IPENSATION COMMISSIONER
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TESSA BRANDT,	
Claimant,	
vs. CRST VAN EXPEDITED, INC.,	File No. 5051580
Employer,	APPEAL
and	DECISION
LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE GROUP,	
Insurance Carrier, Defendants.	: : Head Note Nos.: 2501, 2505, 2602

Defendants CRST Van Expedited, Inc., employer, and Liberty Mutual Insurance Group, insurer, appeal from an Iowa Code section 85.27 decision filed on September 30, 2020. Claimant Tessa Brandt responds to the appeal. The case was heard on May 11, 2020, and it was considered fully submitted in front of the deputy workers' compensation commissioner on July 29, 2020.

On March 1, 2020, the Iowa Workers' Compensation Commissioner delegated authority to the undersigned to enter a final agency decision in this matter. Therefore, this appeal decision is entered as final agency action pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.15(3) and Iowa Code section 86.24.

In the 85.27 decision, the deputy commissioner determined claimant failed to prove her entitlement to reimbursement for the expenses set forth in Claimant's Exhibits 12 through 16. However, the deputy commissioner determined claimant proved her entitlement to medical care for her neck, upper back, and shoulder pain; eye exams; massage therapy for her headaches, neck and shoulder pain; PTSD treatment with an in-person treater; a gym membership; Duratears; and prescription sunglasses.

On appeal, defendants assert the deputy commissioner erred in finding defendants responsible for treatment relating to claimant's upper back and neck, massage therapy, treatment for claimant's PTSD, and a gym membership.

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I have performed a de novo review of the evidentiary record and the detailed arguments of the parties, and I reach the same analysis, findings, and conclusions as those reached by the deputy commissioner.

Pursuant to lowa Code sections 17A.5 and 86.24, I affirm and adopt as the final agency decision those portions of the proposed decision filed on September 30, 2020, which relate to the issues properly raised on intra-agency appeal.

I find the deputy commissioner provided a well-reasoned analysis of all of the issues raised in the arbitration proceeding. I affirm the deputy commissioner's findings of fact and conclusions of law pertaining to those issues.

Ultimately, the treatment at issue on appeal is related to conditions that were deemed to be work-related in the underlying arbitration decision—conditions for which defendants failed to offer reasonable care. As a result, I affirm the deputy commissioner's determination that defendants are responsible for reasonable and necessary medical treatment related to claimant's work injuries. More specifically, I affirm the deputy commissioner's finding that claimant is entitled to treatment for her neck and upper back; massage therapy for her headaches, neck pain, and shoulder pain; in-person treatment for her PTSD; and a gym membership.

l affirm the deputy commissioner's findings, conclusions and analysis regarding the above-stated issues.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the 85.27 decision filed on September 30, 2020, is affirmed in its entirety.

Defendants shall provide prompt and reasonable medical treatment related to claimant's work injuries and conditions as set forth in the 85.27 decision.

Pursuant to rule 876 IAC 4.33, defendants are assessed the cost of the appeal, including the cost of the hearing transcript.

Defendants shall file subsequent reports of injury (SROI) as required by this agency pursuant to rules 876 IAC 3.1(2) and 876 IAC 11.7.

Signed and filed this 5th day of March, 2021.

DEPUTY WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER

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The parties have been served, as follows:

Thomas J. Currie (via WCES)

Charles A. Blades (via WCES)

Rachael Neff (via WCES)

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