



**Bureau of Workers'
Compensation**

30 W. Spring St.
Columbus, OH 43215-2256

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

2013 AUG -9 AM 11: 28

Governor **John R. Kasich**
Administrator/CEO **Stephen Buehrer**

ohiobwc.com
1-800-OHIOBWC

August 8, 2013

Inspector General Randall J. Meyer
Office of the Inspector General
30 East Broad Street, Suite 2940
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: File ID No. 2012- CA00079
Response to Report of Investigation Report Issued June 27, 2013

Dear Inspector General Meyer:

The Ohio Industrial Commission Nominating Council (ICNC) has completed its review of your office's recommendations contained in the above-referenced report. I respectfully submit this response to the recommendations outlined in that report.

Recommendation #1: Review the conduct of Michael Travis and determine whether administrative action or discipline is warranted.

Response: ICNC scheduled a hearing for July 24, 2013 to determine whether Mr. Travis should be removed from office. Before that hearing could go forward, Mr. Travis resigned his position. On July 24, the ICNC accepted Mr. Travis' resignation.

Recommendation #2: Develop and implement policies for the Workers' Compensation Ombudsperson System.

Response: At its July 24, 2013 meeting, the ICNC discussed the legislative and rule changes that need to be made. At this meeting, the ICNC passed the following resolution proposing a statutory change that would create a new R.C. 4121.45 (E) which would read:

"The rules for their employees adopted by the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the Industrial Commission pursuant to R.C. 4121.122 shall apply to the ombudspersons and the employees of the ombudsperson system. The IC Nominating Counsel may supplement these rules with operating manuals as to the policies and procedures of the ombudsperson system."

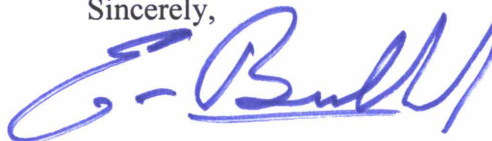
Recommendation #3: The ICNC should develop and implement policies and procedures to actively participate in the oversight of the Workers' Compensation Ombudsperson System.

Response: See response to Recommendation #2. Pursuant to enactment of such a proposed statutory change, the ICNC intends to adopt policies and procedures that will allow it to monitor the daily work and activities of the office.

Recommendation #4: Seek clarification of the ICNC's role over the actions of the chief ombudsperson and the assistant ombudsperson.

Response: See response to Recommendation #2. The intent of the statutory amendment proposed is to enforce the authority of the ICNC over the actions of the chief ombudsperson, the assistant ombudsperson and the ombudsperson system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Burkland", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Burkland
Chair, ICNC

cc. Samuel Porter, Esq.