

Workers' Compensation Board

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2018

Thursday, January 11, 2018

I. Call to order

Workers' Compensation Director Marie Marx called the Board to order at 9:02 am on Thursday, January 11, 2018, in Anchorage, Alaska.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll call

Director Marx conducted roll call. The following Board members were present:

Brad Austin	Pamela Cline	Chuck Collins
Bradley Evans	Jacob Howdeshell	David Kester
Sarah Lefebvre	Togi Letuligasenoa	Linda Murphy
Donna Phillips	Nancy Shaw	Amy Steele
Brett Stubbs	Rick Traini	Pat Vollendorf
Robert Weel	Lake Williams	

Director Marx noted that members Aaron Plikat and Stacy Allen had resigned. Quorum was established.

Director Marx introduced senior staff present.

IV. Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the agenda was made by member Evans, and seconded by member Weel. The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to adopt the minutes from the October 5-6, 2017 regular Board Meeting was made by member Evans and seconded by member Murphy. The minutes were adopted without objection.

VI. Director's Report

Director Marx provided an overview of Division staffing, the various budget components within the Division, and the FY18 budget performance year-to-date.

Acting Chief of Adjudications Bill Soule reviewed the list of board designees and stated there were no new board designees to add to the list since the last board meeting. He also noted that Henry Tashjian is now a Hearing Officer II.

Break 9:54am-10:15am

Director Marx discussed the upcoming legislative session and the current pending legislation related to workers' compensation. The Division also intends to tackle improving the reemployment benefits program this coming session.

VII. Public Comment Period 10:15am- 11:15am

No one provided public comment.

VIII. Old Business

Laptops have been purchased for the purpose of Board hearings. When the laptops arrive, the Division will conduct a training for board members on the case management system, ICERS.

IX. New Business

The Board adopted a revised hearing calendar for 2018 and a hearing calendar for 2019, with full Board meetings on January 11-12, 2018, May 3-4, 2018, October 4-5, 2018, January 10-11, 2019, May 2-3, 2019, and October 3-4, 2019. A motion to adopt the revised 2018 hearing calendar and 2019 hearing calendar was made by member Traini and seconded by member Collins. The hearing calendars were adopted without objection.

Lunch Break 11:34am-1:01pm

X. 2017 Case Law Year in Review: Bill Soule, Acting Chief of Adjudications

Acting Chief of Adjudications Bill Soule reviewed recent decisions from the Alaska Supreme Court and the Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission.

Break 2:32pm - 2:47pm

XI. 2017 Case Law Year in Review Continued

Acting Chief of Adjudications Bill Soule continued review of recent decisions from the Alaska Supreme Court and the Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission.

Meeting Adjourned 3:11pm