

Oregon Workers' Compensation Educational Conference

Program Agenda

Thursday, May 7

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 – <i>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</i>	What new businesses need to know – <i>Caitlin Breitbach and Julie Stratton, Office of the Small Business Ombudsman</i>	Worker noncooperation and suspension of benefits – <i>Lin Allen, sanctions representative, Sanctions, WCD</i> <hr/> What are IMEs and WRMEs – <i>Nicholas Ring, medical reviewer, Medical Resolution, WCD</i>
Breakouts	10:30-11:30 a.m.	WC 101: From injury to closure, part 1 – <i>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</i>	Oregon's best-kept secret, the Preferred Worker Program (PWP) – <i>Christy Johnson, reemployment specialist, and David Barcroft, worksite modification consultant, PWP, WCD</i>	Reclaiming 30% more: Work conditioning's impact on workplace recovery – <i>Jonathan M. Kirsch, PT, DPT, CMPT, ATI Physical Therapy</i>
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 – <i>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</i>	TBI, PTSD, and malingering – <i>Dr. Robert Arias, licensed clinical psychologist</i>	2026 legislative update – <i>Matt West, administrator, WCD</i> <hr/> Word soup – <i>Jenn Ferris, acting resource and technology manager, WCD</i>
Breakouts	2:15-3:15 p.m.	Appellate update – <i>Lauren Eldridge, managing attorney, and Heidi Havercroft, senior staff attorney, Workers' Compensation Board</i>	Oregon OSHA consultation: Hazard identification and risk reduction – <i>Scott Gunderson, occupational safety consultant, Oregon OSHA</i>	Developing resilient environments through psychological safety – <i>Andy Rohner, senior safety management consultant, SAIF Corp.</i>
Breakouts	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Inducement not to file/direction of care – <i>Aaron Fellman, coverage and assessments policy analyst, WCD</i>	Maximize worksite productivity with Oregon WCD return-to-work programs – <i>Zoe Tacadena, reemployment specialist, PWP; and Lucas Marcae, reimbursement specialist, SIRR Unit, WCD</i> <hr/> Requesting designation of a paying agent – <i>Kim Ritts, auditor, Audit Unit; and Raquel Cancino, benefit consultant, Benefit Consultation Unit, WCD</i>	A data driven dive into Oregon's workers' compensation system and the western region – <i>Todd Johnson, senior state relations executive, National Council on Compensation Insurance</i>
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 – <i>Sara Kessler, auditor, Audit Unit; Sarah Jones, senior field investigator, Employer Compliance Unit; and Sophie Serlin, medical reviewer, Medical Resolution, WCD</i>		
Breakouts	9:45-10:45 a.m.	Effective solutions to prevent workplace stress and burnout – <i>Katia Costa-Black, Ph.D., senior manager for education and partnerships, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences</i>	Diving into the medical arbiter process – <i>Kyle Gwyn and Alison Kleeb, appellate review specialists, Appellate Review Unit, WCD</i>	Recordables and reportables, part 1 – <i>Jason Hopkins, field investigator, Employer Compliance Unit, WCD; and Craig Hamelund, education specialist, Oregon OSHA</i>
Breakouts	11:00-12:00 p.m.	Timely first payment of temporary disability – <i>Sara Kessler, auditor, Audit Unit, WCD</i>	Top 5 workers' comp mistakes – <i>Caitlin Breitbach and Julie Stratton, Office of the Small Business Ombudsman</i> <hr/> Employee or independent contractor – <i>Sarah Jones, senior field investigator, Employer Compliance Unit, WCD</i>	Recordables and reportables, part 2 – <i>Jason Hopkins, field investigator, Employer Compliance Unit, WCD; and Craig Hamelund, education specialist, Oregon OSHA</i>

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