

## MINUTES WORKSAFE COLORADO

**Date:** Monday, December 12, 2011  
**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 AM  
**Location:** Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Room C1A  
Denver, CO 80246

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### **Attendees:**

- Amanda Tran, CDPHE Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program
- Amy Warner, CDPHE Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program
- Christine Hoefler, CDPHE Small Business Assistance Program
- Diana Rodriguez, Kaiser Permanente
- Dianne Tobias, Pinnacol Assurance
- Elizabeth Dalsey, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
- Gene Hook, Denver Environmental Health
- Herb Gibson, US Dept of Labor, OSHA Region VIII
- Jane Bozeman, Kaiser Permanente
- Jeff Roffle, Colorado Dept of Labor, Division of Workers' Compensation
- Joan Sowinski, Colorado Board of Health
- Ken Scott, Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center (MAP ERC)
- Kevin Scally, Alliance Insurance
- Lisa Roth, Alliance Insurance
- Lynette Myers, CDPHE, Environmental Leadership Program
- Mauricio Palacio, CDPHE Occupational Health Disparities
- Meredith Towle, CDPHE Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program
- Sharon West, Colorado Department of Labor, Div. of Workers' Compensation
- Stephanie Minnaert, Ball Aero Space & Technologies Corp.
- Tsering Dorjee, CDPHE Office of Planning and Partnerships
- Yvonne Boudreau, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

### **MINUTES:**

#### **1) Overview of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Cost Containment Program (Jeff Roffle)**

- a. Complete information online: [www.coworkforce.com/DWC](http://www.coworkforce.com/DWC) → Click on "Employer Safety and Loss Control".
  - i. Staff of 4 Advisors to review employer applications and provide site audits for technical assistance to address safety program implementation.
  - ii. An "Essentials" brochure was distributed that outlines the elements of a Premium Cost Containment Program and what is needed for employer certification. Templates or model safety programs are not provided by the program to ensure employers develop thoughtful site-specific plans.
  - iii. The Governor's Cost Containment Board meets monthly to review employer applications.
    1. 2 seats designated for Pinnacol Assurance and the CO Div. of Insurance.
    2. The other 5 seats are 3 yr appointments and employer nominations are encouraged.

- b. This is a voluntary program open to any size Colorado employer commercially insured for workers' compensation.
  - i. Approved/certified employers receive 5% reduction on WC premiums. If a designated medical provider program is also implemented, the employer may receive an additional 2½% reduction in premiums.
  - ii. Approx. 6,000 employers currently certified (Est. 100,000 employers in the state).
- c. State agencies cannot participate in this program because they are self-funded. However, the State Risk Management [CHASE](#) initiative does promote implementing the same element of the program.
- d. Solely being a governmental agency does not preclude participation. The program does certify many towns, municipalities, school districts and fire departments that are commercially insured.
- e. Since this program started in the 1990's, the state has seen a reduction in WC claims costs by \$150 million, and claims frequency by 10,000.
- f. The program has no authority to investigate job sites or penalize employers for safety hazards. By participating in this program though, the employer agrees to any on-site audits or inspections as the Board may require.

**DISCUSSION & ACTION:**

- The certification criteria are not the end-all, tell-all of workplace safety. They are a starting point for employers. The Cost Containment Program could consider the model used by the CDPHE Environmental Leadership Program (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/oeis/elp/index.html>), where more sophisticated levels of safety program implementation lead to higher levels of recognition by the program. This would require a legislative change and would need a lot more stakeholder input before moving forward. Jeff has agreed to mention the suggestion to the Board.
- Contact [jeff.roffle@state.co.us](mailto:jeff.roffle@state.co.us) if you know of interested persons for the Cost Containment Board. They would like to have more employer representation.
- Several existing resources for work-place safety training, include:
  - OSHA Consultation
  - OSHA Classes
  - WC carriers offer free/low cost training to clients
  - Red Rocks Community College courses
  - Colorado Safety Association
  - Mountain States Employment Council
  - Various trade associations (AIHA, ASSE)
- Worksafe Colorado should work to promote these various training opportunities. Pinnacol does this for their clients through social media announcements

**2) Overview of the CDPHE Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) (Christine Hoefler)**

- a. Program was created by mandate of the Federal Clean Air Act
- b. Complete information online: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/sbap/index.html>.
  - i. Provides compliance assistance for environmental regulations, but, because of need expressed by their constituents, also provides some guidance on OSHA compliance.
  - ii. For eligibility, small business is defined as having ≤ 100 employees, or emission of ≤ 50-75 tons of any regulated pollutant. (Multi-media assistance, including air, waste, waste water, storm water, and emergency planning.)

