

# **Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection**

## **Virtual Meeting Minutes**

January 28, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ira Rheingold, Timothy Robinson, Ingmar Goldson, Aemish Rao, Savitri Taneja, Lesley MacDonald

### **OCP STAFF PRESENT**

Brittany Freeman, Patty Vitale, Maurice Valentine, Brian Shin, Marilen Bayani, Shaun Carew

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order by Ira Rheingold. Timothy Robinson motioned to adopt the agenda. Ingmar Goldson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Patty Vitale let the committee know that OCP is collaborating with Howard County to host this year's investigator conference and will appreciate any input from the committee on seminars or speakers. She also let the committee know that the role of Operations Administrator has been posted for the office and interviews will start soon. Also, we have not received any further communication from the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) Evaluator.
- Shaun Carew pulled OCP data and shared it with the committee in November 2024 and can send the committee any additional data needed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Ira Rheingold let the committee know that today in Annapolis Vaughn Stewart, who spoke with the committee in 2024) is introducing a bill that would prohibit companies to use consumer contracts to limit statute of limitations.
- Brittany Freeman provided the following committee updates:
  - Phillip Robinson has resigned from the committee.
  - Marilen Bayani will be taking over as the new Committee Liaison.
  - With now having 7 committee members and some with expired memberships, we are hoping to have advertisements go out for these positions. Brittany will send out information to committee members on current membership and term status.
- OCP has started a scam workgroup to generate a marketing campaign to reach new groups. Shaun Carew provided the update that this group is currently coming up with a scope and time frame. The workgroup is interested in information and statistics regarding scams.

- OCP Podcast – Consumer Connection has a new episode coming out next week on the topic of AI and scams.
- The committee would like to have Data Analysis and Educational Programming subcommittee meetings before the full February meeting.

#### **ADDITIONAL UPDATES**

- Lesley MacDonald provided an update that she is now working in Howard County Consumer Protection to establish a Financial Empowerment Center.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – virtual.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m. by Ira Rheingold.