

# Oregon Worker Illness & Injury Prevention Program (OWIIPP) Advisory Committee Meeting

## *Meeting Summary*

*April 18, 2008*

Attendance is listed at the end of this document.

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Jae Douglas welcomed the group.

Mel Kohn and Michael Wood also welcomed the group. Kohn stated that this forum has proven to be a very beneficial opportunity for the major occupational health players in Oregon to network. It will be exciting to see how this group evolves/moves forward as OWIIPP sharpens its focus. Wood also stated that the meetings are valuable and agrees that OWIIPP should sharpen its focus.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

Each person went around the table to share items of interest to the group.

*Michael Heumann*: Heumann informed the group that he is working with Emergency Preparedness. He is currently providing four regional training sessions for local health departments that includes an overview of the health and safety considerations for public health workers. This training emphasizes the OSHA requirement for health and safety guidelines for safe working conditions, especially when they plan for responding to public health emergencies (such as pandemic influenza). Through these training sessions, local health department staff are becoming increasingly aware that they may be called upon to be emergency responders too. He is also working to strengthen the Oregon Public Health Division's (OPHD's) relationship with OR-OSHA in order to adequately prepare emergency responders for disaster response and recovery. One example is the collaboration between OPHD and OR-OSHA during the recent winter storm and flood response, where the two agencies provided safety and health guidance for workers involved in debris removal, and for the impacted public in recovery efforts at their homes.

*Zandra Walton*: Walton indicated that young workers in the restaurant industry are a priority area for Liberty Northwest (LNW) since the summer is approaching and more teens will be working. She is currently collaborating with the Oregon Restaurant Association to develop and disseminate prevention messages for this industry. LNW is sponsoring the second Oregon Young Worker Safety and Health Coalition meeting on April 23, 2008. Mary Miller from Washington State Labor and Industries will be the guest speaker. She is also developing a health and safety module geared toward teens in the restaurant industry.

*Chuck Easterly*: Easterly stated that SAIF Corporation will hold agricultural safety seminars from October through March; young worker safety in agriculture will be an emphasis area. He reported that the Oregon Coalition for Healthcare Ergonomics (OCHE) continues to forge ahead on two pilot projects at the Dallas Retirement Center and Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The goal of these projects is to reduce the rate of musculoskeletal disorders in the health care industry by establishing model programs for safe patient and resident movement. Easterly reported that SAIF has seen 10% fewer claims in the first quarter of 2008 as compared to last year; this decrease may be an indicator of the current economy.

*Anthony Veltri*: Veltri indicated that Oregon State University will be offering a summer course in disaster preparedness. He is currently working on the 2008 Spring Corporate Sponsored Seminar Event where Diane Bush and Laurel Kincl will present information on young worker safety and health initiatives. Veltri told the group about the Oregon employers study and indicated that it is in the gathering phase. He is

also working with Mark Brigel from New York in regards to production and safety. Veltri expressed concern about the lack of people entering public health and occupational health programs and suggested this as a potential issue for this group to address.

Laurel Kincl: Kincl outlined some of the research projects she is currently involved in, including occupational health issues for flight attendants, such as cabin air quality. She is also working on a study that examines shoulder-related injuries among dental hygienist and brick masons. Kincl stated that she just got back from a state meeting with Joan Rothlein (CROET) about the "Youth@Work: Talking Safety" curriculum. Kincl said that she did a presentation on the curriculum so that teachers can present it to their students. Eastern Oregon and Washington State are looking for materials regarding agricultural health and safety. Kincl informed the group that they have applied for an OR-OSHA grant. Kincl let the group know about the launch of OSHA 11 and said that Diane Bush is trying to develop these materials that address the basic knowledge of health and safety of young workers.

Gary Rischitelli: Rischitelli stated that he just returned from the National Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) conference and that he volunteered Oregon to host next year's conference. Rischitelli stated that NIOSH is reevaluating the FACE targets. He said that they are expanding and plan to cover Spanish immigrant workers, worker/machine interactions, falls, and new construction (especially day laborers). OR-FACE has been focusing on the agricultural work force; they just produced an agricultural fatality alert pamphlet. In regards to the pandemic flu, Rischitelli wanted to bring attention to the fact that the National College of Occupational Medicine Physicians have done a lot of research on this topic. He also agreed with Veltri's comment about a shortage of occupational safety and health professionals and noted the lack of residency programs for occupational health physicians.

