

# Work Comp Connection

July 2016 Newsletter



Division of Workers Compensation:  
Serving Kansas for more than 100 years

## Maximum Weekly Benefit for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL), Labor Market Information Services, has reported that the state's average weekly wage for calendar year 2015, in accordance with Section 44-704 of the Kansas Employment Security Law, was \$836.52. Pursuant to K.S.A. 44-510c, the maximum workers compensation weekly benefit for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 will be \$627.00. This maximum will apply to those accidents occurring between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. The minimum weekly benefit rate for fatalities for the same period, pursuant to K.S.A. 44-510b, will be \$418.00.

## New Public Resource Administrator

Katy Lenahan is the current Division's Public Resource Administrator and has succeeded the retiring Carol Cast and Anne Jinks. Katy comes to us from the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts where she has worked for the last nine years as the manager of the Licensing Division. Katy is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's in Psychology and Master's degree in Sociology.



Katy will oversee the Ombudsman Unit which receives and responds to inquiries from the injured workers, employers, attorneys, and insurance professionals. Lenahan will also manage the Medical Services Section and the work involved in assisting constituents disputing charges or services rendered by health care professionals. She will assist with revising the Medical Fee Schedule to assure that the fee schedule is reasonable and promotes health care cost containment, yet ensures the availability of necessary treatment and care for injured employees. In addition, Katy will help to plan, organize and manage the *Annual Workers Compensation Seminars*. She will also provide various worker compensation presentations throughout the state and oversee the content of the *Work Comp Connection* newsletter.



## Mileage rate remains the same for fiscal year 2017

Travel to obtain medical services on or after July 1, 2016, shall be reimbursed at the rate of 54 cents per mile.

The mileage reimbursement rate for state officers and employees is 54 cents per mile effective July 1, 2016. K.S.A. 44-515(a) provides that mileage to obtain medical services is reimbursed at the rate prescribed for state officers and employees pursuant to K.S.A. 75-3203a. K.A.R. 51-9-11 provides that all round trips of over five miles to obtain medical services are reimbursable as medical mileage as provided by K.S.A. 44-515(a).

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T H A N K Y O U

## Administrative Staff Retirement

Alan Stanton was Rehabilitation Administrator for the division. He was responsible for qualifying private and public sector individual professionals and businesses to provide vocational rehabilitation services to injured workers. Alan used his knowledge of occupations, medical conditions and disability management principles to monitor the effectiveness and ethicality of the services provided by those professionals.



In addition, Alan was managing/content editor for the division's entire online presence, which has more than 85 pages, including interactive features, and provides access to more than 125 forms, publications and other documents. As a member of the Forms Committee, he coordinated updates of the agency's forms and publications to help ensure they remain current with legislative and departmental changes. Alan was also the editor of the Division's law book.

We wish Al the very best in retirement.

**WORKERS COMPENSATION SEMINAR**

42nd Annual

Kansas  
Department of Labor

September 27 & 28, 2016  
Overland Park Convention Center

Not Just ANY Workers Compensation Seminar...  
the smart choice for trusted information!

**SEMINAR LODGING OPEN**

See Accommodations  
on the Seminar's Website



## Fast Facts

**Social Media** - The Division posts information on the Department of Labor's *Facebook* page each Friday and as news develops. Follow us on [www.facebook.com/KansasDOL](http://www.facebook.com/KansasDOL). Catch up with us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/KansasDOL](http://www.twitter.com/KansasDOL).

**Workplace Safety Seminar** - The National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) is sponsoring a *Workplace Safety Seminar* on July 26 to July 29. This free seminar is designed specifically for Kansas employers in the workers compensation residual market and their insurance agents. See details in this [NCCI Bulletin](#).

**Contacts at Workers Compensation** - A [Division Section Directory](#) has been established to help you "Contact Us".

**Funding** - *Annual Workers Compensation Seminars* are funded by sponsor contribution and exhibitor and attendee fees. They are not supported by taxpayer dollars.