

# **MINUTES**

## **WorkSafe Colorado Occupational Health and Safety Network Implementation Meeting**

Date: February 7, 2011  
Time: 9:00-11:00 AM (MST)  
Location: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)  
4200 Cherry Creek Drive South, Building A, Roy Cleere Conference Room  
Hosted by: CDPHE, Occupational Health Surveillance Program

### **Attendees:**

- Amy Warner, CDPHE Occupational Health Surveillance Program
- Brenda Hardwick, State of Colorado Risk Management
- Corey Campbell, CDC/NIOSH Western States Office
- Gene Hook, Denver Environmental Health
- Gwen Lewis, Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center
- Herb Gibson, OSHA Denver Area Office
- Joan Sowinski, Colorado Board of Health
- John Perkner, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Federal Occupational Health
- Karen Mulloy, Denver Health Center for Occupational Safety and Health
- Kaylan Stinson, UCD Mountain and Plains Education Research Center
- Kelly Webb, Rocky Mountain College of Agriculture Art & Design
- Ken Scott, UCD Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center
- Lynette Myers, CDPHE Environmental Leadership Program Coordinator
- Jeff McCollum, CDPHE Epidemiologic Intelligence Officer (CDC)
- Laura Davis, Ball Aerospace, Colorado Board of Health
- Meredith Towle, CDPHE Occupational Health Surveillance Program
- Michael Kosnett, UCD
- Nancy Williams, Tri-County Health Department, Epidemiologic Intelligence Officer (CDC)
- Rebecca Kirchdorfer, Downing Street Garage
- Shireen Banerji, Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center
- Tsering Dorjee, CDPHE Office of Planning and Partnerships
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### **Phone Attendees:**

- Cecile Rose, National Jewish Health
- Dianne Tobias, Pinnacol Assurance
- Michael Boyer, TOLMAR Inc.
- Paul R. Reaser, Garfield County Public Health

### **Agenda, Notes & Action Items:**

#### **1) Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was started with updates from the Occupational Health Surveillance Program, noting key points summarized in the February 2011 quarterly newsletter, [\*The Monitor\*](#), available on-line.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- SAVE THE DATES for the 2011 WorkSafe meetings. All meetings will be held on the CDPHE campus. We have secured the Rachel Carson Room (the room adjacent to today's location), on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Building A:
  - Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:00 AM
  - Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:00 AM
  - Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00-11:00 AM
  - Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00-11:00 AM
  - Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:00 AM
- We circulated a summary of the MAP ERC Interdisciplinary Course project titled, *Marketing WorkSafe Colorado: Research on Best Practices from Other Occupational Health Organizations in Colorado*. If you would like to offer feedback on the direction of this project, please contact Meredith Towle ([Meredith.towle@state.co.us](mailto:Meredith.towle@state.co.us), 303-691-4938). Please consider that this is a 1-credit, student group project to be completed by May 2011.

## **2) CDPHE's [Environmental Leadership Program \(ELP\)](#)**

Lynette Myers, ELP Coordinator, provided a brief overview of this effort, ongoing at CDPHE since 1999, noting the following key points:

- ELP business members voluntarily go beyond compliance with state and federal environmental regulations and are committed to continual environmental improvement.
- Program was strongly supported by Governor Ritter and is expected to be encouraged under Governor Hickenlooper as well.
- By achieving defined criteria and milestones, membership is available in three levels of recognition - bronze, silver, or gold.
- All Colorado businesses are eligible to apply. The ELP [Membership Directory](#) is online.
- Benefits and incentives of being an ELP member have shifted away from regulatory relief toward the benefits of networking for business development, mentoring, and recognition.
- Currently, there are no occupational safety and health criteria associated with membership. It is presumed that most companies who are leaders in environmental stewardship also strive to ensure safe and healthy workplaces, and the ELP members are a great resource for outreach on the WorkSafe initiative.
- Potential ELP members are identified through the list of compliance inspections conducted by the CDPHE. All businesses are invited to an introductory meeting. Roughly 60% end up joining the ELP.

Feedback from present ELP members and group discussion:

- One of the most valued aspects of the ELP program is the opportunity to build a relationship with the State outside that of regulation and enforcement. Lynette is a valued resource to ELP members for navigating and understanding regulatory and compliance issues.
- ELP businesses highly value the opportunities to network, contract and partner with other environmentally conscious associates.
- Despite existing programs and incentives (OSHA's SHARPS and VPP, and Cost Containment insurance programs), businesses have a need for state-level support and infrastructure for workplace health and safety. ELP members present expressed a need for an occupational safety and health presence at CDPHE to provide:
  - Guidance for OSH regulation and compliance

- Technical assistance on safety and health concerns
- Resources for small business
- Opportunities for businesses to network and mentor on the issues of workplace safety and health
- The ELP leaders have already started discussions on what the next level of achievement may look like, thus expanding the program or linking it with similar initiative for OSH is likely to be well received among members.
- Not many state agencies are part of the ELP but could or should be. Brenda Hardwick is making progress establishing a new state employee safety and health program, CHASE (Championing Health and Safety Everyday).

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Identify and summarize criteria for existing OSH incentive and recognition programs (OSHA's SHARPS and VPP, Pinnacol's Circle of Safety or other insurance-based incentives)
- Use this information to develop suggested criteria to potentially 1) incorporate with existing ELP achievement levels, or 2) develop a similar program with an OSH focus.
- Amy & Meredith will work with Lynette to introduce the broader ELP membership to the WorkSafe Colorado initiative and the CDPHE's Occupational Health Surveillance Program.

**3) Implementation Work Groups: Formal Infrastructure & Marketing Messages**

Small group discussion/activity tabled for next session.

Dr. Michael Kosnett provided a brief summary of his conversations with state representatives at the Denver Medical Society Legislative Night on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The prevailing sentiment was that the value-added proposition is of utmost interest. Laura Davis further defined value-added as not just workers compensation costs but also labor hours lost. Also highlighted is the fact that businesses (such as ELP members) have a voice in the process of garnering political support for state-level OSH efforts.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Meredith will revise and improve upon the talking points and white paper for WorkSafe Colorado.

**4) Update on the Occupational Health Surveillance Advisory Committee**

Meredith provided an update on establishment of this Committee, including the purpose and progress in identifying membership for the initial assembly. Dr. Lisa Miller, PI of the Occupational Health Surveillance Program will Chair the Committee. Approximately 15 individuals have been identified based not only on known expertise in the areas of surveillance and epidemiology, but also because of anticipated first-year projects of the program, and interest in more closely linking occupational health prevention efforts with those of related environmental health efforts.

**5) Next Steps**

The next meeting will focus on OSH leadership criteria and approaches for businesses, and reconvening small workgroups on Formal Infrastructure and Marketing Messages

*Many thanks to all for a great meeting!*  
*Notes prepared by Meredith Towle on 2/8/11*  
[meredith.towle@state.co.us](mailto:meredith.towle@state.co.us)  
 Phone: 303-691-4938