

OKLAHOMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 20, 2023 2:00 P.M.

STATEMENT OF OKLAHOMA OPEN MEETING ACT COMPLIANCE

Notice of this Regular Business Meeting was filed with the Secretary of State's office in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

The agenda was posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act. It was posted on the Commission website and at 1915 N. Stiles Ave., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Commission's principal office.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2023, REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
OKLAHOMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The members of the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission met at 1915 N. Stiles Ave., in the En Banc Courtroom, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on July 20, 2023.

Members present: Chairman Jordan Russell, Commissioner Tilly and Commissioner Scott Biggs.

Others Present: Ian Steedman, WCC; Alexander Watkins, WCC; Tranna Fischer, WCC; Sharon Smith, WCC; Collin Fowler, WCC; Andrea Delling, WCC; Christopher Lindsey-Outlaw, LegisOK.

Chairman Russell expressed appreciation for those in attendance. After the roll was taken, Chairman Russell found a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Minutes**

The drafted minutes of the June 15, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Commission will be considered for approval.

Commissioner Biggs moved to approve the Minutes of the June 15, 2023 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Tilly seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Chairman Russell, Commissioner Tilly, and Commissioner Biggs.

The motion carried.

2. **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Consent Agenda for Travel Vouchers Currently Outstanding**

Title 85A O.S. § 23 states, [a]ny Commissioner or employee of the Commission shall be entitled to receive his or her necessary traveling expenses as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act. The expenses shall be certified by the person who incurred them and shall be allowed and paid on presentation of vouchers approved by the Commission.”

All travel vouchers listed within the Consent Agenda were made available to each Commissioner prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Biggs moved to approve the travel vouchers. Commissioner Tilly seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Chairman Russell, Commissioner Tilly, and Commissioner Biggs.

The motion carried.

3. **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve, Modify, or Cancel the Contract with Lowery and Associates**

Lowery and Associates are in the 4th of a 5-year contract with the Commission for Court Reporters for Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The company proposed a substantial price increase in the hourly rate, commencing immediately. The Commission considered approving the rate increase or possible other action, such as giving notice to cancel the contract and going out for bid through the RFP process.

Andrea Delling was recognized, presented, and answered questions of the Commission.

Commissioner Biggs moved to send out a RFP for court reporting. Commissioner Tilly seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Chairman Russell, Commissioner Tilly, and Commissioner Biggs.

The motion carried.

4. **Request and Possible Action to Approve the Distribution of Surplus Monies to Members of the Metropolitan Health Care Self Insured Group (#75220)**

Rule 810:25-11-10 of the Workers’ Compensation Commission provides that any distributions of surplus funds back to the members of a group self-insurance association shall be subject to the prior approval of the Commission.

The Metropolitan Health Care Self Insured Group (“the Group”) requested to make a partial distribution in the amount of \$647,100.00. The distribution is payable from the surplus of the following fiscal fund years.

PLAN YEAR	CURRENT DISTRIBUTION REQUEST AMOUNT
2013-14	\$71,900.00
2014-15	\$71,900.00
2015-16	\$71,900.00
2016-17	\$71,900.00
2017-18	\$71,900.00
2018-19	\$71,900.00
2019-20	\$71,900.00
2020-21	\$71,900.00
2021-22	\$71,900.00

The Group submitted the most recent audited financial statements and actuarial review, as of March 2023 & May 2023 respectively, as part of their request.

Sharon Smith was recognized, presented, and answered questions of the Commission.

Commissioner Biggs moved to accept the recommendation and provide distribution in the amount of \$647,100.00. Commissioner Tilly seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Chairman Russell, Commissioner Tilly, and Commissioner Biggs.

The motion carried.

5. **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Applications for Appointment as Certified Workers' Compensation Mediator**

Title 85A O.S. § 110 tasks the Commission with certifying individuals who are eligible and qualified to serve as mediators. An individual may be certified as a mediator if the applicants meets the qualifications as required by the Commission in Section 110.

The Commission considered the certified mediator applications presented at the meeting, which has been vetted by the Legal Operations Director and recommended for approval.

Ian Steedman was recognized, presented, and answered questions of the Commission.

Commissioner Tilly moved to approve the certified workers' compensation mediator applications. Commissioner Biggs seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Chairman Russell, Commissioner Tilly, and Commissioner Biggs.

The motion carried.

6. **CaseOK Update and Discussion**

Ian Steedman was recognized, presented, and answered questions of the Commission.

No action was taken.

7. **Discussion on 2024 Medical Fee Schedule Update**

Commissioner Biggs presented and answered questions.

No action was taken.

8. **Legislative Update and Discussion**

Commissioner Biggs presented and answered questions.

No action was taken.

9. **New Business**

“[A]ny matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of the posting.” 25 O.S. § 311.

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT.....Chairman Russell

Commissioner Tilly moved to adjourn. Commissioner Biggs seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Chairman Russell, Commissioner Tilly, and Commissioner Biggs.

The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.