milton Black

IWCC staff present at the meeting were:

Carolyn Parks, Executive Director, IWCC
Dennie Michelle Mogensen, Deputy General Counsel

Chairman Michael Latz called the meeting to order at 10:03 am and noted that a quorum was present. There was a motion by Joann Fratianni and seconded by Mario Basurto and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from meetings held on July 17, 2014, with the notation that although Carolyn Parks was not at the meeting, she was at the office and available, and had been misinformed that the meeting of July 17, 2014, had been canceled due to lack of quorum.

Next, Chairman Latz addressed the item of old business. Every complaint he has seen are ones made previously and previously addressed by the board and/or general counsel. The Commission has been doing a great job. Since taking over as Chairman, Chairman Latz has gotten complaints against Arbitrators and Commissioners, but they are mainly that the parties are unhappy with the result, the process is too slow, the decision was late, and other complaints along those lines. There has not been an original complaint since he has been Chairman regarding improper conduct on the part of an Arbitrator or Commissioner.

Ms. Parks gave a report that there is not much going on in the way of incoming complaints. There have probably been approximately ten complaints that have come in, but all are along the lines of Petitioners complaining that they are not able to get the medical treatment they need. There are no pending complaints against the WCC, Arbitrators or Commissioners. Arbitrator Fratianni brought up the issue of 19(b) and 8(a) motions. Neither is a quick process and she tries to talk to the attorneys and parties to try and get resolution even before a decision is rendered. She tries to get those who need medical attention the treatment they need, but these are tough cases and she does not know what can be done to expedite the process and get the cases through.

Ms. Parks mentioned the other types of complaints she receives are in terms of the ages of cases. One involved a case that had been pending since 2004 and the Petitioner was complaining that his attorney was trying to force settlement. Ms. Parks thought that the Commission should be tracking how many cases are 10+ years old.

Chairman Latz next addressed new business. Recently he has received complaints that the 19(b) motions no longer appear on the call sheets. It is his understanding that the process in Chicago has changed regarding how 19(b) motions are noticed and heard, and he has received a Complaint that an Arbitrator refused to hear a 19(b) motion based on improper notice. Chairman Latz assigned Carolyn Parks to investigate how the process has changed and to track the mechanics of what happens from the moment a 19(b) motion is filed until hearing.

There was a motion by Commissioner Basurto, seconded by Commissioner Gore, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 am.