

# Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2007

Board Members:

Dennis Lloyd	Chair, Senior V.P., Gen. Counsel, Workers Comp. Fund
Don Marano	Vice Chair, President, IHI Environmental
Craig Allen	Director of Safety, Security, & Environmental Health
Taz Besinger	Home Builders Association of Utah, Executive VP
Dave Creer	President, Utah Trucking Association
Rob Gardner	Liberty Mutual Insurance Group
Jim Judd	International Association of Firefighters, President
Howard Leaman	Medical Director, IHC WorkMed
C. David Richards	President/Chairman, Richards Memorial Med. Found.
J. Michael Taylor	Manager, Health & Environmental Issues, LDS Church

Participants:

Kurt Hegmann	Director, RMCOEH
Royce Moser, Jr.	Deputy Director, RMCOEH
Rod Larson	Program Director, Industrial Hygiene & HSAT
Don Bloswick	Program Director, Ergonomics & Safety, OIPRT
Norm Waitzman	Program Director, Statistical & Economic Evaluation
Leon Pahler	Assistant Professor, Industrial Hygiene
Scott Collingwood	Research Associate, Industrial Hygiene
Rich Seseck	Research Assistant, Professor, Ergo & Safety
Eric Wood	Associate Director, OM Residency Program
Peter Cantinella	Department of Family & Preventive Medicine
Kent Udell	Ex-officio Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
Deanne Clegg	Administrative Assistant
Toni Chambers	Executive Secretary

- I. Welcome and Introductions.
  - Mr. Lloyd welcomes those attending.
  - Introductions of those in attendance were made.
- II. Open & Public Meetings Act (Reminder)
  - Reminder that the public was notified of this meeting and an attempted recording of this meeting was made.
- III. Minutes
  - Dave Creer moved to approve the minutes from the RMCOEH Advisory Board Meeting, May 18, 2007. It was seconded by Jim Judd. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### IV. Announcements

- Award of Excellence in Workplace Safety and Health, Awarded to **Senator Ed Mayne**, October 11, 2007 at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Utah Conference for Industrial Hygiene and Safety.
- ACOEM Practice Guidelines and Article Library (N=1,500+)  
A Low Back Pain reference treatment binder was available for the Board and is a unique reference library for local use.

It was asked if the guidelines could be put on the website. The Board will help in what ever way possible. Mr. Lloyd suggested adding the issue of guidelines availability on the agenda for the next Advisory Board Executive Committee Meeting.

#### V. Press Release of RMCOEH \$6.5M Grant

- A. Letter from Pres. Young (Handout)  
A letter of commendation for the ERC renewal was noted.

#### VI. RMCOEH Advisory Board Executive Committee Report

Those on the Executive Committee include: Craig Allen, Dr. C. David Richards, Dennis Lloyd, Don Marano, Senator Ed Mayne and Kurt Hegmann, which meets quarterly.

The Executive Committee met August, 23, 2007 and discussed several items: The accounting system consultation update. The Center has been involved in having consultation for our accounting system.

Update on the MSOH approval. This degree continues to progress.

Issues of the Firefighter/Police Officers studies were reviewed.

NIOSH's requirement of the ERC Director being a Tenure Faculty position was reviewed. One of the criticisms in the grant was the Institution's Commitment in the form of a Tenure Faculty Position or lack thereof, for the Center Director. Messrs. Lloyd and Marano met with Dr. Magill, Dean. Bjorkman, and Kim Wirthlin, Vice President of Government Relations. The issues raise were discussed. The Executive Committee was informed they may be naïve about what Tenure means at the University. They were informed we could possibly have our hands tied, in the future, if we require the Director of the Center to be a Tenure Faculty member. There are two major tracks to consider, one Research Track and a Tenure Track, which Dr. Hegmann is on the Research Track. The value of having a Tenure position was also acknowledged. The conclusion of the meeting was that the department would be willing to establish a Tenure Track Professor position in Occupation Medicine. Dr. Hegmann could choose to apply for that. A letter was received back from Dr. Magill addressing the concerns. Dean Bjorkman was thought felt that the Center now should be able to counter the criticisms for NIOSH in the future.

Mr. Lloyd proposed putting this item again on the next Executive Committee Meeting agenda for further discussion with all members of the Executive

Committee. Mr. Lloyd also stated that Dr. Magill, Dean Bjorkman, and Kim Wirthlin were very complimentary of the Center and supportive of Dr. Hegmann. Dr. Cantinella discussed further other Tenure policies and procedures. He recommended that as a Board, we need to proceed and think about this carefully.

Craig Allen was asked to identify and contact those companies who could donate with regards to the SB159

## VII. Center Director Report

An Interim report was sent out this summer to the President of the University. It was also presented to Businesses and Labor Joint Interim Committee in June. The Interim Committee was interested and asked many background questions regarding the Center.

