

A G E N D A

SOUTH CAROLINA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

1333 Main Street, 5th Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
December 16, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Meeting to be held in Hearing Room A

The Commission's Business Meeting will be broadcast live on the Internet via Zoom. Interested parties may access the broadcast at the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8249297108?pwd=akcwMkMxSnYzQWFxdEs4V2x6UWtyUT09&omn=82968644633>

Meeting ID: 824 929 7108

Passcode: 073988

This meeting agenda was posted prior to the meeting and proper advance notice was made to all concerned parties in compliance with requirements in the Freedom of Information Act.

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|---|---|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER | CHAIRMAN BECK |
| 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF BUSINESS MEETING
OF DECEMBER 16, 2024 | CHAIRMAN BECK |
| 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2024 (Tab 1) | CHAIRMAN BECK |
| 4. RECOGNITION - EMPLOYEES' BIRTHDAYS, SERVICE AWARDS | CHAIRMAN BECK |
| 5. APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL TO SELF-INSURE (Tab 2)
A. Self-Insurance Department Report | MS. BROWN |
| 6. DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Administrative Services (Tab 3)
Financial Report (Tab 4)
Information Services (Tab 5)
Insurance and Medical Services (Tab 6)
Claims (Tab 7)
Judicial (Tab 8) | MS.MCREE
MS.MCREE
MR. PLUSS
MR. DUCOTE
MS. SPANN
MS. BRACY |
| 7. DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
Monthly Report (Tab 9) | MR. CANNON |
| 8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Tab 10) | MR. CANNON |
| 9. OLD BUSINESS | CHAIRMAN BECK |
| 10. NEW BUSINESS
APPROVAL OF AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE - 2025 (Tab 11) | CHAIRMAN BECK |
| 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION | CHAIRMAN BECK |
| 12. ADJOURNMENT | CHAIRMAN BECK |

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TAB 1

THE
SOUTH CAROLINA WORKERS'
COMPENSATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2024

A Business Meeting of the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission was held in Hearing Room A of the Workers' Compensation Commission on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting agenda was posted prior to the meeting and proper advance notice was made to all concerned parties in compliance with requirements in the Freedom of Information Act. The following Commissioners were present:

T. SCOTT BECK, CHAIRMAN
GENE MCCASKILL, VICE CHAIR
CYNTHIA DOOLEY, COMMISSIONER
R. MICHEAL CAMPBELL, II, COMMISSIONER
MELODY JAMES, COMMISSIONER
AISHA TAYLKOR, COMMISSIONER

Present also were Keith Roberts, General Counsel; Christy Brown, Self-Insurance Director; Amy Bracy, Judicial Director; Kristen Mcree, Administrative Services Director; Kris Pluss, IT Director; Francina Johnson, IT Consultant; Chris Crump, IT Consultant; Jordan Mays, Staff Attorney; Eric Baxley, Staff Attorney; Jeannette Gray, HR Assistant; and Michael Montgomery; Montgomery Willard, LLC. Stacy Cunningham participated by Zoom.

Chairman Beck called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA

Commissioner McCaskill moved that the agenda be approved. Commissioner Dooley seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – BUSINESS MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2024

Commissioner McCaskill moved that the minutes of the Business Meeting of October 14, 2024 be approved. Commissioner Dooley seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

No general announcements.

Recognition of Agency employees Birthdays for the month of November 2024.

SELF-INSURANCE

Ms. Brown presented her report in written form. There were no questions from the Commission.

Self-insurance applications were presented by Christy Brown, Self-Insurance Director. **Thirteen (13)** prospective members of **Two (2)** funds was presented to the Commission for approval. The applications were:

Palmetto Timber Fund

Johnson Swamp Timber LLC
Northside Contractor LLC
Safe Logging Inc.

South Carolina Home Builders SIF

Dirigo Builders LLC
Ecological Sales & Installation LLC
Estate Land Realty LLC
Greg Lilly Roofing & Restoration
Homebase Contracting LLC
New Old LLC
New Old Land Co LLC
QC&D Enterprises LLC
Solid Rock Grading LLC
Taylor Coastal Construction Inc.

After examination of the applications, it was determined that each complied with the Commission's requirements, and each was recommended for approval.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve the applications to self-insure. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion to approve the applications to self-insure, and the motion was approved.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Each Department report was submitted in written form and included in the Commission's agenda booklets.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Ms. Mcree presented the Human Resources and the Financial Report in written form. There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Mr. Pluss presented the IT report in written form. There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

INSURANCE AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Ducote presented his report in written form. There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

CLAIMS

Ms. Spann presented her report in written form. There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

JUDICIAL

Ms. Bracy presented her report in written form. There were no questions from the Commission.

VOCABATIONAL REHABILITATION

Mr. Cannon presented the Vocational Rehabilitation report. There were no questions from the Commission.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cannon submitted his report in written form. There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the 2025 Full Commission Business Agenda Calendar.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the calendar. Commissioner James seconded the motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation matters. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:57 a.m.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to leave Executive Session at 11:35 a.m. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to accept the changes on Item 1. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. There was no action taken on Item 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Campbell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

The November 12, 2024 meeting of the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Reported December 9, 2024.
Arnisha Keitt
Executive Assistant

TAB 3

State of South Carolina

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Workers' Compensation Commission

To: Gary Cannon, SCWCC Executive Director
From: Kristen McRee, Director of Administrative Services
Date: December 16, 2024
Subject: Administrative Department November 2024 Full Commission Report

This report summarizes the Human Resources, Procurement, Finance, and Budget, initiatives during November 2024.

I. Human Resources

Hiring Recruitment & Retention

The recruitment requisitions for a program assistant position in the Judicial Department has been closed. The position was reposted in November and the successful candidate was selected and scheduled to join the Commission at the beginning of December. In the coming month, the office will work to close the recruitment and complete the necessary onboarding insurance and SCEIS transactions.

Recruitment efforts continue for both an ombudsman (public information coordinator II) to support the Executive Director's Office and an insurance analyst to support the Insurance and Medical Services Department. Both positions were posted during the month of November and applications were sent to department heads for review. Interviews are scheduled to begin in December.

Administrative Services has also begun coordinating with the Office of the Inspector General to draft an employee satisfaction survey as required by the House Legislative Oversight Committee's recent report. Draft questions will be submitted to the OIG mid-December with a target survey release date in early January 2025.

In addition to the recruitment activities referenced above, Administrative Services also participated in a Department of Administrative LinkedIn Learning Quarterly meeting, a PEBA Employer's Advocacy Group meeting, and a Social Committee meeting to plan Thanksgiving and Christmas events for staff.

II. Procurement

The solicitation for armed security services was published in October. A site visit for interested vendors was scheduled for November 13, 2024. There was moderate vendor participation during the site visit. Vendors were given a tour of the Commission facilities, and the contract requirements were reviewed.

The office continues to participate in the procurement of legal case management software. The purchase order was received on November 1, 2024. The legal department and administrative services continue to negotiate terms and conditions with the vendor. We anticipate scheduling trainings and completing the purchase once the terms are finalized.

