

Oregon Workers' Compensation Educational Conference

Program Agenda

Thursday, May 7

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Registration	7:00-8:00 a.m.	Registration and continental breakfast		
Opening session	8:00-9:00 a.m.	State of the industry: Update – Matt West, administrator, Workers ’ Compensation Division (WCD) (40 mins.) Modernization update – Heather Williamson, Modernization Program manager, WCD (20 mins.)		
Breakouts	9:15-10:15 a.m.	Perspective of the injured worker – Barbra Anderson, ombuds for Oregon workers, Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers; Kate Suisman, attorney, Northwest Workers ’ Justice Project; and Keith Semple, attorney, Johnson, Johnson, Lucas & Middleton	What new businesses need to know – Caitlin Breitbach and Julie Stratton, Office of the Small Business Ombudsman	Worker noncooperation and suspension of benefits – Lin Allen, sanctions representative, Sanctions, WCD What are IMEs and WRMEs – Nicholas Ring, medical reviewer, Medical Resolution, WCD
Breakouts	10:30-11:30 a.m.	WC 101: From injury to closure, part 1 – Jaylee Hlad-Mosgrove, chief assistant ombuds, Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers; Dan Schmelling, claims supervisor, SAIF Corp.; and Molly Van Houten, benefit consultant, Benefit Consultation Unit, WCD	Oregon’s best-kept secret, the Preferred Worker Program (PWP) – Christy Johnson, reemployment specialist, and David Barcroft, worksite modification consultant, PWP, WCD	Reclaiming 30% more: Work conditioning’s impact on workplace recovery – Jonathan M. Kirsch, PT, DPT, CMPT, ATI Physical Therapy
Lunch	11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	Networking lunch		
Breakouts	1:00-2:00 p.m.	WC 101: From injury to closure, part 2 – Jaylee Hlad-Mosgrove, chief assistant ombuds, Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers; Dan Schmelling, claims supervisor, SAIF Corp.; and Brenda Dodd, benefit consultant, Benefit Consultation Unit, WCD	TBI, PTSD, and malingering – Dr. Robert Arias, licensed clinical psychologist	2026 legislative update – Matt West, administrator, WCD Word soup – Jenn Ferris, acting resource and technology manager, WCD
Breakouts	2:15-3:15 p.m.	Appellate update – Lauren Eldridge, managing attorney, and Heidi Havercroft, senior staff attorney, Workers ’ Compensation Board	Oregon OSHA consultation: Hazard identification and risk reduction – Scott Gunderson, occupational safety consultant, Oregon OSHA	Developing resilient environments through psychological safety – Andy Rohner, senior safety management consultant, SAIF Corp.
Breakouts	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Inducement not to file/direction of care – Aaron Fellman, coverage and assessments policy analyst, WCD	Maximize worksite productivity with Oregon WCD return-to-work programs – Zoe Tacadena, reemployment specialist, PWP; and Lucas Marcoe, reimbursement specialist, SIRR Unit, WCD Requesting designation of a paying agent – Kim Ritts, auditor, Audit Unit; and Raquel Cancino, benefit consultant, Benefit Consultation Unit, WCD	A data driven dive into Oregon’s workers’ compensation system and the western region – Todd Johnson, senior state relations executive, National Council on Compensation Insurance
Public Meeting	4:30-5:00 p.m.	Mangement-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) public meeting* - Teri Watson, MLAC Administrator		
Reception	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Reception with exhibitors		
Friday, May 8				
Breakfast	7:30-8:30 a.m.	Continental breakfast		
Keynote	8:30-9:30 a.m.	Claim obligations – Sara Kessler, auditor, Audit Unit; Sarah Jones, senior field investigator, Employer Compliance Unit; and Sophie Serlin, medical reviewer, Medical Resolution, WCD		
Breakouts	9:45-10:45 a.m.	Effective solutions to prevent workplace stress and burnout – Katia Costa-Black, Ph.D., senior manager for education and partnerships, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences	Diving into the medical arbiter process – Kyle Gwyn and Alison KleeB, appellate review specialists, Appellate Review Unit, WCD	Recordables and reportables, part 1 – Jason Hopkins, field investigator, Employer Compliance Unit, WCD; and Craig Hamelund, education specialist, Oregon OSHA
Breakouts	11:00-12:00 p.m.	Timely first payment of temporary disability – Sara Kessler, auditor, Audit Unit, WCD	Top 5 workers’ comp mistakes – Caitlin Breitbach and Julie Stratton, Office of the Small Business Ombudsman Employee or independent contractor – Sarah Jones, senior field investigator, Employer Compliance Unit. WCD	Recordables and reportables, part 2 – Jason Hopkins, field investigator, Employer Compliance Unit, WCD; and Craig Hamelund, education specialist, Oregon OSHA

* - MLAC meeting on May 7 is open to the public and does not require paid admission.