



## MASSACHUSETTS WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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VICE-CHAIR

MAUREEN O'CONNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MAURA HEALEY  
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KIM DRISCOLL  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**Present:** John Pulgini, Michael Hess, Teri McHugh, Kevin Snyder, Patrick Walsh, Stephen Falvey, Michael Kelly, Bernard Mulholland, Michael Ackland, Nancy Segreve; DIA Director Sheri Bowles, Director of Administration Bill Taupier, Senior Judge Omar Hernández, General Counsel Philip Imbrescia, WCTF Director Holly Anderson, Director of Investigations Jon Solomon, Director of Operations Jeanne Natale, DIA - Maryann Brunton, Shamia Monroe, Vinnie Lopes; Attorney Patrick Francomano, Attorney AnaMari DeGaravilla; Daniel Judson – WCRIBMA, Cara Toomey - WCRIBMA; Julie Bowler - Atlantic Charter; Isabel Hernandez - Healthe Systems; Cory Wedding - MyMatrix; Caleb Huntington – Division of Insurance; Christopher Stark – Insurance Federation; Mary-Beth McGrath – Human Resources Division; and Maureen O'Connell.

### **AGENDA**

**Date:** March 11, 2026  
**Location:** Department of Industrial Accidents - **via WebEx**  
Lafayette City Center | 2 Avenue de  
Lafayette, Boston, MA 02111  
**Time:** 9:00 A.M.

- **CHAIR WELCOME**  
Roll Call
- **ACTION ITEMS**
  - Minutes – February 11, 2026
- **DIA UPDATE**  
Director's Update – Sheri Bowles, Director  
Judicial Update - Senior Judge Omar Hernández, Senior Judge
  - Conference | Hearing | Reviewing Board Queue
  - Impartial Medical Exams | PhysiciansVital Statistics - Bill Taupier, Director of Administration
  - Cases Filed with DIA | Enforcement and Compliance
  - Workers' Compensation Trust Fund | Personnel Update
- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**  
Legislation

Chair John Pulgini began the meeting at 9:00am with a roll call (9 members total - 6 voting members present, no quorum). Without a quorum, the Council was not able to vote on the February 11, 2026 minutes.

Chair Pulgini provided an update on the February 19, 2026 meeting with Chair Pulgini, Vice Chair Todd Johnson and members of EOHHS about the workers' compensation medical reimbursement rate. They are working with an outside consulting firm and should have an update in the next month.

Without questions, the floor was directed to Director Sheri Bowles.

Director Sheri Bowles indicated that the agency numbers look good. The DIA Springfield office is on target for occupancy in mid-late April. The Commonwealth's accounting system has migrated from MMARS to Mosaic and there are some issues that are being worked out, causing delays in the payment system. Director Bowles added to Chair Pulgini's update on the February 19, 2026 meeting with EOHHS – they are working on draft regulations hoping to have a public comment period in the fall of 2026 with implementation of new regulations in July 2027.

Without questions for Director Bowles, the floor was directed to Senior Judge Omar Hernández.

Senior Judge Omar Hernández confirmed that the conciliation numbers are consistent thanks to Dele, his staff and the members of the Massachusetts Bar Association. Judge Maureen Counihan will be sworn in this week and will start in the DIA Boston office on Monday March 16, 2026 for training. Senior Judge Hernández expects a smooth transition; they're a wonderful candidate and will excel in this position. Once a new date has been secured for the DIA Springfield office, Senior Judge Hernández will send out notices about the new address. As Director Bowles mentioned, the numbers will be adjusted once the Mosaic system has been updated. With respect to the pending hearing decisions, the number has increased since last month, but they are in good shape, waiting for third-party decisions

Without questions for Senior Judge Omar Hernández, the floor was directed to Bill Taupier, Director of Administration.

The Monthly Statistical Report Card can be found under Publications on the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council's website.

Mr. Taupier presented the Monthly Statistical Report Card slide deck for the Department of Industrial Accident (DIA) units. **Note:** The Commonwealth's accounting system has migrated from MMARS to Mosaic and there are some issues that are being worked out, causing delays in the payment system. Some of the numbers will adjust at next month's iteration.

With respect to **Conciliations**, in January 417 cases were resolved (55.4%) and 417 were referred to conference. The average waiting period for a conference is **8-32** weeks. With

respect to the February 2026 **Conference** queue: 973 and **Hearing** queue: 1,793. **Pending** hearing decisions: 12 for the month of January 2026. **Review Board** inventory: 15, First Report of Injury (**FROI**) filings: 2,552. **Compliance** and enforcement for FY'26: 26,431 field checks, 77 Stop Work Orders (**Investigations Unit is down 4 positions**) and 3,546 people are covered by workers' compensation insurance. Workers' Compensation **Trust Fund**: 73 uninsured injuries, \$3,777,457 in payments against open claims and \$738,640 recovered by the Civil Litigation. **Personnel**: 189 employees.

Council Member Stephen Falvey asked about the decrease in investigators (3 retirements and 1 leave) and to inform the Council when the positions are posted. Mr. Taupier confirmed.

Without questions for Mr. Taupier, the floor was directed to Maureen O'Connell, Executive Director.

Executive Director Maureen O'Connell provided an update to the Council. Since our last meeting, updated legislation from the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development: **H 1298** disfigurement extension order filed for 3/18, 2026; **H 2122** workers' compensation protection (COVID-19) 3/5 study order; **H 2131** fairness in workers' compensation extension order filed for 3/18; **H 2133** workers' compensation extension order filed for 3/18; **H 2169** workers' compensation medical cannabis study order 3/5/2026; **H 3995** disfigurement study order 3/5; **S 1355, S 1355, and S 1367** all heat-related extension order 3/2/2026. We will continue to follow legislation and update at next meeting. If you'd like a copy of the excel spreadsheet please reach out to me by email after the meeting.

I'd like to thank the Workers' Compensation Research Institute (WCRI) for the amazing content at their Issues and Research conference on March 3 and March 4, 2026 in Boston MA. As we know, the workers' compensation system is a relatively stable one and with the health care ecosystem evolving, the question remains - how long will it remain stable and how AI will be used to support the system. An informative conference if you have the chance to attend.

Without questions for Executive Director O'Connell, Chair Pulgini ended the meeting at 9:16am (no quorum).

**Next Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for April 8, 2026**