During the month of November, administrative services assisted with obtaining competitive quotes for moderate office space renovations. The Commission has obtained two quotes from vendors and continues to coordinate additional site visits for other competitive cost estimates.

The office continues to participate in other procurements such as the ordering of new furniture (lobby chairs, Commissioner's chairs, and related items). Regarding the Commissioner's Chairs, an additional chair sample has arrived and is available for inspection.

III. Finance & Budget

The office continues to participate in meetings with the Department of Administration to discuss the Commission's budget. The office prepared submissions to the Executive Budget Office requesting a minor realignment to the Commission's master budget and input the information into the budget development system. In the coming weeks, the office will assess agency cost centers and functional areas and determine whether additional changes are necessary for the next fiscal year.

IV. Privacy

The office is currently evaluating the Commission's shredding practices and related services. A few state contracts for such services were identified and participating vendors were contacted to provide additional information regarding services and cost estimates. In the coming months, the Commission will update its privacy policies to provide additional guidance relating to the appropriate destruction of personally identifiable information.

TAB 4

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Workers' Compensation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Kristen McRee, Director Administrative Services

DATE: December 16, 2024

RE: FINANCIAL REPORT – FY Period ending November 30, 2024

Attached is the Budget vs. Actual Report for the General Fund and Earmarked Fund for the fiscal year period ending November 30, 2024. The benchmark for this period is 42%.

Expenditures – General Fund – Annual Budget \$6,292,087

The total expenditure for the General Fund year-to-date is \$1,245,527 or 20% of the annual budget as shown on Page 2. Page 3 and 4 reflects the balances of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the IT System Modernization Project. The balance for the IT System Project on page three has decreased 4.4% to \$1,619,307 from its original balance of \$1,695,084 as a result of expenses related to the IT Legacy System upgrades. The balance of the non-recurring appropriation funds for the IT System Project remains stable at \$5,000,000.

Expenditures – Earmarked Fund – Annual Budget \$5,607,845

The Earmarked Fund (38440000) total expenditures year-to-date are \$1,911,794 which is 34% of budget as shown on Page 7.

Revenues – Earmarked Annual Budget \$2,787,979

The Commission posted \$1,384,693 in Earmarked Fund operating revenues year-to-date, which is 50% of the annual budget.

Self-Insurance Tax Funds

The Commission is no longer authorized to retain the self-insurance tax funds collected. All funds are remitted to the general fund. The amount collected in the period ending August 31, 2024 is \$217,866.

South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission
Budget v. Actual Report
FY 2025 As of 11/30/2024
42% of year elapsed

Fund 10010000 - GENERAL FUND - Operating Items

Administration		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501015	DIRECTOR	\$ 153,737	\$ 72,048	47%		\$ 81,689	\$ 64,057	42%
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 55,125		0%		\$ 55,125		
512001	OTHER OPERATING	\$ 3,155,303						
	Total OTHER OPERATING:	\$ 3,155,303				\$ 3,155,303		
Total Administration:		\$ 3,364,165	\$ 72,048	2%		\$ 3,292,117	\$ 64,057	2%

Inform. services		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
503000	SUPPLY AND MATERIAL		\$ 42		3,168			
	Total OTHER OPERATING:		\$ 42		\$ 3,168	\$ (3,211)		
Total Inform. services:			\$ 42		\$ 3,168	\$ (3,211)		

Claims		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 108,332	\$ 41,854	39%		\$ 66,478	\$ 37,212	34%
Total Claims:		\$ 108,332	\$ 41,854	39%		\$ 66,478	\$ 37,212	34%

Commissioners		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501026	CHAIRMAN	\$ 186,296	\$ 87,306	47%		\$ 98,990	\$ 77,623	42%
501033	COMMISSIONER	\$ 1,085,209	\$ 485,459	45%		\$ 599,750	\$ 452,170	42%
501050	TAXABLE SUBS	\$ 89,866	\$ 31,859	35%		\$ 58,007	\$ 32,309	36%
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 428,071	\$ 171,934	40%		\$ 256,137	\$ 161,546	38%
Total Commissioners:		1,789,442	776,558	43%		1,012,884	723,648	40%

Insurance & Medical		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 43,922	\$ 9,031	21%		\$ 34,891	\$ 15,625	36%
Total Insurance & Medical:		\$ 43,922	\$ 9,031	21%		\$ 34,891	\$ 15,625	36%

Judicial		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 31,539		0%		\$ 31,539		
512001	OTHER OPERATING	\$ 10,000						
503000	SUPPLY AND MATERIAL		\$ 4,000					
	Total OTHER OPERATING:	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,000	40%	\$ -	\$ 6,000		
Total Judicial:		\$ 41,539	\$ 4,000	10%	\$ -	\$ 37,539		

Employer Contributions		FY 2025					FY 2024	
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Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance		YTD Expenditures	% Used
513000	EMPLOYER CONTRIB	\$ 944,687	\$ 341,994	36%		\$ 735,237		\$ 313,475	33%
Total Employer Contributions:		\$ 944,687	\$ 341,994	36%		\$ 735,237		\$ 313,475	33%
Total GENERAL FUND - Operating Items		\$ 6,292,087	\$ 1,245,527	20%	\$ 3,168	\$ 5,043,392		\$ 1,154,016	18%

Fund 10010000 - GENERAL FUND - Special Items

IT System Project		FY 2025						FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance		YTD Expenditures	% Used
561000	Special Item	\$ 1,631,520	\$ 12,213	1%		\$ 1,619,307			
Total IT System Project:		\$ 1,631,520	\$ 12,213	1%		\$ 1,619,307			
Total GENERAL FUND - Special Items:		\$ 1,631,520	\$ 12,213			\$ 1,619,307			

Fund 10050023 - GF-NONRECUR APROP-23 - Special Items

IT System Project		FY 2025						FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance		YTD Expenditures	% Used
561000	Special Item	\$ 5,000,000		0%		\$ 5,000,000			
Total IT System Project:		\$ 5,000,000				\$ 5,000,000			
Total GF-NONRECUR APROP-23 - Special Items:		\$ 5,000,000				\$ 5,000,000			

Fund 38440000 - EARMARKED FUND

Administration		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 696,889	\$ 145,181	21%		\$ 551,708	\$ 87,705	13%
512001	OTHER OPERATING	\$ 2,205,907						
502000	CONTRACTUAL SVC		\$ 53,767		\$ 35,566		\$ 201,970	
503000	SUPPLY AND MATERIAL		\$ 21,086		\$ 43,271		\$ 47,133	
504000	FIXED CHGS AND CONT		\$ 208,212		\$ 345,104		\$ 189,429	
505000	TRAVEL		\$ 23,900		\$ 341		\$ 14,910	
	Total OTHER OPERATING:	\$ 2,205,907	\$ 306,965	14%	\$ 424,282	\$ 1,474,660	\$ 453,442	21%
Total Administration:		\$ 2,902,796	\$ 452,146	16%	\$ 424,282	\$ 2,026,368	\$ 541,147	19%

