

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, 100 WEST RANDOLPH STREET
CHAIRMAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM
HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2014 at 1:00 PM**

Present at the meeting:

Chairman Michael Latz
Richard Alesky
John Carpenter
Michael Carrigan
David Halffield
William Lowry

Present by telephone:

Mitch Abbett
Aaron Anderson
Phil Gruber
Mark Denzler
Mark Prince
Sean Stott
David Vite

IWCC staff present at the meeting:

Ron Rascia, General Counsel
Kim Janas, Secretary of the Commission

Chairman Michael Latz called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present. There was a motion by Mr. Aleksy, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 16, 2013.

First, Chairman Latz asked Kim Janas to provide a legislative update. Ms. Janas reported to the Board members that many House Bills had been filed and that she was in the process of reviewing them for any relevant bills related to the workers' compensation system or the operations of the Commission. Chairman Latz added that he was also reviewing draft model legislation regarding the control and regulation of opioids prescribed for work-related injuries. He stated that from his time speaking with officials at other workers' compensation agencies across the country, issues regarding the abuse of opioids have been the subject of regulation in other jurisdictions. At this point, Chairman Latz wants his staff to stay informed about the issue and review the model legislation.

Since there was no matters of Old Business raised by the Board members, Chairman Latz moved on to New Business. Chairman Latz gave a brief Commission update. The Commission has welcomed its new appointees, Commissioner Steve Mathis and new Arbitrator Jessica Hegarty. Both Commissioner Mathis and Arbitrator Hegarty have already started their training at the Commission. Now with the Commission fully appointed, the final composition of the Commission panels has been announced and is posted on the Commission website.

Finally, Chairman Latz and his executive staff met with EC Ortiz audit team for their final conference on the most recent state-mandated performance and financial audit. Once a final version of the audit report is produced, Chairman Latz stated that he would provide a copy to each of the Board members for their review

There was a motion by Mr. Denzler, seconded by Mr. Lowry, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.