

Work Comp Connection



November 2015 Newsletter

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

2015 Workers Compensation Seminar

The Division staff thanks those who attended, sponsored and exhibited at the 41st Annual Workers Compensation Seminar, held at the Overland Park Convention Center on Sept. 29 and 30.

The seminar was attended by 625 individuals. Continuing education was awarded to 254 attorneys, 72 nurses and 35 Certified Case Managers.

There were 13 gold sponsors and 39 silver sponsors and 102 exhibitors.



*Pictured above:
Pre-Registration check-in.*

*Left: Pain Management
General Session presented
by P. Kelly Donley, JD,
Director, McDonald,
Tinker, Skaer, Quinn &
Herrington, PA; Dennis
Horner, JD, Boyd, Kenter,
Thomas & Parrish, LLC;
and Dr. Steven Simon,
Medical Director, The Pain
Management Institute.*



*Pictured above: Secretary Lana
Gordon with Carol Cast, Seminar
Administrator*

Left: General Session

Below: Sponsors' and Exhibitors' Reception



Continuing Education Reminder

Depending on your occupation, it could be several years before you need to submit continuing education documentation. Documentation of credits received from attending a Workers Compensation Seminar can be reissued for up to five years from the date you attend. Send requests to WCSEminar@dol.ks.gov.



DigiComp September Update

In the August 2015 DigiComp Planning Project Update, we continued to expand on the topic of user training by giving examples of possible methods of external user training for the new system. The September topic is dashboards. In order to gain an understanding of the benefits of dashboards, we first need an explanation of automated workflows and their impact on business processes.



Within the new system, external stakeholders will be able to submit selected filings electronically (for example, an Application for Hearing, E-1) which will be processed automatically by the division. The filing will trigger an automated workflow for the unit in which the form is processed and unit staff will evaluate the correctness of the filing. For example, if an E-1 is filed and there is no accident report associated with it, then the Coverage and Compliance unit will be tasked with looking into why the accident report has not been filed. There will be immediate notification of a task, which will be put into a work queue for the appropriate individual who will be completing the task.

Notifications are viewed through dashboards, which will vary for each individual user of the system, both internal and external. A dashboard is a screen which allows users to easily view their tasks produced by the automated workflow. Dashboards can also be customized to assist with completion of the workflow and allow manual input of tasks to be accomplished that are not automatically assigned by the system. For example, the user will be able to set a reminder, which then "pops up" in the dashboard when the reminder date or event has been reached. Business emails also may be linked in the new system, allowing immediate notification of tasks to be finished by external users. An example of a dashboard familiar to many is Microsoft Outlook, which allows for the creation of customized flags, task lists and meetings.

The October Update follows on the next page.

We welcome any questions or input, which can be sent to digicomp@dol.ks.gov.



Attendees can request seminar handouts at WCSeminar@dol.ks.gov

2016 Appeals Board Hearing Dates

Keep these dates in mind when scheduling future oral arguments.

*NOTICE: The Board plans to hold oral arguments on May 12 at the Crawford County Courthouse, 120 West 4th St., Pittsburg, KS. A minimum of four claims must be set for hearing that day or the location will revert to Topeka.

	Lenexa	Topeka	Wichita
		January 7, 14, & 21	
		February 4, 11, & 18	
March 22		March 3 & 15	
		April 7 & 14	April 22
		May 5 & 12*	May 20
June 9		June 2	June 17
		July 7 & 14	July 22
		August 4 & 11	August 19
September 8		September 1	September 16
		October 6 & 13	October 21
		November 3 & 17	
		December 8 & 15	

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2016 Exhibit Space sells early



Contact:
WCSeminar@dol.ks.gov

DigiComp October Update

This month's topic is Web accounts versus email, and how both will be utilized within the new system. Web accounts will be a great benefit to both internal and external users, providing a more secure way to interact and more direct contact with the Division.

Currently, the primary resource for contacting our external customers, aside from phone calls, is through staff email accounts in Outlook. There is no Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) authorization required and:

- 1) email communication is not a secure method of communication;
- 2) any email sent between customers and KDOL may be copied and held by various computers it passes through as it is transmitted;
- 3) persons not participating in our communication may intercept our communications by improperly accessing a customer's or agency's computer or even some computer unconnected to either of us that the email passes through.

This brings up privacy issues. We often deal with personal identifying information which we do not want to provide to those not authorized to have this information.

With the new database, we will have Web accounts which allow the external customers to have direct access to the information within the database in a secure manner. These Web accounts will be authorized by KDOL employees upon request for access, with multiple levels of security before access is granted. These security measures include allowing Web account holders to have access only to information pertinent to them — for example an attorney can have access to dockets that have been assigned to that specific attorney. Allowing external customers to have access directly to the KDOL database will allow for better customer service and make it easier for KDOL employees to have immediate contact with them when needed.

These Web accounts will require an email contact, so emails can be sent directly from KDOL to the Web account holder. Automated notices will be sent via email to Web account holders in the case of accepted/rejected filings showing the status of items in process. This email will signal that they have information to review within the KDOL database. They can log on to their account to review and/or correct that information. This eliminates all of the security issues in regard to email.

The DigiComp Team will continue to provide monthly updates of the status of our project, and details regarding the new system. The next topic that we will address is the use of Doodle for scheduling purposes, and details will be given about a Judicial meeting that was held in September.

We welcome any questions or input, which can be sent to digicomp@dol.ks.gov.

DigiComp Team Has New Technology Lead

Polly McCall has been working for KDOL in Information Technology since 2011. She has been the primary developer on the Workers Compensation system for the entirety of her time here and now serves as the Workers Compensation DigiComp Team Lead for technology.

Prior to coming to KDOL, Polly was a consultant with Grace Consulting, a national mainframe technical support firm, with responsibility for team leadership and project management on a variety of projects for Fortune 500 companies and other large organizations.

Polly has a BA in Liberal Arts from Ottawa University with a concentration in Accounting and an MS in Business from the University of Kansas.



2016 Seminar Planning begins soon!

Send ideas for topics & speakers to

WCSeminar@dol.ks.gov