Inform. services		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501058	CLASSIFIED POS		\$ 173,724			\$ (173,724)	\$ 152,896	
502000	CONTRACTUAL SVC		\$ 137,410		\$ 121,785		\$ 37,654	
503000	SUPPLY AND MATERIAL		\$ 14,444		\$ 5,378			
504000	FIXED CHGS AND CONT		\$ 1,341				\$ 731	
505000	TRAVEL		\$ 2,920				\$ 556	
	Total OTHER OPERATING:		\$ 156,115		\$ 127,163	\$ (283,278)	\$ 38,941	
Total Inform. services:			\$ 329,839		\$ 127,163	\$ (457,002)	\$ 191,837	

Claims		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 262,204	\$ 117,134	45%		\$ 145,070	\$ 92,061	35%
512001	OTHER OPERATING	\$ 24,744						
	Total OTHER OPERATING:	\$ 24,744				\$ 24,744	\$ 1,263	
Total Claims:		\$ 286,948	\$ 117,134	41%		\$ 169,814	\$ 93,324	33%

Commissioners		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 50,000	\$ 24,444	49%		\$ 25,556		
512001	OTHER OPERATING	\$ 229,092						
502000	CONTRACTUAL SVC		\$ 51,406		\$ 378		\$ 49,776	
505000	TRAVEL		\$ 31,707		\$ 4,587		\$ 29,250	
	Total OTHER OPERATING:	\$ 229,092	\$ 83,113	36%	\$ 4,965	\$ 141,014	\$ 79,026	25%
Total Commissioners:		\$ 279,092	\$ 107,557	39%	\$ 4,965	\$ 166,570	\$ 79,026	29%

Insurance & Medical		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 553,278	\$ 221,138	40%		\$ 332,140	\$ 200,829	36%
501070	OTH PERS SVC						\$ 7,911	
512001	OTHER OPERATING	\$ 40,000						
502000	CONTRACTUAL SVC		\$ 190				\$ 6,285	
503000	SUPPLY AND MATERIAL		\$ 6,000				\$ 2,629	
505000	TRAVEL		\$ 6,538				\$ 4,934	
514000	BENEFITS AND CLAIMS		\$ 1,376		\$ 18,461		\$ 48,143	
	Total OTHER OPERATING:	\$ 40,000	\$ 14,104	35%	\$ 18,461	\$ 7,435	\$ 61,991	156%
Total Insurance & Medical:		\$ 593,278	\$ 235,242	40%	\$ 18,461	\$ 339,575	\$ 270,731	46%

Judicial		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
501058	CLASSIFIED POS	\$ 513,733	\$ 217,164	42%		\$ 296,569	\$ 217,223	42%
501070	OTH PERS SVC	\$ 62,681	\$ 17,516	28%		\$ 45,165	\$ 14,741	24%
512001	OTHER OPERATING	\$ 45,000						
502000	CONTRACTUAL SVC		\$ 11,821		\$ 2,780		\$ 1,913	
503000	SUPPLY AND MATERIAL		\$ 8,000				\$ 12,000	
505000	TRAVEL		\$ 892				\$ 1,982	
	Total OTHER OPERATING:	\$ 45,000	\$ 20,713	46%	\$ 2,780	\$ 21,507	\$ 15,895	37%
Total Judicial:		\$ 621,414	\$ 255,393	41%	\$ 2,780	\$ 363,241	\$ 247,859	40%

Employer Contributions		FY 2025					FY 2024	
Commitment Item	Commitment Item Description	Current Budget	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Commitments	Remaining Balance	YTD Expenditures	% Used
513000	EMPLOYER CONTRIB	\$ 924,317	\$ 414,483	45%		\$ 509,834	\$ 345,196	37%
	Total Employer Contributions:	\$ 924,317	\$ 414,483	45%		\$ 509,834	\$ 345,196	37%
Total EARMARKED FUND:		\$ 5,607,845	\$ 1,911,794	34%	\$ 577,651	\$ 3,118,400	\$ 1,772,221	32%

TAB 5

State of South Carolina

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Workers' Compensation Commission

To: Gary Cannon, SCWCC Executive Director
From: Kris Pluss, IT Director
Date: December 6, 2024
Subject: IT Department November 2024 Full Commission Report

This report summarizes the activities and accomplishments in the IT Department during November 2024.

I. Systems Operations, Maintenance and Support:

Progress

WCC IT has worked with Progress Professional Services to create email notifications for attorneys, paralegals, carriers, and TPAs when fine notices are generated. The ability to create Fine Notification Emails has been deployed in our Progress Production Environment and is being tested by IMS. I anticipate deployment the week of December 16, 2024.

OnBase

WCC IT, DTO, Application Support and KeyMark Professional Services migrated our agency from OnBase 17 to OnBase 18 during November. WCC IT and KeyMark professional Services have begun testing OnBase (OB) 23 for an upcoming migration scheduled before the end of the current calendar year. The migration to OB 23 will bring additional security and enhanced speed for internal and external users of OnBase and DocPop / eCase.

Reporting

128 Service Desk tickets were received by WCC IT during November 2024.
99 Tickets were assigned a priority of Low.
10 Tickets were assigned a priority of Medium.
19 Ticket was assigned a priority of High.
0 Tickets were assigned a priority of Urgent.

II. eFile / ePay Submissions:

There were 1,022 eFile/ePay online submission with a fee/fine for a net total of \$105,352.00 that were processed in November.

- Filing Fees: \$46,209.50
- Fines: \$58,652.50
- Other: \$490.00 (Appeals and Copy Requests)
- Total Unique Filings without an Online Payment: 2,425

Online vs. Physical Pleadings

Pleading Type	Percent Paid Online - ePay	Percent Paid Physically - Mail	Total Number of Pleadings
Claimant	60%	40%	525
Defense	49%	51%	232
Total:			757

TAB 6

State of South Carolina



Workers' Compensation Commission

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 11, 2024

To: Gary Cannon
Executive Director

From: Wayne Ducote
Insurance & Medical Services Director

RE: Monthly Insurance & Medical Services Report for November 2024

Please find attached the statistical report for the Insurance and Medical Services Department for the month of November 2024.

In addition to the statistical data provided, please be advised of the following:

Vacant Position Recruitment

The SCWCC office of Human Resources has re-posted the position for a new coverage analyst in the Coverage and Compliance Division to replace the former coverage analyst who transitioned back to the Self-Insurance Division. We were unsuccessful in finding a good candidate with the initial posting.

Coverage Division

The Coverage Division had 53 new registrants for notification of lapse in coverage within our coverage notification system. No lapse in coverage notifications were sent.

The Coverage Division processed 1,667 Form 12A submitted electronically through the Verisk system and processed 193 manually filed Form 50s into the Verisk system. The process is being tweaked and updated on a weekly basis with the assistance of the SCWCC IT team and the Verisk team.

Compliance Division

The Compliance Division created 144 DEW compliance investigation files in November. Of those 144 files, 15 files were closed immediately due to coverage being located. The remaining 129 files were opened for further investigation and notifications were sent to employers. The total number of DEW investigation files created was down this month, due to one investigator having

to resume coverage analyst duties. This hindered the creation of additional DEW investigation files. As soon as the vacant coverage analyst position is filled and the new hire is fully trained, the compliance investigator will be able to resume creating new DEW investigation files.

