

Meeting minutes: Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council

Date: Aug. 20, 2021

Time: 10 a.m. to noon, via Webex

Call to order: Paul Aasen, chairman

- Roll call by Gretchen Longbehn, executive secretary
- Approval of the Aug. 20, 2021 agenda – agenda was approved
- Approval of the May 14, 2021 meeting minutes – meeting minutes were approved

DLI announcements and updates: Nicole Blissenbach, deputy commissioner

- Discussed the face covering executive order

Federal OSHA update: Mitzy Wright, area director, Eau Claire OSHA office

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation update: Marnie Prochniak and Dave Ferkul

Minnesota OSHA Compliance rulemaking, training and outreach update: Ron Anderson

Minnesota OSHA Compliance enforcement update: James Krueger

- See summary, attached

Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council members' updates

Future agenda items: Paul Aasen, chairman

Adjournment: Paul Aasen, chairman

- Roll call for adjournment by Gretchen Longbehn, executive secretary

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Reports

- The 2020 OSHSPA GRASSROOTS publication is online at www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/grassroots_2020.pdf.
- Results from the February audit by federal OSHA are now available. The federal-fiscal-year (FFY) 2020 Follow-up FAME Report, including Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Roslyn Robertson's response, is available at www.osha.gov/stateplans/famereports/MN.
- [Play a recording of the Aug. 20, 2021 Webex meeting](#) (1 hour, 44 minutes)

August 20, 2021 OAC Report: OSHA Compliance

INSPECTIONS

- FFY 2020 (Oct. 1-June 30, 2021)
 - Investigated 22 fatalities and 17 serious injuries that occurred under MNOSHA jurisdiction.
 - Conducted 832 inspections
 - Handled 1,122 total complaints, resulted in 179 inspections. Response time to these complaints was just less than 3 days.
 - Citation issuance time was Safety 29 days, Health 38 days
 - We have received 130 redaction requests for 2,018 inspection files

COVID-19 Activity

- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, from March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021:
 - Received 23,958 email and phone inquiries (100% increase from previous year).
 - Complaints increased by about 430 from the previous year.
 - Included 2,121 non-formal complaints.
 - Included 396 (176 COVID-19) formal complaints.
 - Conducted 1,530 inspections (217 COVID-19); issued 2,200 citations (173 citations issued on inspections with a COVID-19 component, with 58 being general duty citations).
 - Discrimination unit fielded a total of 547 intakes, which resulted in 125 cases that are being pursued. 95 cases have been designated as having a COVID-19 component.

Federal OSHA

- Budget level for FFY2022 MNOSHA enforcement same as FFY2021. The state OSHA programs received \$4,401,000 (\$63,600) in Federal funding FFY21. Also, MNOSHA received an additional \$903,000 in state funding for this SFY22. This is the first increases since FFY2010. Total budget for this FY22 is \$8,568,000 + \$903,000 = \$9,471,000
- The MN FFY2021 State OSHA Annual Report (SOAR) was completed and sent to Federal OSHA. The Soar and results from the February audit by Federal OSHA and the response from Commissioner Robertson is now available on the Federal OSHA Website: <https://www.osha.gov/stateplans/famereport/MN>

Staffing

- Currently, we are interviewing for several promotional positions within MNOSHA. We filled a training position; IH Director and 2 Team Leads for Safety are in the interview process. We also have posted an Analyst position and are in the process of making offers on an IH and an SI; another SI is posted. We have 15 new investigative staff that have been hired since March of 2020.

OSHSPA/FEDERAL MEETING

- Both OSHSPA and Federal OSHA meet three time/year. Next meeting is September 28 and 29 in Traverse City, Michigan.
- The 2020 OSHSPA GRASSROOTS publication is online at https://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/grassroots_2020.pdf