WORKSAFE COLORADO

Date: Monday, August 1st, 2011

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Location: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Building A Rachel Carson Meeting Room (1st floor)

Denver, CO 80246

Attendees:

• Amy Warner, CDPHE Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program

- Dianne Tobias, Pinnacol Assurance
- Elizabeth Dalsey, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
- Gene Hook, Denver Environmental Health
- Greg Marsh, Greg K. Marsh and Assoc. LLC
- Joan Sowinski, Colorado Board of Health
- Karen Mulloy, Denver Health COSH & Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center (MAP ERC)
- Ken Scott, Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center (MAP ERC)
- Lili Tenney, Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center (MAP ERC)
- Mauricio Palacio, CDPHE Occupational Health Disparities
- Meredith Towle, CDPHE Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program

MINUTES:

- 1) Introductions: Key updates from members included:
 - a. CDPHE:
 - o Secured a 2nd yr of funding during non-compete renewal in June; Program annual report distributed at the meeting and will be published online.
 - o The Occupational Health Indicator surveillance report and a report on work-related hospitalizations will be published online by end of August.
 - Submitted a pilot project proposal to the MAPERC to conduct a survey study of certified pesticide applicators in Colorado.
 - o Planning to meet with CDPHE's Health Facilities Division to discuss opportunities to collaborate on needle stick injuries & health care worker violence.

b. MAP-ERC:

- Working on a program/grant to provide HAZWOPER training courses to underserved populations.
- o Launching the IH certification course online next year.
- o Funding remains uncertain beyond June 2012; efforts are on-going to secure political support and identify supplemental sources of revenue (donations/fundraising).

c. NIOSH:

- O Preliminary results from a national workforce needs assessment were recently published. We discussed issues regarding the conclusion that a 42% shortfall exists in trained OSH professionals. Based on members' recent experiences, while employers may want to hire OSH professionals, OSH is also one of the first cuts in private industry and jobs are not truly available.
- o Proceedings of the Nanomaterials Worker Health Conference are available online. (http://journals.lww.com/joem/toc/2011/06001)

- Don't forget to check out or subscribe to NIOSH's <u>Science Blog</u>, <u>E-news</u>, and <u>Transportation</u> <u>Twitter</u> sites
- d. Upcoming meetings and conferences:
 - The MAP ERC's <u>RoadMap Newsletter</u> contains updated information on local/regional occupational health & safety conferences, including the AIHA, WestON, and the Wyoming Fracking Forum
 - o The CDPHE OHS Surveillance Program is also presenting at the upcoming <u>Colorado Public Health Association</u> (CPHA) meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Make a group announcement when the MAPERC's HAZWOPER course is available and the revised pesticide use training videos (English/Spanish) are available through CPEP.
- Pursue a MAPERC Interdisciplinary Course project to research the business case for investing in occupational health & safety (i.e. cost effectiveness of a healthy workforce and staffing health/safety professionals). Members referenced a Liberty Mutual study showed that for every \$1 invested, businesses had a \$3 ROI.
- CDPHE OHS Surveillance will post links to NIOSH's "Stop Sticks" campaign and meet with the CDPHE Health Facilities Program to identify ways to collaborate on occupational needle stick injuries

2) Leadership Committee: Discussion of By-laws and organizational structure

- a. Discussed striking the right balance between a loose network of professionals versus a structured coalition
- b. There was general consensus that by-laws are needed to provide structure to the group if non-profit status is to be achieved (essential to pursue funding opportunities), provide a decision making structure for priority setting, and establish roles for others to help guide network development.
- c. Things that need to be added to/addressed in the by-laws:
 - i. The role of CDPHE?
 - ii. What are "desirable criteria" of members?
 - iii. How does a person become a member (i.e. completing an enrollment form)?
 - iv. Are there different level of membership (i.e. for vendors)?
 - v. Who maintains the membership list?
 - vi. How are executive board members selected?

ACTION ITEMS:

- Revised the by-laws to address these things and distribute for comments.
- Develop a member enrollment form and invite all current Worksafe Colorado contacts to become a member of the network. Enrollment should include professional contact information, and areas of expertise and/or interest.

3) Marketing Messages Committee

- a. Discussed need to create the "shell" for marketing first, including a web domain to park information specific to Worksafe Colorado.
- b. Discussed need to better define the incentive for membership and participation (why should you be a member, what Worksafe will offer you/your organization, etc)
- c. Discussed the need to ensure any messages to workers are available in English and Spanish.
- d. White paper: While much has been written about OSH in Colorado (the Worksafe Strategic Plan, Talking Points, OHI surveillance reports, grant applications/reports), a formal white paper has not been created. The MAPERC students have completed two projects for the whitepaper, and a third is now proposed to have them investigate the business case for OSH

(how OSH saves businesses money). The initial audience for the white paper was legislatures. That remains, though the paper may need to speak to others as well to secure support for Worksafe (employers, workers, OSH professionals)

ACTION ITEMS:

- Create a simple website using WordPress or BlogSpot. Direct the worksafecolorado.org domain name to this site.
- Need to re-engage Colorado's DOLE in Worksafe initiative.
- Draft white paper for review by Worksafe members.
- **4) Criteria for Business Mentorship Program** (Discussion tabled for next meeting)
- **5) Next Meeting:** Monday, October 3rd, 9:00-11:00 at CDPHE