



GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

on WORKERS' COMPENSATION

MAKING WORK COMP WORK

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

BILLINGS, MT

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2025



Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY

Conference Agenda

Wednesday, September 3rd

Pre-Conference Meetings

8:30 – 10:00	Montana Self-Insurers' Meeting – <i>Featuring Claire Muselman</i> - Open to the Public	Skybridge 1 & 2
10:30 – Noon	Kids' Chance of Montana Annual Board Meeting – Open to the Public	Skybridge 4

Conference Meetings

8:00 – 4:00	Registration Desk Sponsored by <i>Crowley Fleck</i>	3 rd Floor Lobby
1:00 – 1:10	Conference Opening Remarks – <i>Cindy Zimmerman & Jason Swant</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
1:10 – 1:20	Welcome to Billings – <i>Chris Kukulski, City Manager</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
1:20 – 1:30	Kids' Chance of Montana Update – <i>Leah Tietz, President</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
1:30 – 2:30	The Montana Workers' Compensation Act: Making History & Moving Forward - <i>Jason Swant</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
2:30 – 2:45	Break	3 rd Floor Lobby
2:45 – 4:00	Virtual Agents of Change: Navigating Workers' Compensation Future with AI, Automation and API's - <i>James Benham</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
4:00 – 5:00	Improved Communications: Listening, Influencing & Persuading - <i>Brian Holmes</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
5:00 – 6:00	Cocktail Reception Hosted by <i>Multiple Conference Sponsors</i>	Ponderosa Room

Thursday, September 4th

7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast	Grand Ballroom ABC
8:00 – 9:00	Evidence-Based Disability Prevention in Workers' Compensation - <i>Dr. Gary Franklin</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
9:00 – 10:00	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: A Rapidly Changing Landscape in Workers' Compensation – <i>Dr Jennifer Jutte</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
10:00 – 10:15	Break	3 rd Floor Lobby
10:15 – 11:15	Addressing Health Care Quality and Q&A with the Medical Experts on Emerging Issues – <i>Dr. Jennifer Jutte & Dr. Gary Franklin</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
11:15 – 12:15	2025 Legislative Session Updates – <i>Nick Mazanec & Amanda Frickle</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
12:15 – 1:30	Governor's Awards Luncheon	Copper Room
1:30 – 2:30	How Medical Innovation – Paired with a New Value-Based Care Model – Is Making Workers' Comp Work - <i>Amy Rolando</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
2:30 – 3:30	Integrating Physical Therapists as Primary Provider for Management and Treatment of Workplace Injury - <i>Samantha Schmidt, Lorena Pettet Payne & Thomas Little</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
3:30 – 3:45	Break – Sponsored by <i>Treasure State Occupational Health</i>	Hotel Parking Lot
3:45 – 5:00	Work Comp Claim Experience: Can Someone Help Me – <i>Dr. Lisa Fitzpatrick</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
6:00 – 9:00	Cocktail Reception Hosted by <i>REOH</i>	TBD

Friday, September 5th

7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast	Grand Ballroom ABC
8:30 – 9:30	Negotiating Successful Return to Work - <i>Dr. Tyrone Spears</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
9:30 – 10:30	Integrating Historical Advances, Medical Technology and Education in the Work Comp System - <i>Bob Wilson</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
10:30 – 11:30	WCC Case Review – <i>Judge Lee Bruner</i>	Grand Ballroom ABC
11:30 – 12:00	Conference Closing and Door Prize Drawings	Grand Ballroom ABC



Montana Department of
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