- iii. The program is moving away from site-investigation models, toward more guidance and resource development to reach a larger base of businesses. (i.e. The Compliance Calendar for drycleaner operators, available in English and Korean)
- c. SBAP often receives requests for help with work-place safety. The SBAP typically refers these to the WC carrier and OSHA Consultation Program. OSHA Consultation is typically constrained to focus on national and local emphasis issues.
- d. SBAP has focus outreach projects based on compliance issues, updated environmental regulation, or new environmental initiatives. Recent focus areas included the sand and gravel industry, the autobody industry, and incinerator operators dealing with beetle kill pine.

**DISCUSSION & ACTION:**

- Having been previously unaware of the DOLE Cost Containment Program, the SBAP will now promote it as a resource for small businesses.
- Discussed Michigan’s experience with methylene chloride exposures and fatalities among bathtub refinishers as an example of the need to link surveillance data with environmental/occupational investigation/prevention. The NIOSH report is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/FACE/stateface/mi/10mi013.html>
- The CDPHE Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program should strive to provide the group more information about injuries, illnesses, and fatalities by industry and occupation sector.
- Other partners for Worksafe Colorado may include the CDPHE Indoor Air Quality Program (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/iaqhom.html>) and the CDPHE Generator Assistance Program (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/gap/index.htm>).

**3) Marketing Committee Report & Developing the Worksafe Colorado Website (Meredith Towle)**

- a. Committee phone call on 11/30/11 lead to student internship for development of the website.
- b. Discussed the right type of communication forum: Peer-to-peer blog vs. “ask the expert” blog vs. listserv vs. website. All need some level of staff time to manage/moderate.
  - i. Resolution is that we only have resources to focus on website development. Future applications for funding can describe the utility of providing interactive communication forums for members.

**DISCUSSION & ACTION:**

- Meredith will work with Dianne to develop and post the internship project to develop the Worksafe Colorado website, which can be modeled after the WorksafeMT website.
  - Discussed need for synergy between CDPHE, DOLE, WC carriers and OSHA to effectively promote a state-wide safety culture.
- Meredith/Amy will reach out to WorksafeMT to hopefully arrange a working meeting in February on network development.
- Agencies, employers, and organizations can host MPH student projects of their own design through a variety of mechanisms:
  - The Colorado School of Public Health, Practice Based Learning Courses. Visit <http://pbl.publichealthpractice.org/> or contact [jan.gascoigne@ucdenver.edu](mailto:jan.gascoigne@ucdenver.edu) or [olivia.jolly@ucdenver.edu](mailto:olivia.jolly@ucdenver.edu). Host site applications accepted all year.
  - The MAP ERC interdisciplinary courses for OSH trainees. Contact [ken.scott@ucdenver.edu](mailto:ken.scott@ucdenver.edu).
  - The Occupational Health Internship Program. Visit <http://www.aoec.org/ohip/>. Host site applications announced each spring.

- The CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship, or the CDC Fellowships, generally for state and local health agencies. Visit <http://www.cste.org/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/fellowships/>.
- Discussed Michigan's experience with methylene chloride exposures and fatalities among bathtub refinishers as an example of the need to link surveillance and investigation with prevention/outreach. The NIOSH report is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/FACE/stateface/mi/10mi013.html>
- Discussed need to ensure alliance of Worksafe Colorado efforts with the latest Environmental Justice initiative.

#### **4) Leadership Committee Report (Amy Warner)**

- a. Group voted to approve Worksafe Colorado Bylaws after some minor editorial changes.
- b. Group accepted changes to the Member Application and Pledge, and levels of participation:
  - i. Minimal: Sign the Pledge and attend meetings as able.
  - ii. Moderate: Sign the Pledge, complete the Application, and participate in at least 2 meetings annually.
  - iii. High: Hold a position on the Executive Board
- c. The bylaws, membership application and pledge will be posted to the Worksafe Colorado website.

#### **DISCUSSION & ACTION:**

- Amy will finalize the structure documents and work with the Leadership Committee to develop a nomination/application process for filling Board positions.

#### **5) List of agenda items for 2012:**

- Review implementation plan, assess, and reprioritize (Feb 2012)
- WorkSafe MT presentation (Feb 2012)
- Environmental Health nursing – Take home exposures? How work life affects family life? Env Health Assessment. Person to come talk to us?
- Marketing slide show – 10 slides all members can use about Worksafe/OSH in public health
- How health impact work (smoking/asbestos, obesity/truckers) Worksite wellness and workplace health/safety10 winnable battles in OSH
  - NIOSH pushing occupational aspects in CDC's winnable battles
  - CDPHE's new Wellness Coordinator to present/attend
- Get the governor's support for Worksafe CO
- Foster alignment with Environmental Justice
- Engage the Small Business Administration

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