



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

Judges' Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2024

The following Judges were in attendance: Stephen M. Morelli, Chairperson, Scott A. Barton, Peter C. Mlynarczyk, Daniel E. Dilzer, David W. Schoolcraft, Brenda D. Jannotta, Carolyn M. Colangelo, William J. Watson III, Maureen E. Driscoll, Soline M. Oslena, Zachary M. Delaney, Shanique D. Fenlator, and Benjamin Blake.

The following Workers' Compensation Commission staff were in attendance: Marie Gallo-Hall, Madeleine Lemieux, Vincent Flynn, Terri Miro, Selena Almedina, and Richard Eighme.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Stephen M. Morelli at 9:30 AM.

I. Introductions

Chairperson Morelli called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

II. Items for Review:

• **Calculating AWW/BCR**

Judges discussed the use of date of disability vs. date of injury for VA calculations.

• **Special Reports on Contested Claims**

Chairperson Morelli discussed an upcoming Memorandum which would establish a maximum fee allowed for a causation opinion or PPD Rating on a denied claim.

• **Psych Protocols**

Chairperson Morelli discussed a group of psychiatric providers who have a trial ongoing to implement pain assessment and treatment protocols for initial psych evaluations.

• **Wage Statements for VAs**

Chairperson Morelli discussed a memorandum being drafted regarding the inclusion of wage statements for Voluntary Agreements.

• **Medical Providers**

Chairperson Morelli discussed medical providers who participate in the workers' compensation system and explained that there is not a set list.

- **Vendors Finding Employment for Light Duty Employees**

Chairperson Morelli discussed the increase practice of employers and insurers using third party companies to seek light duty employment for employees. The practice and potential issues that could arise were discussed by the Judges.

- **Interns**

Chairperson Morelli announced that interns are allowed for WCC and Judges should contact Marie if they are interested in receiving further guidance.

- **Personnel Updates**

Chairperson Morelli provided updates on personnel matters including that WCC would be hiring a paralegal for the New Haven Office.

- **IT Updates**

Chairperson Morelli, Marie Gallo-Hall, and Manager of Research and Planning, Rich Eighme, provided updates on information technology matters including:

- The development and deployment of an update which would allow for WCC's claim management system to automatically link certain workers' compensation claims.
- The success of the GovQA information request system which WCC has used to complete over 4,000 requests since September 15, 2023.
- WCC's work on procuring a service to receive certain claim forms electronically.
- WCC's work on a SharePoint site dedicated to providing WCC employees resources and information in one, convenient location.

Chairperson Morelli also provided information on upcoming form updates.

- **Legislative Updates**

Chairman Morelli and Marie Gallo-Hall provided updates on the 2024 Legislative Session.

III. Other Business and Adjournment

Chairman Morelli shared with the Judges that it was unlikely that WCC would receive an interim appointment to replace Judge Segarra. He empathized the need to track hearing numbers and to let him know if additional assistance was needed if backlogs develop.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.