With the additional access to the DEW records, each investigator is now required to retrieve 20 employer records per week which will increase the number of investigation files created each month. The investigators are finding that the non-compliant employers are non-compliant for shorter periods of time versus longer periods of time. Longer periods of non-compliance result in higher fines being assessed, while shorter periods of non-compliance translates to lesser fines being assessed and less fine revenue collected

The Compliance Division is bringing more employers into compliance, which results in more employees in the state being covered by workers' compensation insurance. Although Total Fines Collected increased from \$45,000 to \$90,000 from last month, the total amount compared to the same period last year is down 14%. The number of employers compelled to obtain coverage is up 14% and the number of employees provided with coverage is up 8%. At the direction of the Executive Director, I have been tasked with working with the IT department to develop system of collecting data relating to each investigator's activities of identifying, notifying, bringing the employer into compliance and assessing and collecting the fine. The goal is to help identify the impact the investigators are having on their goal of identifying non-compliant employers, bringing them into compliance thus providing coverage for employees.

Fine Notification Email System

IT completed the development of the email fine notification system for IMS. The department is currently in the final phase of testing and plans to deploy the week of December 16.

The Medical Services Division resolved nine formal medical bill disputes. The Medical Services Division continues bi-weekly meetings with Fair Health to discuss the 2025 Medical Services Provider Manual updates.

While this summary is in no way all-inclusive, it may serve to assist you and our Commissioners in understanding the key measures by which the Department's effectiveness can be gauged. The Insurance and Medical Services Department welcomes any guidance that you or the Commissioners can provide concerning our performance and direction.

Department of Insurance & Medical Services									
South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission									
November 2024 Monthly Report									
	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total FY24-25	Total FY23-24	% Chg FY25
COMPLIANCE									
Total Cases Active at Beginning of Period	275	248	222	241	307		1293	995	30%
Total Cases Initiated	199	134	151	257	155		896	828	8%
Total Cases Closed	226	160	132	191	203		912	719	27%
Total Cases Active at End of Period	248	222	241	307	259		1277	1104	16%
Cases from F50/12A/other	22	21	11	19	6		79	71	11%
Cases from DEW	168	90	130	225	144		757	724	5%
Cases from Carriers	23	11	10	15	0		59	30	97%
Total Fines Assessed	\$ 79,250	\$ 72,201	\$ 31,250	\$ 57,500	\$106,778		\$ 346,979	\$ 2,843,133	-88%
- DEW / Coverage / Miscellaneous	\$ 76,500	\$ 69,176	\$ 30,500	\$ 55,750	\$ 76,250		\$ 308,176	\$ 2,562,633	-88%
- Underlying claim / uninsured employer	\$ 2,750	\$ 3,025	\$ 750	\$ 1,750	\$ 30,528		\$ 38,803	\$ 280,500	-86%
Total Fines Collected	\$ 66,125	\$ 71,200	\$ 45,700	\$ 45,020	\$ 90,340		\$ 318,385	\$ 368,142	-14%
- DEW / Coverage / Miscellaneous	\$ 60,275	\$ 69,550	\$ 41,600	\$ 44,920	\$ 72,012		\$ 288,357	\$ 350,739	-18%
- Underlying claim / uninsured employer	\$ 5,850	\$ 1,650	\$ 4,100	\$ 100	\$ 18,328		\$ 30,028	\$ 17,403	73%
Fines Waived/Rescinded/Uncollectable	\$ 10,660	\$ 22,741	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000		\$ 36,401	\$ 2,302,177	-98%
- Waived	\$ 6,160	\$ 22,740	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0		\$ 28,900	\$ 1,988,497	-96%
- Rescinded	\$ 4,500		\$ 1	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,501	\$ 313,680	-98%
- Uncollectable	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0		\$ -	\$ -	-
Employer RTSC Cases Docketed	0	1	0	1	0		2	8	-67%
Employers Compelled Into Compliance	37	44	26	36	53		196	172	14%
Previous Uninsured Employees Now Covered	322	261	181	217	299		1280	1181	8%
Carrier RTSC Cases Docketed	16	23	11	10	15		75	37	103%
Carrier RTSC Cases Resolved	16	23	11	10	15		75	37	103%
Carrier RTSC Fines Resolved	\$ 10,800	\$ 4,600	\$ 17,604	\$ 9,700	\$ 11,000		\$53,704	\$40,489	33%
COVERAGE & ACCIDENT RPTG									
Employers Withdrawing From the Act	1	3	4	3	5		16	24	-33%
Coverage Fines Assessed	\$ 30,250	\$ 30,650	\$ 31,300	\$ 29,100	\$ 41,400		\$ 162,700	\$ 114,075	43%
Coverage Fines Collected	\$ 16,700	\$ 19,800	\$ 25,150	\$ 27,300	\$ 23,900		\$ 112,850	\$ 128,350	-12%
Coverage Fines Waived	\$ 4,600	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,000		\$ 26,400	\$ 14,100	87%
Number of 12As Filed EDI	1,766	1,895	1,567	1,989	1,667		8,884	9,093	-2%
Number of 12As Filed Manually	310	221	211	316	193		1,251	1496	-16%
Total Number of WCC Files Created	2,076	2,116	1,778	2,305	1,860		10,135	10,589	-4%
Number of Fatalities Filed on 12As	14	9	4	9	2		38	40	-5%
MEDICAL SERVICES									
Bills Pending at Beginning of Period	6	6	6	5	6		29	46	-37%
Bills Received	7	11	6	9	8		41	61	-33%
Bills to be Reviewed	13	17	12	14	14		70	107	-35%
Bills Reviewed this Month	7	11	7	8	9		42	65	-35%
Bills Pending at End of Period	6	6	5	6	5		28	42	-33%

TAB 7

State of South Carolina

1333 Main Street, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 1715
Columbia, S.C. 29202-1715



TEL: (803) 737-5700
www.wcc.sc.gov

Workers' Compensation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Gary Cannon, Executive Director

From: Sonji Spann, Claims Director

Date: December 16, 2024

Re: Claims Department December 2024 Full Commission Report

Attached is the Statistical Report for the Claims Department for the period July 1, 2024- Nov. 30, 2024, prepared for the Business Meeting on December 16, 2024.

Claims activities are in Column (a) with the totals for the period ending November 2024 in column (o). Column (q) reflects the percentage change when comparing the totals for same period in the current fiscal at the totals for the same period in last fiscal year. The total Claims Activities, for this period have decrease 3% when compared to the same period from last fiscal year.

When compared to the same period last fiscal year, the number of cases Reviewed (15,295) is 2% less, the number cases closed is six more and the number of Fines Assessed (1,163) is 23% less; and the Total Fines Paid (\$174,100) is 4% less. It should be noted 25 fines were assessed as a result of 2,824 cases being reviewed by staff. Two-hundred eight Form 18 fines were assessed automatically by the IT system. The total Form 18 fines assessed and the 25 fines assessed by cases reviewed equal the 233 Total Fines Assessed.

I will be happy to answer any questions you or the Commissioners have.

