

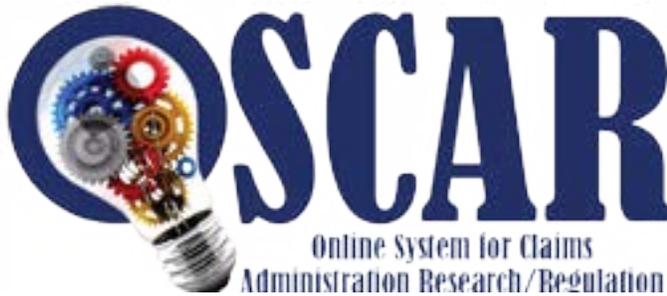
Work Comp Connection

March 2017 Newsletter



Division of Workers Compensation:
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OSCAR Update - The First Seven Weeks



On Jan. 30, 2017 the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL), Workers Compensation Division kicked off the implementation and building phase of a comprehensive digitization project called Online System for Claims Administration Research and Regulation (OSCAR). The KDOL selected CapTech Ventures, Inc. as the vendor to build the OSCAR system.

The OSCAR project will be completed in six phases: Kickoff; Scope Definition; Implement; Train; Test; Deploy; Go Live and Support.

During Kickoff, *CapTech* held meetings with subject matter experts (SME) to review requirements, documents, work flow and needs in order to create user stories which will become the building blocks of the OSCAR system. *CapTech* will determine a grouping of the user stories which will become a track. Tracks will be placed in a systematic order. You can think of a track as mini project. Once a track is completed and released, *CapTech* will move to the next track in the progression. The information gathered from these early meetings will help determine the grouping of the user stories and the order of the tracks. Work is being completed now to show how data will be organized on a Web page.

CapTech has developed an internal OSCAR SharePoint as a secure place to store, organize and share information about OSCAR. Discussions have been prioritized by the User Experiences (UX) and User Interactions ((UI) within the system. UX is how the system will look, while UI is how individuals will use or interact with the system. Based on the information gathered from the meetings and *CapTech's* experiences with other workers compensation systems, they will build the initial mock-ups of the systems appearance.

CapTech has begun work on Tracks One, Two and Three which includes the Ombudsman, Fraud and Abuse and Elections functional areas. It is estimated that the *scope definition* of the first three tracks should be completed by the end of March. A *scope definition* details all the work that will be required to create the product. It is anticipated there will be a total of 14 tracks.

Please send any questions or input to OSCAR@dol.ks.gov.



43rd Annual WORKERS COMPENSATION SEMINAR

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Sept. 26 & 27, 2017 - Overland Park Convention Center

Ask SME!

The divisions OSCAR team members, staff from [CapTech Ventures, Inc.](#) and consultant's from [WorkComp Strategies, LLC](#) have been working with the divisions subject matter experts (SME) to have a greater understanding of the division's needs.

The SMEs are providing detailed information about work-flow, forms, correspondence, requirements, documentation, operations and procedures. The project's progression is effectively developing because of the time and effort of the division's SMEs.



SME - Joel Shuckman

Topeka-SME **Joel Shuckman**, is helping with the transition of loss payments and assessments. Shuckman shared, "Instead of paper, the new system will be web based. Customers will be able to log on and provide their loss payment amounts. They will be provided with email notifications and invoices. We won't have to mail out forms or file them away. Our customers will be entering their loss payment information directly into the system. Currently, our customers enter their information on a form and mail it to us so we can enter it again. In the future, customers will be able to enter their own information and view previous information all in one location. They won't have to mail loss payments to us, so they'll save on postage and the time spent to complete them."

Judge Ali Marchant (Wichita-SME) shared, "My role is to utilize my knowledge regarding the functions of the judicial section of the Workers Compensation Division to assist with the development of OSCAR. Specifically, I offer my expertise regarding the day-to-day operations and procedures of the judicial section, including the litigation and adjudication of workers compensation claims, so that OSCAR will meet the needs of the judicial section.



SME -
Judge Ali Marchant

When OSCAR goes live, many of the changes I see for the judicial section involve adapting to the management of workers compensation cases without a paper file. All court filings will be processed through the OSCAR system rather than mailing or faxing in paper copies, and other file materials, such as transcripts and exhibits, will also be maintained within the electronic file. The parties will also be able to schedule all hearings through the system rather than having to contact the individual judges' offices."

Marchant continued, "I think the most significant benefit of the OSCAR system will be the increased efficiency of workers compensation operations across the board. OSCAR will enable us to streamline our processes and provide a one-stop place for all aspects of workers compensation administration. It will also enable our staff and practitioners alike to more easily locate the information they need to carry out the tasks of workers compensation administration."

Marchant added that she believes the increased ease of accessing information will make the biggest impact on our customers. Whether it is attorneys wanting to know the status of a case or the parties themselves wanting to see what pleadings have been filed or what is scheduled, OSCAR will put all of that information and more at their fingertips with simple online access. Neither the parties nor their attorneys will have to contact our office to obtain information regarding a case, because it will be readily available in OSCAR. I think this immediate availability of information will enable workers compensation parties and practitioners to be better informed and more efficient in the management of their cases and will certainly be a significant benefit of OSCAR.



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Workers Compensation Seminar
Opens March 27 at
www.dol.ks.gov/WorkComp/seminar.aspx**