

Work Comp Connection

February 2017 Newsletter



Workers Compensation Division:
Serving Kansas for more than 100 years

Goodbye DigiComp, Hello OSCAR!

The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL), Workers Compensation Division have spent the past two years preparing to undergo a comprehensive digitization project. The project is being completed in two phases: planning and implementation. The planning phase, named DigiComp, was completed in October of 2016. The Workers Compensation Division have named the implementation phase (and the online system) OSCAR. OSCAR is an acronym for Online System for Claims Administration Research/Regulation.

In January 2015, the Steering Committee members and Consultants from WorkComp Strategies, LLC, developed a formal digitization strategy for the OSCAR project which lists four goals; improve customer service; reduce administrative costs; increase operational efficiency and effectiveness and improve data quality and integrity.

To achieve these goals, in-depth research was made in the areas of electronic transactions, Web access and digital storage. The methods used to gather the information and data included: business and current needs analysis; current system functionality assessment; current state and gap analysis; a review of dashboard delivery and exchange systems; an evaluation of Web-based applications for scheduling; in person examination of three Kansas court systems (using online access, filing and electronic signatures); stakeholder participation in trial-use experiments and feedback and advice from quarterly meetings held with attorneys, para-legals, insurance agents, and other stakeholders and focus groups.



The Workers Compensation Division have selected, CapTech Ventures, Inc., as the vendor to build the OSCAR system. CapTech Ventures, Inc., is a national technology-consulting firm headquartered in Richmond, VA. CapTech has 10 years experience designing workers compensation systems and have implemented systems in the states of Nevada, Virginia, Missouri, Kentucky, Georgia and Iowa. Their experience and knowledge of application development is unique to workers compensation systems and will be a benefit in building and implementing the OSCAR system in Kansas.

Alan Stitzer has joined project consultant's, Matthew "Matt" Bryant and Martin Erb (all from WorkComp Strategies, LLC, Richmond, VA) to help guide CapTech and staff throughout the build and implementation of the OSCAR system. Prior to joining WorkComp Strategies, LLC, Alan Stitzer worked for ACORD as the Director of Global Development. Under his direction, the ACORD team introduced and managed the development of new data standards for the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and South Africa insurance markets.

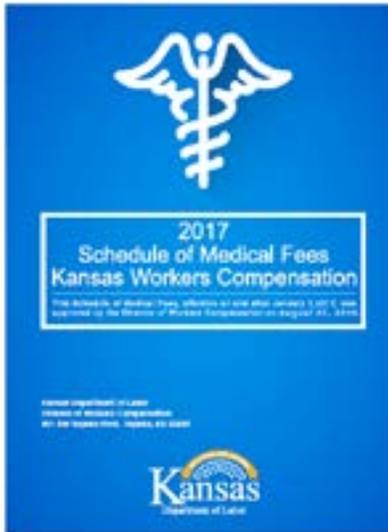
Additionally, as part of Stitzer's work with ACORD, he was responsible for the design of ACORD XML for Workers' Compensation. He worked closely with the IAIABC and the State of Kansas to implement the nation's first FROI/SROI in XML.

Kickoff for the OSCAR project began on Jan. 30, 2017. OSCAR's consultants and programmers from CapTech have been meeting with Workers Compensation Division staff to create a detailed project plan which is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. The OSCAR system is scheduled to debut in October 2018.

Follow the OSCAR build and implementation in future Work Comp Connection newsletters and on the OSCAR Web page. Send questions to the OSCAR Communications Team at oscar@dol.ks.gov.

2017 Schedule of Medical Fees - Now Available Online

The Medical Services and Fee Schedule Section administers the 2017 Schedule of Medical Fees Kansas Workers Compensation for provision of medical services to injured workers. The section revises the fee schedule on a biennial basis 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.



The KDOL Workers Compensation Division have adopted the Work Loss Data Institute's Official Disability Guidelines - Treatment in Workers Comp (ODG) as the standard of reference for evidence-based medicine used in caring for injured workers. The Work Loss Data Institute is an independent database development company focused on workplace health and productivity.

By adopting the ODG, the KDOL Workers Compensation Division can ensure the latest available medical evidence is used in making treatment decisions for workers injured on the job in Kansas. In addition, workers compensation expenditures will remain focused on the goal of recovery and the best utilization of the available medical services.

All updates from February 2008 to the present are included in both the Excel and PDF files found on the Official Disability Guidelines Web page.

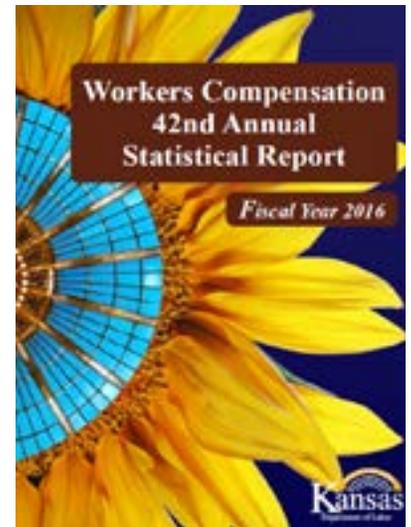
Questions can be sent to Jassina.Washington@dol.ks.gov or Katy.Lenahan@dol.ks.gov.

Workers Compensation 42nd Annual Statistical Report (Fiscal Year 2016) - Available Now

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, the division processed 12,041 applications for hearings. The business section issued 143 self-insurance permits to employers. The compliance section established 773 employer contacts. This year, the fraud and abuse unit collected \$225,088.08 in restitution and civil penalties. In addition, the ombudsman section answered information requests from 19,795 parties and the research unit responded to more than 43,000 requests for workers compensation histories.

We continue to pursue utilizing technology to make workers compensation claims easier for our customers to file and for us to process. The Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) which allows for electronic reporting of initial injuries and follow-up by insurers has more than 190 trading partners submitting data on behalf of more than 600 insurance carriers and self-insured employers. During FY 2016, 99 percent of all original accident reports were filed electronically.

If there are any questions or suggestions on how we can serve you better, please feel free to contact the Worker's Compensation Division at wc@dol.ks.gov.



Who's Working for You?

Ryan Boswell is a life-long resident of NE Kansas. Ryan is a graduate of Emporia State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Rehabilitation Services. He has worked in a variety of fields including: human services; manufacturing; health care and construction. Prior to joining the Workers Compensation Division as an Ombudsman, Ryan worked as a Program Specialist in KDOL's Unemployment Insurance Benefits Division.

Be sure to keep your email current.
Send updates to WCSeminar@dol.ks.gov.