**Claims Department Statistical Report
FY2024-2025**

Claims Activities	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	FY24-25 YTD Total	FY23-24 YTD Total	% Diff from prev year
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(o)	(p)	(q)
Forms 15-I	1,101	1,172	961	1,229	1,074	5,537	5,383	3%
Forms 15-II/Forms 17	735	804	648	783	717	3,687	3,523	5%
Forms 16 for PP/Disf	45	62	58	61	55	281	249	13%
Forms 18	5,279	4,863	4,574	5,324	4,451	24,491	25,202	-3%
Forms 20	471	506	490	602	435	2,504	2,762	-9%
Form 50 Claims Only						-	843	
Form 61	640	774	710	715	677	3,516	3,526	0%
Letters of Rep							422	
Clinchers	628	743	596	696	622	3,285	3,284	0%
Third Party Settlements	7	38	12	20	31	108	112	-4%
SSA Requests for Info	33	20	43	46	31	173	198	-13%
Cases Closed	2,147	2,139	2,017	2,370	1,960	10,633	10,627	0%
Cases Reviewed	3,175	3,000	2,726	3,570	2,824	15,295	15,603	-2%
Total	14,261	14,121	12,835	15,416	12,877	69,510	71,734	-3%
Total Fines Assessed	\$ 190	\$ 256	\$ 252	\$ 232	\$ 233	\$ 1,163	\$ 1,518	-23%
Form 18 Fines	\$ 149	\$ 239	\$ 211	\$ 210	\$ 208	\$ 1,017	\$ 1,401	-27%
Total Amt Paid	\$ 28,000	\$ 33,600	\$ 46,100	\$ 36,000	\$ 30,400	\$ 174,100	\$ 181,650	-4%

TAB 8

State of South Carolina

1333 Main Street
P.O. Box 1715
Columbia, S.C. 29202-1715



Tel: (803) 737-5700
Fax: (803) 737-1234
www.wcc.sc.gov

Workers' Compensation Commission

December 6, 2024

To: Gary Cannon
Executive Director

From: Amy A. Bracy
Judicial Director

RE: Monthly Judicial Report for November 2024

During the month of November, the Judicial Department processed two hundred twenty-four (224) claim only 50s, and seven hundred fifty-seven (757) requests for hearings (claimant and defense pleadings). Comparing the numbers from the same period last year, claimant pleadings remained the same and defense pleadings increased 3%. The department received one hundred seven (107) Motions, a 20% increase compared to the same period last year and one hundred twenty-nine (129) clincher conference requests, a 5% increase compared to the same time last year.

There were thirty-nine (39) Single Commissioner Hearings conducted during the past month, six (6) pre-hearing conferences held, and two (2) Full Commission hearings held. A total of four hundred forty-six (446) Orders (Single Commissioner Orders, Consent Orders and Administrative Orders) were served at the single Commissioner level, forty-two (42) of those were Decision and Orders that resulted from hearings that went on the record and one hundred twenty (120) were Motion Orders that were a result of Motions ruled upon by Commissioners.

There were one hundred seventy (170) Informal Conferences requested during November and one hundred ninety-nine (199) were conducted.

There were twenty-two (22) regulatory mediations scheduled and sixty-one (61) requested mediations. Totals are up 2% and 20% in the respective categories for the same period last year. The Judicial Department was notified of twenty-one (21) matters resolved in mediation, with the receipt of Forms 70. This category's total is up 5% compared to this period last year. This does not include mediations that take place outside of what is reported to the Commission.

In the month of November, Judicial received three (3) Notices of Intent to Appeal to the Court of Appeals and zero (0) to the Circuit Court.

The staff in the Judicial Department have been assisting with the duties of our vacant Program Assistant position since June. We are happy to have hired Jeremy Barrett to fill that position. Jeremy joined us December 2nd and we are happy to have him join our department.

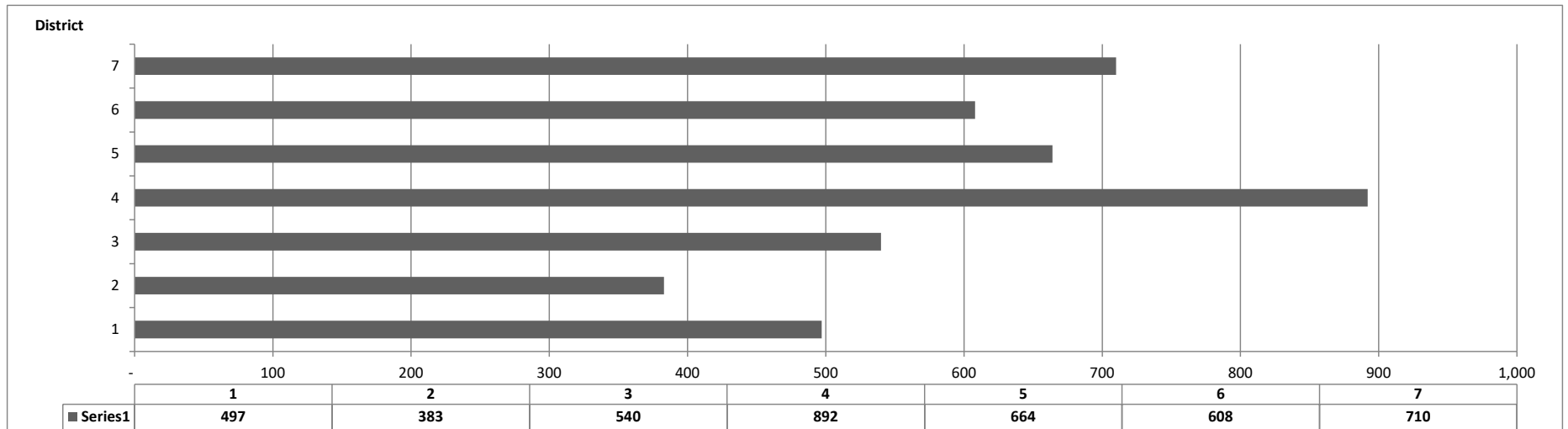
**Judicial Department Statistical Report
Statistics For Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Totals YTD 2024-2025	Totals YTD 2023-2024	% Diff from prev year
Claimant Pleadings	672	553	506	754	525	3,010	3,002	0%
Defense Response to Pleadings	574	507	282	685	422	2,470	2,615	-6%
Defense Pleadings	300	276	252	285	232	1,345	1,308	3%
Form 50 - Claim Only	354	230	258	405	224	1,471	1,362	8%
Letters of Representation	25	11	12	70	69	187	216	-13%
Motions	148	139	104	125	107	623	519	20%
Form 30	6	15	10	13	4	48	45	7%
FC Hearings Held	7	6	3	8	2	26	31	-16%
FC Orders Served	14	6	29	12	28	89	23	287%
Single Comm. Hearings Held	59	46	64	55	39	263	270	-3%
Single Comm. Orders Served	211	172	169	152	174	878	851	3%
Single Comm. Pre-Hearing Conf Held	18	10	5	15	6	54	58	-7%
Consent Orders	308	279	297	306	261	1,451	1,406	3%
Administrative Orders	17	7	21	16	11	72	42	71%
Clincher Conference Requested	152	150	128	165	129	724	690	5%
Informal Conference Requested	175	236	196	381	170	1,158	1,083	7%
Informal Conference Conducted	149	208	96	273	199	925	771	20%
Regulatory Mediations	49	34	16	44	22	165	162	2%
Requested Mediations	85	69	52	114	61	381	316	21%
Ordered Mediations	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	-100%
Mediation Resolved	61	83	33	79	21	277	265	5%
Mediation Impasse	16	17	16	27	2	78	77	1%
Mediation Held; Issues Pending	0	1	2	0	3	6	7	-14%
Claim Settled Prior to Mediation	17	22	11	21	8	79	47	68%
Mediation Not Complete in 60 days	1	3	3	3	0	10	7	43%