Kent Anger: Anger informed the Advisory Committee of a 2008 law that went into effect regarding required unpaid leave during cases of domestic violence. Anger stated that his group is working on a new project with Brian Olson regarding wellness and safety among truck drivers; they are still in the recruitment stage. New endeavors include: collaborating with OR-OSHA; funding work around pesticide applicators' long term exposure to pesticides; and examining children of pesticide applicators. Anger also informed the group that they have received new funding regarding violence prevention among in-home nurses with training to protect them in the home setting. Anger mentioned that they are reaching out to students thinking about pursuing advanced degrees and trying to find ways to get these students interested in research and excited about careers in occupational safety and health.

Leslie Hammer: Hammer stated that she is a psychologist by training and her field of study has developed over time into occupational health psychology. As a result, she, along with some of her colleagues, have developed a program to understand how to reduce stress and improve health in the workplace and how to better improve the management structure to reduce injuries in the work force. She has worked with Robert Sinclair in the field of occupational health psychology (Robert filled in for her at a previous Advisory Committee meeting). Robert recently left Portland State University for endeavors elsewhere. Hammer also noted that she and colleagues are writing a book on occupational health for practitioners and would like to bounce some ideas off of this group in the future. She stated that she is working on a NIOSH research project that focuses on developing supervisor training and the family structure. The focus will be on seeing the effects of this training on worker health, worker family issues, and extending work into the health and retail industry. Hammer stated that they are pursuing another grant that includes working with the Local 290 to study older workers and their families.

Gail Shibley: Shibley spoke about two occupational health-related issues. The first was pesticides in and around schools. She anticipates a legislative proposal requiring that people who apply pesticides around school grounds must be licensed applicators. The second piece ("Dairy-air") is about a task force concerned with air quality around dairy farms; there are some occupational concerns regarding air quality in confined spaces. Shibley stated that the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Environmental Public Health, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture

are publishing a report in July geared toward stakeholders. There are concerns about emissions and the kind of technology could reduce these emissions.

*Michael Wood:* Wood mentioned that OR-OSHA recently adopted agriculture labor housing rules to bring Oregon in line with Federal Law. Federal OSHA rules have not changed in 20 years but OR-OSHA wants to get some standard of safety committees/structure. They want to eliminate double standards regarding schools with only one standard safety committee and private employers having to have 2 safety committees. OR-OSHA is trying to figure out health targets and how to identify them. OR-OSHA is also working with CROET in regards to young workers and is getting some attention in the media. Wood mentioned the fatality in construction story.

*Mel Kohn:* Kohn spoke about workplace wellness, especially tobacco. Kohn stated that every DHS campus will be tobacco free; DHS supports workers who want to quit smoking. Kohn stated that they are making a policy change in the work force focusing on physical fitness/nutrition and they are working with the Public Employees' Benefit Board to encourage this. He stated that there is a great deal of interest on behalf of this agency. Kohn also stated that he is interested in working with the private sector and believes that the return on their investment (focusing on health/nutrition) will be excellent and profitable.

### **OWIIPP Advisory Committee Survey Evaluation**

John Dougherty, an evaluator from Program Design and Evaluation Services of Multnomah County, gave a presentation on the OWIIPP Advisory Committee Evaluation that he carried out last summer. A copy of the full report and meeting handout is available by contacting John Dougherty at [john.a.dougherty@state.or.us](mailto:john.a.dougherty@state.or.us).

