

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Dahl at 9:00 A.M. on January 21 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Dale Swenson- unexcused
Jeff Jack- excused

Committee staff present: Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
June Evans, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Paula Greathouse, Director of Workers Compensation
Carol S. Cast, Coordinator, Employer Services, Kansas
Department of Labor, Division of Workers Compensation

The Chairman introduced Paula Greathouse, Director of Workers Compensation, Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL).

Ms. Greathouse stated the Workers Compensation Advisory Council is set forth in K.S.A. 44-596. All actions of the Advisory Council are required to be open meetings except when there is a recess for a closed caucus type meeting of either group; however, no binding action can be taken at such a meeting. The Director of Workers Compensation serves as the Chair of the Advisory Council and coordinates the agenda for the Advisory Council. The Director puts together the agenda of issues that are current concerns in the workers compensation arena. The Advisory Council discusses these issues and may invite experts on a specific issue to present their viewpoints at the Advisory Council meetings. A current listing of the members will be sent to the Committee (Attachment 1).

Ms. Greathouse introduced Carol S. Cast, Coordinator, Employer Services, Kansas Department of Labor, Division of Workers Compensation, who gave an overview of the basics of Workers Compensation (Attachment 2).

A committee member referenced form K-WC 40 (Rev. 11-04) and suggested that KDOL might include some type of warning on the form concerning making fraudulent claims (Attachment 3).

It was asked what happened to the recommendations sent to the Advisory Council last year?

Ms. Greathouse replied the Council was unable to come to an agreement but would make another stab at it this year.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M. and the next meeting will be January 25, 2005.