Pleadings Assigned - Three Year Comparison by Month

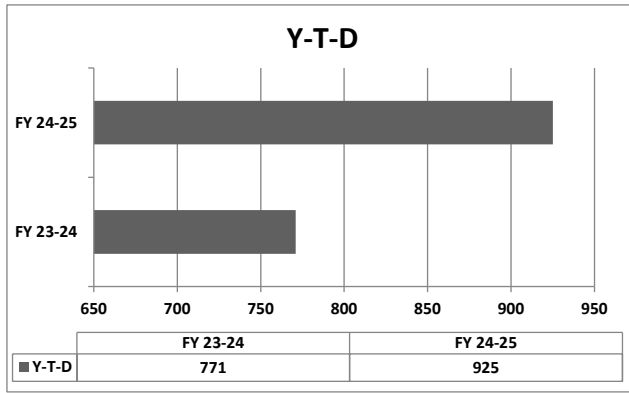
	District 1 Greenville			District 2 Anderson			District 3 Orangeburg			District 4 Charleston			District 5 Florence			District 6 Spartanburg			District 7 Richland		
	24-25	23-24	22-23	24-25	23-24	22-23	24-25	23-24	22-23	24-25	23-24	22-23	24-25	23-24	22-23	24-25	23-24	22-23	24-25	23-24	22-23
Jul	130	93	105	101	64	81	125	80	112	172	150	150	152	106	111	123	100	135	146	131	142
Aug	93	112	105	74	85	70	135	115	86	186	189	172	111	145	118	135	118	124	179	150	155
Sep	78	110	93	49	83	68	70	113	98	126	234	144	96	160	121	89	111	104	97	148	135
Oct	123	96	78	111	68	59	125	107	97	244	181	140	183	149	114	149	114	96	168	142	126
Nov	73	106	90	48	79	77	85	111	106	164	190	180	122	139	135	112	113	137	120	173	164
Dec		105	91		80	74		99	108		142	166		99	136		93	113		107	117
Jan		102	74		73	74		79	90		174	172		117	126		114	97		147	130
Feb		114	78		69	69		94	90		170	144		128	102		117	88		132	122
Mar		104	96		82	69		119	124		172	174		152	133		117	139		166	158
Apr		112	82		58	82		102	78		173	158		114	138		116	113		140	146
May		133	70		94	64		115	92		206	156		153	126		123	114		142	148
Jun		101	118		65	76		88	118		147	235		157	131		95	119		133	185
Totals	497	1,288	1,080	383	900	863	540	1,222	1,199	892	2,128	1,991	664	1,619	1,491	608	1,331	1,379	710	1,711	1,728

Pleadings Assigned by District Year to Date

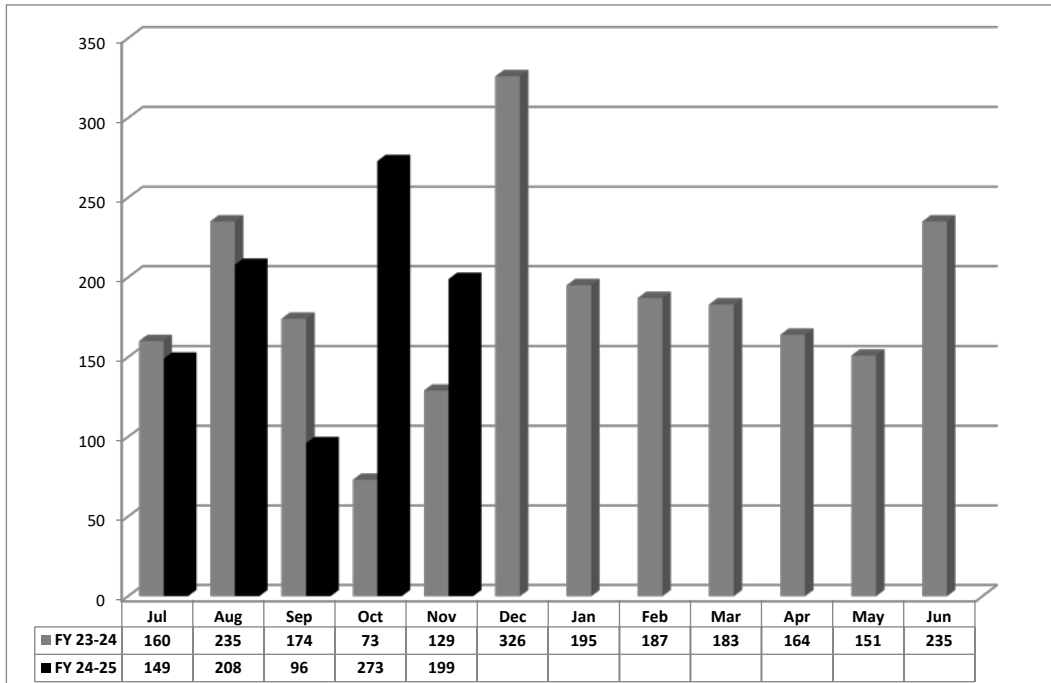


Informal Conf. Conducted

	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Jul	160	149
Aug	235	208
Sep	174	96
Oct	73	273
Nov	129	199
Dec	326	
Jan	195	
Feb	187	
Mar	183	
Apr	164	
May	151	
Jun	235	
Total	2,212	925