### A. Accolades (Handouts)

We have a number of Grants that have come in; NCS with Cache Valley coming into the group.

Approval of Award preventing injuries in commercial drivers.

Dr. Waitzman Awarded Grant ORC Worldwide Organization "Safety Prequalification of Contractors Research Grant." He also held a focus group at the Center that was very well attended and productive.

### B. Newsletter (Sixth Edition, due December)

### C. Other Grant

### D. Clinic Data

A graph that was distributed that suggests that implementation of evidence based practices results in cost reductions. Practice guidelines and evidence based care is likely at least partially responsible for a 40% reduction in workers compensation costs for one client.

Added Handout:

NISOH trends nationally in the numbers of graduates in Occupational Health Nursing, Industrial Hygiene, Occupational Health Safety, and Occupational Medicine (the four main disciplines) were distributed.

## VIII. Space Planning (Handouts)

The department is analyzing the space issue, the spider web hand out shows that Center programs intertwine significantly. The Department is interested in moving. The Center does have a space issue. There is not yet a functional space plan that has been seen. The time frame is that HRC is to move December to March in which some space will open up. The need for a laboratory has been discussed, but apparently it cannot move to 375, thus there is a major issue.

## IX. Budget Issues

### A. RMCOEH

A pie chart (current year) handout was discussed regarding the fiscal year budget, the break down of where the money comes from that runs the Center.

### B. OSHA Education Center

It was discussed whether the RMCOEH should or should not continue this activity. A handout listing the pros and cons of continuing the OSHA

Training courses was discussed. Administration and staffing issues are top priorities. As far as a budget issue, the amount of money involved with this is \$50,000 for personnel costs. This should be resolved within the year. Options are to raise the fees which are already \$500-\$700. It is understood that we cannot disengage from Salt Lake Community College, per OSHA. It was discussed to have the legislature get involved, by finding a way to provide the \$50,000 either to Salt Lake Community College or the University of Utah.

The largest weakness in the ERC is the lack of an Occupational Health Nurse (OHN) program and the need to restart that program.

Kathy Sitzman, of Weber State University, is interested in helping.

This will be put on the Executive Committee Agenda and ask the Center to more specifically describe what these OSHA courses are and the rules for giving them and to look if there are any other partners in the community that do these courses or need to have them done and report back to the Board.

X. Update on Fundraising

Discussions to increase SB159 tax donation were held. Craig Allen has been given the assignment to follow up with companies who can donate. The Board discussed those who should be contacted at the various companies. Mr. Allen was given names. Donation need to be made by December 31, 2007. It was discussed that there needs to be recognition for those who donate. At the next Executive Committee they will discuss ways to best recognize our contributors. Each year these companies will need a reminder. A member of the Advisory Board should be on the fundraising committee each year. Ms. Clegg reported on those who have donated.

XI. 2SHB009 – Police Officer/Firefighter’s Study update

Salt Lake City and County supported the bill and we have access to these agencies. It is other agencies we are trying to contact.

Utah League of Cities sent out a letter asking for cooperation. Jim Judd is helping through these issues, and updating us on the survey, which they (firefighters) can log onto online without the paper study. All are anxious to see the study results.

HAFB appears to have a high report of cancer in their firefighter (civilian members).

XII. Degree Programs

A. MSOH/MOH

The existing Masters Degree (MSPH/MPH) has become more dysfunctional due to credit burdens, and accreditation issues.

The proposal as of today is advancing is in the Graduate Council and will be at the Academic Senate in November. Residents in Aerospace Medicine cannot apply for this program until it is in existence which means having residents apply for the Fall of 2008 at the earliest.

B. PhD in Public Health (OIPRT), PhD in Mechanical Engineering (ME), We have 2 PhD programs that we use, the question is do we need one in

## Occupational Health?

- C. Bachelor of Science in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)  
Dan Hair of Workers Compensation Fund brought this to our attention, the problem is there is no good answer to needing a Bachelors in Safety for individuals who work in the field. There seems to be a huge demand for Undergraduate degrees. Rob Gardner feels these trainees would be a tremendous asset for Liberty Mutual at this time. If this is a need in the community and the University of Utah can fill the niche, this is something that needs to be done. Dr. Udell discussed having a Certificate attached to another degree to fulfill this requirement. Michael Taylor mentioned that the IH degree is part of the Biology degree at Utah State but there no longer is a safety degree. There is a need for Specialty Areas. Can this be tied into the MSOH? Again this needs to be addressed and details to work out with the Executive Committee of the Advisory Board.

### Other Business:

No members of the Public attended the meeting.

This meeting was recorded. The recording is in the office of the Center.

**Date for Next Meeting: May 16, 2008, place to be determined later.**

Executive Committee to meet November 1, 2007 at 7:30 at WCF.