Key findings from the discussion included:

- OWIIPP advisory committee meetings are valuable
- Advisory committee members value the roundtable reporting and discussion among members because there is no similar forum to discuss occupational health and safety issues
- Meetings are valuable because they promote collaboration and networking opportunities
- To-date, the advisory committee has not really been advising OWIIPP on various projects
- There is a lack of clarity and confusion about the purpose of the OWIIPP advisory committee
- Given the number and type of people brought together for OWIIPP advisory committee meetings, some members perceive meetings as a waste since the group has not collectively worked to accomplish a major goal
- There are two important questions to ask: 1) "What's wrong here?" and 2) "What should we do about it?" Veltri asked how we, as advisors, can help. What advice can we give OWIIPP to help them achieve and accomplish their goal(s)?
- Future meetings will have a dual purpose: 1) coordinate an exchange of information among the members, and 2) serve as an advisory body to OWIIPP. OWIIPP staff may want to change the name and format of the meetings to reflect these two major goals/activities. This may reduce the lack of clarity about the function of the advisory committee identified in the evaluation.
- Members thought two meetings a year are sufficient
- E-mail new editions of *Putting Data to Work* to OWIIPP advisory committee members as they become available
- Possibly include information and collaboration plans discussed at advisory committee meetings in new editions of *Putting Data to Work* or other publications
- Include state website and other helpful information in new editions of *Putting Data to Work*
- OR-OSHA could print additional copies of *Putting Data to Work* to make them more widely available
- Members need clarity about the role of OWIIPP and public health in occupational safety and health. Staff may need to craft a plan to illustrate what OWIIPP and DHS can do.
- Define roles, expectations and procedures related to meeting (meeting process)

- Seek specific advice and assistance from the advisory committee on specific topics
- Clarify the two goals of the OWIIPP advisory committee meeting (roundtable/collaboration and advising OWIIPP)
- Develop guidelines about asking the advisory committee for advice
- Develop guidelines for how the advisory section of the meeting will be structured and whether advice should be given between meetings
- Dougherty observed that during the roundtable discussion there was no mention of OWIIPP or member's relationship to OWIIPP when listing all of the projects that each member is doing

### **OWIIPP Update**

Jaime Walters with OWIIPP gave an update about current OWIIPP publications. Walters talked about the following types of publications:

- Putting Data to Work
- Oregon Annual Profile on Occupational Health
- Peer-reviewed journal articles
  - Pyrethrin and pyrethroid illnesses in the Pacific Northwest: A five year review
  - Characteristics of occupational burns in Oregon, 2001-2006

A summary of the publications named above is available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/owiipp/advisorycommittee/OWIIPPUpdateHandout.pdf>. Electronic copies of all OWIIPP publications can also be found at [www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/owiipp/materialsandpublications.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/owiipp/materialsandpublications.shtml)

Lauren Karam with OWIIPP highlighted newly formed partnerships and recent collaborations. The recent collaborations that Karam mentioned include:

- Added a section on occupational asthma to the Oregon Asthma Quarterly Newsletter
- Developing an educational handout on worksite asthma for the Oregon Resource Bank through partnership with the Oregon Asthma Program (OAP)
- Obtained Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) asthma callback survey data
- Developed a relationship with the Oregon Partnership for Cancer Control
- Wrote a short article about responding to pesticide/chemical events for the monthly Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems newsletter. A web link to "Responding to pesticide-related emergency events," the newest edition of *Putting Data to Work*, was also included.
- Disseminated "Responding to pesticide-related emergency events" to various partners
- Collaborated with the Oregon Burn Center on the development of a future edition of *Putting Data to Work* that focuses on burn injuries
- Assisted with the development of a reporting tool to record incidents of workplace violence in hospitals and other health care settings in collaboration with the Department of Consumer and Business Services
- Applied for and received data from Oregon Employment Department
- Identifying opportunities to collaborate with the occupational health surveillance staff at the Washington State Labor and Industries

OWIIPP relies on partnerships to accomplish many of its goals.