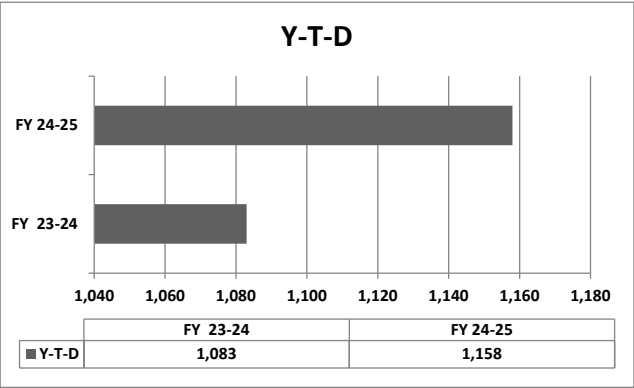


	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Y-T-D	771	925

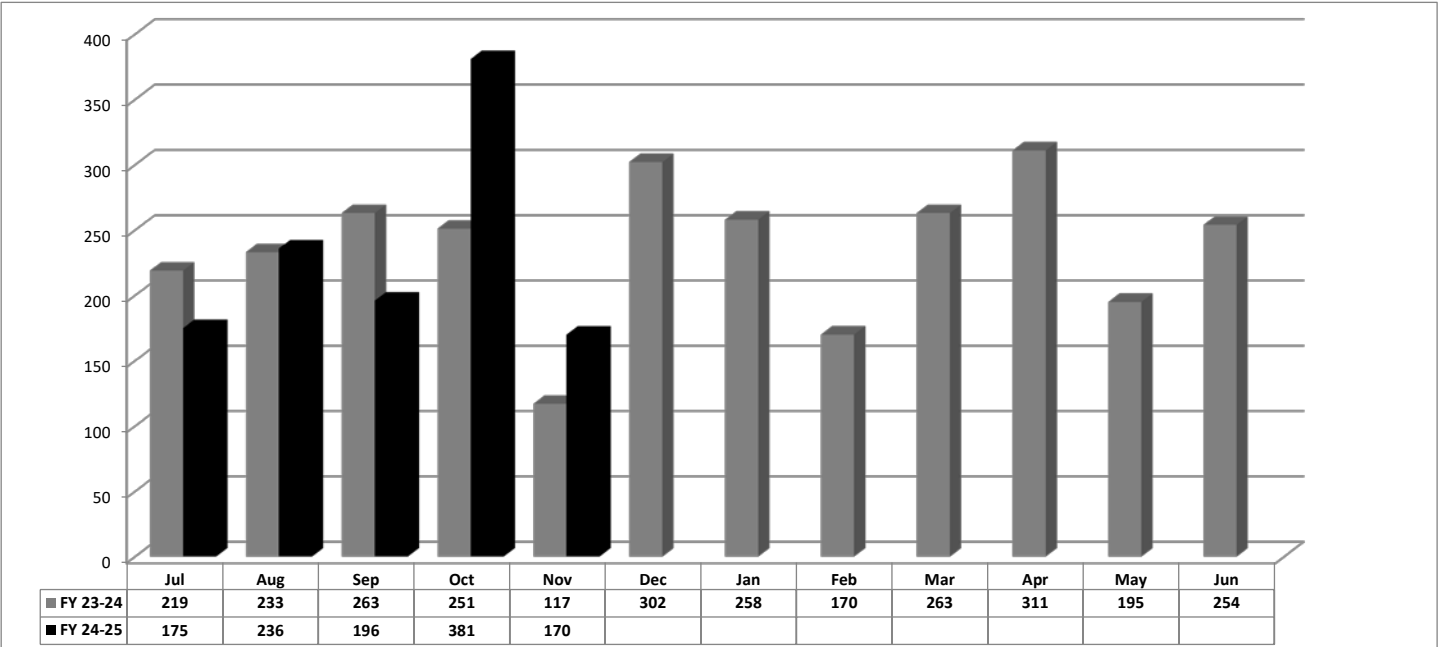


Informal Conf. Requested

	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Jul	219	175
Aug	233	236
Sep	263	196
Oct	251	381
Nov	117	170
Dec	302	
Jan	258	
Feb	170	
Mar	263	
Apr	311	
May	195	
Jun	254	
Total	2836	1158



	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Y-T-D	1,083	1,158

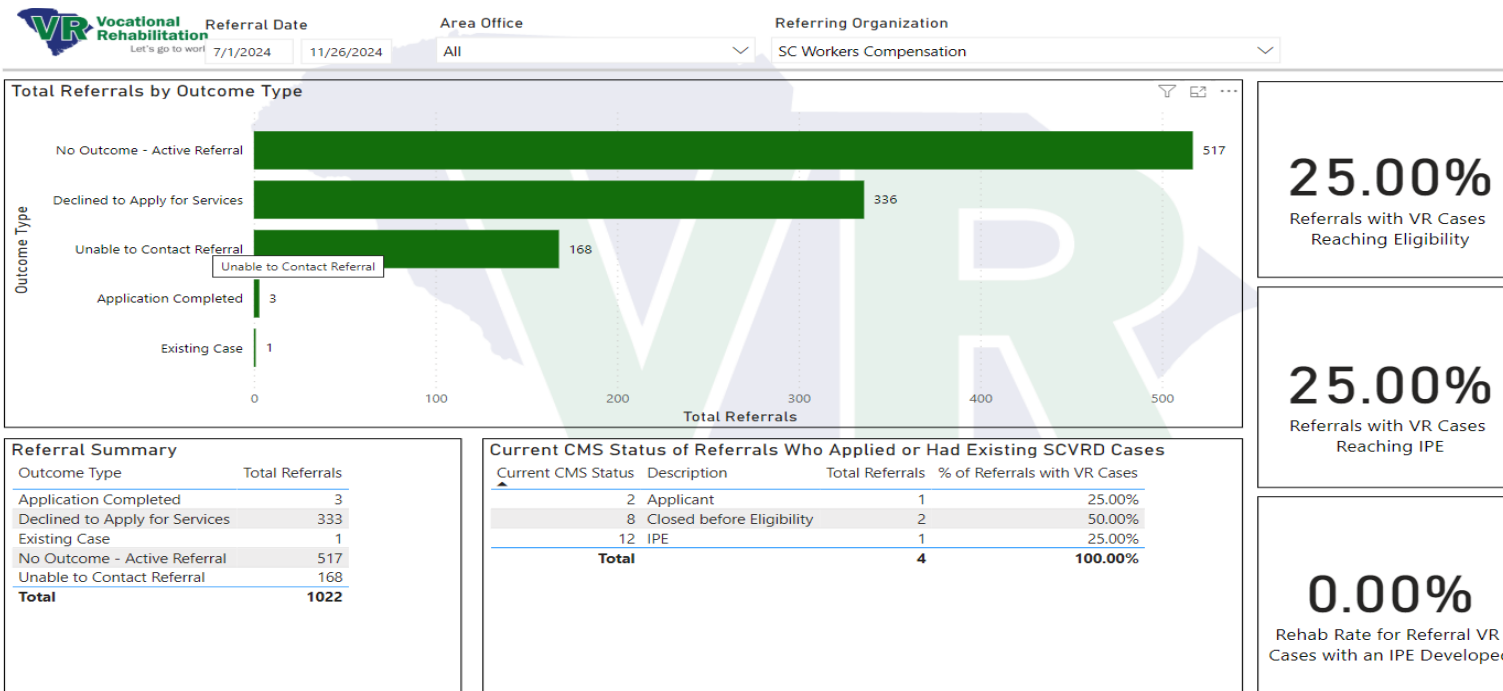


TAB 9

SCVRD

Monthly Referral Report Summary FY24-25

Referral							
Outcome Type	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Application Completed	5	1	1	1	3		11
Assessment Not Completed							-
Declined to Apply for Services	12	87	138	231	333		801
Existing Case	4	1	1	1	1		8
No Outcome - Active Referral	209	287	397	470	517		1,880
Unable to Contact Referral	4	30	69	109	168		380
Total	234	406	606	812	1,022	0	3,080



