

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
J. JOSEPH GARRAHY COMPLEX  
ONE DORRANCE PLAZA  
PROVIDENCE, RI

December 10, 2025

MEMBERS

(\* Denotes absence)

George Nee, Chair  
Chief Judge Robert M. Ferrieri  
Chief Judge George E. Healy, Jr. (ret.)  
Judge Steven A. Minicucci  
Jack DeGiovanni, Esq.  
Director Elizabeth Kelleher Dwyer\*  
Director Jonathan Womer\*  
Raymond Coia  
Steven Giarrusso\*  
Alicia Hargreaves  
Ian Ridlon\*  
Laureen Grebien  
Jose Raul Figueroa\*  
Senator Frank Ciccone\*  
Representative Arthur J. Corvese  
Director Matthew Weldon\*  
Brian Spero\*

Designee Beth Vollucci  
Designee Lynne Dupont

Designee Maryanne Kucia

Designee Kathy McElroy  
Kevin Flood

1) **Approval of the April 29, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made by Raymond Coia, seconded by Chief Ferrieri, to approve the minutes of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council meeting held April 29, 2025. All in favor. So moved.

2) **Review of 2025 Omnibus Bill passed by Legislature**

Chief Ferrieri provided an overview of 2025 –S1060 Substitute A / 2025 – H 6319 SUBSTITUTE A, as signed by the Governor June 23, 2025.

3) **Committee Reports**

a. **Update of the Subcommittee Regarding Workers' Compensation Issues**

Co-chairs of the subcommittee, Jack De Giovanni and Kevin Flood proposed a separate subcommittee be formed to give scarring and loss of use the focus it requires. No objections were voiced. Jack De Giovanni and Kevin Flood were named co-chairs of the new sub-committee on scarring and loss of use. Judge Minicucci will be asked to sit on the committee, while Chief Ferrieri offered a more limited role.

Referring back to the original subcommittee, Kevin and Jack will be reshaping the committee's personnel and scheduling a meeting at the beginning of January. Issues such as Burden of Proof from Total to Partial and Indemnity Checks will be carried over into the new session.

Chief Ferrieri offered a few considerations to be discussed that have been brought to his attention including:

- Memorializing flow- from injuries
- Depositions of court-appointed impartial
- Payments made without an agreement (Statute vs. EDI reporting requirements)
- Administrative Fund Reimbursements (payments made under a pretrial order that is later overturned)
- Arrigan Center provision for immunity for the treaters

Discussion ensued.

4) **Update of the Subcommittee to Improve the Arrigan Center Building**

Although no updates from the Director in regard to the Aquatic Center therapy pool were provided, Kathy McElroy noted the pool, roof and HVAC system remain areas of concern.

5) **Old Business**

**Indirect Cost Recovery Efforts Update**

After years of advocating and with special thanks to Speaker Shekarchi and the Senate President the Workers Compensation Administrative Fund has been successfully removed from the Indirect Cost Recovery program.

6) **New Business**

a. **Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund Reimbursements**

Discussed under Committee Reports.

b. **First Report of Injury**

Discussed under Committee Reports as payments made without an agreement (Statute vs. EDI reporting requirements)

7) **Announcements**

Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Educational Conference 2026

April 9-10, 2026

Renaissance Providence Downtown Hotel

8) **Public Comment**

Mike St. Pierre, Esq. provided reference to SU-2024-0232-M.P., Sean M. O'Connell v. Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island, a case involving a question of statutory interpretation and the interplay between several related statutory provisions, including G.L. §§ 45-19-1, et seq., 45-21.2-9, and 36-10-14

Discussion ensued as to the differences between the Workers' Compensation Court Rules of Practice and Superior Court's Administrative Review utilization.

9) **Scheduling of Next Meeting**

To be scheduled at the call of the Chair.

10) **Proposed Agenda for Next Meeting**

None

11) **Adjournment**

There being no further business brought before the Council, the meeting was as adjourned by Chairman Nee.

Approved