Mandy Green of OWIIPP provided an update on OWIIPP's national efforts. Recent activities include:

- Participation in the semi-annual Consortium of Occupational State-based Surveillance and Coordination Committee meetings as well as the annual Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) occupational health surveillance workgroup meeting

- Collaboration with other states on the development of a state and national analysis plan for BRFSS workers compensation module
- Collaboration with other states and OAP on the development of state and national analysis plan and improvement of the BRFSS asthma call back survey questions
- Attendance at a health disparities conference in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Attendance at the national SENSOR Asthma meeting in Boston, Massachusetts
- Presentation will be given at the Western Regional Epidemiology Network meeting
- Two presentations will be given at CSTE annual conference

### **New Projects & Funding Opportunities**

The group was asked to identify projects and/or activities that OWIIPP should be doing as the state's occupational public health program. Potential future projects and/or activities include:

- Evaluate the impact of OWIIPP educational materials
- Evaluate the impact of training
- Measure the overall occupational safety and health of Oregon and compare to other states

### **Action Items**

- Email new editions of *Putting Data to Work* to OWIIPP advisory committee members as they become available
- Include information and collaboration plans discussed at advisory committee meetings in new editions of *Putting Data to Work* or other publications when appropriate
- Include state website and other helpful information in new editions of *Putting Data to Work*
- Follow-up with OR-OSHA about printing additional copies of *Putting Data to Work* to make them more widely available
- Develop an advisory committee list serve for quick distribution of materials
- Craft a plan that illustrates the role of OWIIPP and public health in occupational safety and health
- Clarify the two goals of the OWIIPP advisory committee meeting (roundtable/collaboration and advising OWIIPP)
- Define roles, expectations and procedures for future meetings; create meeting process
- Develop guidelines for how the advisory section of the meeting will be structured and whether advice should be given between meetings
- Develop guidelines to obtain advice/assistance from the advisory committee on specific topics

## Attendance

### OWIIPP Advisory Committee Members

**Michael Wood, Co-Chair**

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OR-OSHA)

**Mel Kohn, Co-Chair**

Oregon Public Health Division, Department of Human Services (OPHD, DHS)

**Gail Shibley**

Oregon Public Health Division, Department of Human Services (OPHD, DHS)

**Kent Anger**

Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicity (CROET) –  
Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)

**Chuck Easterly**

SAIF Corporation

**Leslie Hammer**

Portland State University

**Laurel Kincl**

Labor Education Resource Center, University of Oregon

**Anthony Veltri**

Oregon State University

**Zandra Walton**

Liberty Northwest

### Staff

**Jill Brackenbrough**

Office Specialist

**Jae Douglas**

Principal Investigator and Section Manager

**Mandy Green**

Epidemiologist

**Michael Heumann**

Consultant

**Lauren Karam**

Program Coordinator

**Gary Rischitelli**

OR-FACE, CROET – OHSU

**Jaime Walters**

Research Analyst

**Oregon Worker Illness & Injury Prevention Program  
Advisory Committee**

**Friday, April 18, 2008  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Toxicology, Assessment, and Tracking Services  
Oregon Public Health Division  
800 NE Oregon Street, Room 1C - Portland, OR**

**A G E N D A**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item/Presenter</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Welcome</b> <i>...Jae Douglas, Oregon Public Health Division</i>
<b>1:05 pm</b>	<b>Opening Remarks - Co-Chairs</b> <i>...Dr. Mel Kohn, Oregon Public Health Division</i> <i>...Michael Wood, OR-OSHA</i>
<b>1:10 pm</b>	<b>Roundtable Reporting</b> Each representative can report on an issue or question or other information of interest to the group. Feel free to bring an issue to pass along... <i>...All</i>
<b>1:45 pm</b>	<b>OWIIPP Advisory Committee Survey Evaluation</b> <i>...John Dougherty, Program Design and Evaluation Services</i>
<b>2:35 pm</b>	<b>OWIIPP Update</b> Each OWIIPP staff person will provide an update about the program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Publications</b> <i>...Jaime Walters, Oregon Public Health Division</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Partnerships and other analytical ventures</b> <i>...Lauren Karam, Oregon Public Health Division</i></li> <li>▪ <b>National efforts</b> <i>...Mandy Green, Oregon Public Health Division</i></li> </ul>
<b>3:05 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:15 pm</b>	<b>New Projects &amp; Funding Opportunities</b> Brainstorm about new projects for members and/or staff to work collaboratively on and identify opportunities to fund projects <i>...All</i>
<b>3:45 pm</b>	<b>Meeting Wrap-up</b>
<b>3:55 pm</b>	<b>Next Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set agenda for September 2008 meeting</li> </ul> <i>...All</i>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>A D J O U R N</b>