

**Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council meeting minutes
Feb. 7, 2014**

Members present

Rob Duvall *for Erick Ajax*
Michael Hawthorne
Scott Huberty
Pedro Lopez
Michael Marturano
Michael Mueller
Greg Rindal
Dean Tharp
Daryl Tindle

Staff members present

Alden Hoffman
Mark Hysell
James Krueger
Roslyn Robertson
Commissioner Ken Peterson
Cindy Valentine

Guests/speakers present

Rick Martagon
Matt Marquis
Gary Thaden
Julie Alcorn-Webb
Breca Tschida

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Cindy Valentine and announcements were read. Members, staff members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of the agenda

Michael Mueller moved to approve the Feb. 7, 2014 meeting agenda; Michael Hawthorne seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Approval of the minutes

Greg Rindal moved to approve the Aug. 2, 2013 meeting minutes; Michael Mueller seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Federal update – Mark Hysell

- On Jan. 15, 2014, federal OSHA launched a new educational Web resource to help hospitals prevent worker injuries, assess workplace safety needs, enhance safe patient handling programs, and implement safety and health management systems. It is online at www.osha.gov/hospitals.
- On Dec. 3, 2013, OSHA announced a request for information (RFI) seeking public comment about potential revisions to its process safety management standard and related standards, as well as other policy options to prevent major chemical incidents. This RFI is in response to executive order 13650, which seeks to improve chemical facility safety and security, issued in the wake of the April 2013 West, Texas, ammonium nitrate explosion that killed 15 people. Comments are open through mid-March.
- On Oct. 24, 2013, OSHA announced new resources to better protect workers from hazardous chemicals: a toolkit used to identify safer chemicals substituted for more hazardous ones; and annotated permissible exposure limits (PEL) tables. OSHA PEL tables are more than 40 years old and indicate the bare minimum of protection.
- MNOSHA's federal-fiscal-year 2013 annual performance summaries have been submitted to the national office.

- Workplace Safety Consultation's annual review is due to the national office at the end of April.

Department update – Commissioner Ken Peterson

- No funding cuts are expected at DLI.

Arthur E. McCauley, Jr. Award

- The award was last given in 2012. Applications are provided in member folders, on the table and also on DLI's website at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/McCauleyAward.asp. Nominations are due to Carol Bufton, Cindy Valentine or Pamela McLaughlin by the end of March.

New business

- **2014 meeting schedule** – approved: **Feb. 7, May 2, Aug. 2 and Nov. 7.**
- **New members** Pedro Lopez (representing the public) and Michael Marturano (representing the occupational safety and health professions) were introduced and welcomed by the council.
- **Safe patient-handling – Breca Tschida, Workplace Safety Consultation:** Minnesota is one of 10 states in the nation that have safe patient-handling legislation. Both MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation and MNOSHA Compliance schedule inspections. Alliances and workgroups (with hospitals) have been created to share techniques and information to resolve issues. A different approach is being set up to reach Greater Minnesota's nursing homes and clinics. Workgroups are being expanded to include home care and emergency responders. A free ergonomics evaluation and training assistance brochure is available on DLI's website at www.dli.mn.gov/WSC/PDF/ergoservices10.pdf. A sample safe-patient-handling hazard assessment and sample programs for clinics, hospitals and nursing homes are also available on DLI's website at www.dli.mn.gov/WSC/Sph.asp. The next safe-patient-handling group meeting is planned for April 29, 1 to 3 p.m., in DLI's Minnesota Room.

Old business

- **A meeting topic list for 2014** is needed. Potential topics include Hispanic/Latino workers, silica exposure, aging workforce, Form 33 and utility industry injuries. Valentine will email members soliciting further ideas for discussion and the council will rank selected topics at the May meeting.

Staff reports

- **Compliance – Jim Krueger**
 - Federal-fiscal-year 2013 statistics
 - Compliance conducted 2,943 inspections, the most since 1992. Six hundred fifty-eight complaints were received that resulted in 349 inspections; 4,200 phone calls were handled. This is the first complete year of a phone system that tracks each incoming call.
 - The most frequently cited standards will be available on DLI's website soon.
 - Emphasis programs for federal-fiscal-year 2014
 - Excavations
 - Residential construction (fall protection)
 - Window washing
 - Silica in construction
 - Isocyanates

- Training and outreach: The first fall-protection seminar in Spanish was presented in 2013. Eighteen MNOSHA forms and documents were translated into Spanish and are available on DLI's website at www.dli.mn.gov/LS/Spanish.asp.
- MNOSHA publications available on DLI's website:
 - *Safety Lines*, January edition at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/SafetyLines.asp; and
 - *GRASSROOTS*, 2014 edition at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Reports.asp (copies are also available on the sign-in table today).
- MNOSHA has proposed that the Notice of Contest forms be accepted electronically.
- The federal-fiscal-year 2014 budget is at the same level as it was in 2008. Positions will not be filled as staff members leave.
- The OSHSPA spring meeting is scheduled in Nashville, Tenn., in April. Krueger was elected vice-chairman of the board at the prior meeting.
- **Workplace Safety Consultation – Roslyn Robertson**
 - First-quarter 2014 statistics – The Workplace Safety Consultation unit conducted 240 consultation visits, 882 serious hazards, 109 other-than-serious hazards and 87 interventions, which includes formal training, Voluntary Protection Program and conferences.
 - The LogSafe Program will be administrated by the Hibbing Community College. Dates and locations for 2014 training can be found on the college's webpage at www.hcc.mnscu.edu or contact Workplace Safety Consultation for more information. Fifteen training presentations will be conducted on proper tree-felling to five logging and 10 public-sector employers that employ workers who perform logging-related activities.
 - Construction – Thirty technical assistance and training interventions were provided to laborers, north central regional painters, tapers, YWCA, Minnesota Mechanical Contractors and others.
 - An alliance with the Department of Human Services has been a successful model to address concerns, specifically about workplace violence prevention. Four training sessions have been conducted, reaching 336 employees, representing 179 establishments.
 - MNSHARP/MNSTAR Program:
 - 36 MNSHARP sites in general industry and one Pre-MNSHARP site;
 - five MNSHARP sites in construction and five pre-MNSHARP sites; and
 - 35 MNSTAR Program sites and two Merit sites.

The 2014 meeting schedule is Feb. 7, May 2, Aug. 2 and Nov. 7.

Adjournment

Hawthorne moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Daryl Tindle. All voted in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Pamela McLaughlin
 Executive Secretary