Referral Summary

Outcome Type	Total Referrals
Application Completed	3
Declined to Apply for Services	333
Existing Case	1
No Outcome - Active Referral	517
Unable to Contact Referral	168
Total	1022

Current CMS Status of Referrals Who Applied or Had Existing SCVRD Cases

Current CMS Status	Description	Total Referrals	% of Referrals with VR Cases
2	Applicant	1	25.00%
8	Closed before Eligibility	2	50.00%
12	IPE	1	25.00%
Total		4	100.00%

Current Status of Referrals who applied or had Existing cases**July 2024**

Current Status	Description	Total Referrals	%of Referrals with VR Cases
2	Applicant	4	44.44%
8	Eligibility	1	11.11%
12	IPE	4	44.44%
	Successful Employment Outcome		99.99%
	Closed After Eligibility Before IPE		

August 2024

Current Status	Description	Total Referrals	%of Referrals with VR Cases
2	Applicant	1	50.00%
	Eligibility		50.00%
12	IPE	1	
	Successful Employment Outcome		100.00%
	Closed After Eligibility Before IPE		

September 2024

Current Status	Description	Total Referrals	%of Referrals with VR Cases
2	Applicant	1	50.00%
	Eligibility		
12	IPE	1	50.00%
	Successful Employment Outcome		
	Closed After Eligibility Before IPE		

October 2024

Current Status	Description	Total Referrals	%of Referrals with VR Cases
2	Applicant	1	50.00%
	Eligibility		
12	IPE	1	50.00%
	Successful Employment Outcome		
	Closed Before Eligibility		

Nov 2024			
Current Status	Description	Total Referrals	%of Referrals with VR Cases
	Applicant		
	Eligibility		
12	IPE		
	Successful Employment Outcome		0.00%
8	Closed Before Eligibility		

FY24-25

July

Referral Summary

Outcome Type	Total Referrals
Application Completed	5
Declined to Apply for Services	12
Existing Case	4
No Outcome - Active Referral	209
Unable to Contact Referral	4
Total	234

Current CMS Status of Referrals Who Applied or Had Existing SCVRD Cases

Current CMS Status	Description	Total Referrals	% of Referrals with VR Cases
2	Applicant	4	44.44%
8	Closed before Eligibility	1	11.11%
12	IPE	4	44.44%
Total		9	100.00%

August

Referral Summary

Outcome Type	Total Referrals
Application Completed	1
Declined to Apply for Services	87
Existing Case	1
No Outcome - Active Referral	287
Unable to Contact Referral	30
Total	406

Current CMS Status of Referrals Who Applied or Had Existing SCVRD Cases

Current CMS Status	Description	Total Referrals	% of Referrals with VR Cases
2	Applicant	1	50.00%
12	IPE	1	50.00%
Total		2	100.00%

September 2024

Referral Summary

Outcome Type	Total Referrals
Application Completed	1
Declined to Apply for Services	87
Existing Case	1
No Outcome - Active Referral	287
Unable to Contact Referral	30
Total	406

Current CMS Status of Referrals Who Applied or Had Existing SCVRD Cases

Current CMS Status	Description	Total Referrals	% of Referrals with VR Cases
2	Applicant	1	50.00%
12	IPE	1	50.00%
Total		2	100.00%

Oct 2024 Bus Mtg

Referral Summary

Outcome Type	Total Referrals
Application Completed	1
Declined to Apply for Services	138
Existing Case	1
No Outcome - Active Referral	397
Unable to Contact Referral	68
Total	605

Current CMS Status of Referrals Who Applied or Had Existing SCVRD Cases

Current CMS Status	Description	Total Referrals	% of Referrals with VR Cases
2	Applicant	1	50.00%
12	IPE	1	50.00%
Total		2	100.00%

Nov 2024 Bus Mtg

Current CMS Status of Referrals Who Applied or Had Existing SCVRD Cases

Current CMS Status	Description	Total Referrals	% of Referrals with VR Cases
8	Closed before Eligibility	1	50.00%
12	IPE	1	50.00%
Total		2	100.00%

TAB 10

State of South Carolina



Workers' Compensation Commission

Executive Director's Report

December 16, 2024

Accountability Report for FY2024

The Commission's Accountability Report for 2024 was officially published on SC Statehouse website www.scstatehouse.gov.

Recognition by Government Technology Magazine

South Carolina received its first A- rating in the latest Digital States Survey from the Center for Digital Government. The SC Workers' Compensation Commission was mentioned by Nathan Hogue, Department of Administration's, Chief Information Officer, in this quarter's - State Technology Bits and Bytes (Fall 2024) stating "...the SC Workers' Compensation....made strides toward improving on-line interactions with residents." The article may be accessed at the following link:

[Digital States 2024: Innovation, Inclusion and Whole-of-State Services](#)

Meetings and Other Activities

The Executive Director participated in the following meetings and events during the month of November: Scheduled staff meetings to discuss the on-line pay system and APA submissions; met with member of the Attorney General's staff; attended the Ethics Training Session for the Commissioners and Administrative Assistants; was a speaker at the Southern Region of the Orthopedics Executives in Greenville; and attended the SAWCA all Committee Conference.

Constituent /Public Information Services

For the month of November, the Executive Director's and the General Counsel's offices had one-hundred seventy-three (173) contacts with stakeholders.

Financial Transactions Activity

During the month of November, the Director's office processed and approved six (6) travel expense reports, thirty-nine (39) invoices, twenty (20) deposits for DOA to process in the SCEIS system and two (2) Purchase Orders.

SCWCC Stakeholder Electronic Distribution List

For the month of November, the Office had one (1) deletion to the distribution list.

Advisory Notices

During the month of November, the office posted one (1) notice on the Commission's website and emailed it to the distribution list.

TAB 11

State of South Carolina



Workers' Compensation Commission

TO: COMMISSIONERS

FROM: GARY M CANNON

DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2024

RE: AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE

Attached is the letter from William Floyd, Director of the Department of Employment and Workforce with the average weekly wage for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The recommendation is to approve \$1134.43 as the AWW for 2025.

P.O. Box 995
1550 Gadsden Street
Columbia, SC 29202
dew.sc.gov



Henry McMaster
Governor

William H. Floyd, III
Executive Director

December 11, 2024

Mr. Gary Cannon
Office of Executive Director
Workers' Compensation Commission
1333 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29202-1715

Re: Average Weekly Wage

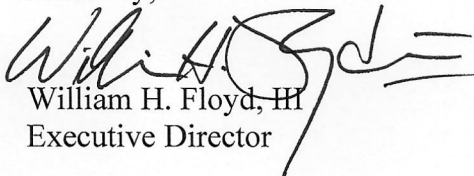
Dear Mr. Cannon,

This is in reference to your correspondence dated December 2, 2024, in which you requested the average weekly wage.

This letter certifies that the average weekly wage for July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, as computed under South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce Law was \$1,134.43.

If you should have any questions or need any further information, please contact: Dr. Bryan Grady, Labor Market Information Department Assistant Executive Director, at 737-2658.

Sincerely,


William H. Floyd, III
Executive Director

WF/tcm

ES-8