

Workers' Compensation Board
Meeting Minutes
October 23-24, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Charles Collins called the meeting to order at 9:00 am in Anchorage, Alaska. Participation was available in person and via video conference.

II. ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present, constituting a quorum:

Brad Austin	Pamela Cline	John Corbett	Sara Faulkner
Bronson Frye	Anthony Ladd	Sarah Lefebvre	Debbie White
Lake Williams	Brian Zematis		

Members Randy Beltz and Mike Dennis were excused.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Member Austin motioned to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Member White. Member Lefebvre noted topics were missing under Old Business from the May 15, 2025 meeting. Member Austin amended the motion to include the items, and Member White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Member White moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Austin. The minutes were adopted without objection.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Collins provided an update on board terms and vacancies, pending legislation, emerging issues, and revenue trends. He also presented the Division's plan to comply with Administrative Order 360.

Alexis Hildebrand, Administrative Operations Manager, provided staffing and budget updates.

Break 10:03 - 10:18

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Trudy – Green Acres LLC (Home Health Care provider in Palmer)

- Expressed appreciation for efforts to clarify and simplify workers' compensation regulations.
- Noted challenges navigating the system as a small home-healthcare provider supporting a single quadriplegic client.
- Identified confusion surrounding the medical fee schedule and a lack of clear procedural guidance.
- Encouraged streamlining regulations, improving transparency of internal processes, and providing more accessible information on communication and required procedures.

Adam Fowler – MyMatrixx (Written Comment)

- Described MyMatrixx's role as a pharmacy benefit manager serving insurers, self-insured employers, and TPAs.

- Recommended removing outdated language in 8 AAC 45.081(e) that references the 2009 Alaska Medicaid Preferred Drug List.
- Supported use of evidence-based medicine and drug formularies and offered assistance if the Division pursues adoption of a current formulary.

Steven Peters – Enlyte (Written Comment)

- Described Enlyte’s role operating a large property-and-casualty–focused provider network and supporting regulatory compliance.
- Recommended allowing employers or insurers some ability to direct injured workers to trusted medical providers to improve care coordination and reduce system friction costs.
- Noted that many states balance worker choice with coordinated care and encouraged the Board to consider and potentially advocate for statutory amendments to AS 23.30.095.

VII. ANNUAL REPORT

Velma Thomas, Program Coordinator, reviewed statistics from the Division’s 2024 annual report, which compiles data submitted by insurers and self-insured employers under AS 23.30.155(m).

Lunch break 12:02 - 1:30

Velma Thomas presented statistics on the Benefits Guaranty Fund and Second Injury Fund.

Michele Wall-Rood, Chief of the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), provided an overview of SIU activities and performance.

Break 2:57 - 3:15

Carrie Craig, Workers’ Compensation Officer 1, reviewed SIME statistics.

Member White moved to adjourn for the day, seconded by Member Austin.

Adjourn 4:00 pm

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

VIII. CALL TO ORDER

Director Charles Collins called the meeting to order at 9:00 am in Anchorage, Alaska. The following Board members were present, constituting a quorum:

Brad Austin	Pamela Cline	John Corbett	Sara Faulkner
Bronson Frye	Anthony Ladd	Sarah Lefebvre	Debbie White
Lake Williams	Brian Zematis		

Members Randy Beltz and Mike Dennis were excused.

IX. ANNUAL REPORT CONTINUED

William Soule, Workers' Compensation Hearing Officer II, presented notable Decisions and Orders from the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board, the Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission, and the Alaska Supreme Court.

Breaks 9:37 – 9:49, 10:30 – 10:42; Lunch 12:04 – 1:30

Director Collins reviewed the performance of the Reemployment Benefits Program.

Danean Tedford with RefMed introduced herself as the Division's new fee schedule contract associate.

X. OLD BUSINESS

8 AAC 45.083 – Medical Treatment and Service Fees

Member Lefebvre moved to approve the repeal and readoption of 8 AAC 45.083; Member Austin seconded. The Board compared the Department of Law's revised version to the version approved by the Board on August 22, 2025. The motion failed unanimously. The Board requested that the Dept of Law attend the January meeting to discuss the regulation.

Break 3:00 – 3:14

Member Lefebvre moved to approve 8 AAC 45.083 as presented on screen; Member Austin seconded. Member Lefebvre amended the motion to update the January 1 dates to March 1 in the proposed regulation; Member Austin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Lefebvre moved to approve Resolution 25-01, as presented in the handout; Member White seconded. During discussion, several Board members departed, and a quorum was no longer present. The remaining members continued discussion and expressed unanimous support for the resolution by voice vote, but no official Board action was taken due to lack of quorum.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Member Austin moved to adjourn, seconded by Member Corbett. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 4:20pm