

OH Surveillance Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at CSTE Annual Conference in Pasadena, CA

Meeting Summary

Award Announcement

Erin Simms received a round of applause for winning the CSTE super staff award at the President's Banquet.

Completed Activities 2012-2013 and Upcoming Activities 2013-2014

Erin highlighted the accomplishments of the occupational health surveillance subcommittee over the past funding cycle. [See attached presentation.]

Action Items – Participants were given an opportunity to sign up on the NIOSH eNewsletter sign up sheet and Erin will forward to Subcommittee members. Additionally, Erin will re-send the email announcement to states with instructions and tips on contributing to the NIOSH science blog.

Success Stories Update

The workgroup received 10 articles from states to post on the new success stories feature page on the CSTE website. The workgroup is currently revising and finalizing these reports in conjunction with the authors. A standard article template, web page mock up, and article guidance for states have now been completed by this workgroup. The CSTE national office expects an August 2014 launch date.

Occupational Health Indicators Update

OHI workgroup leads should update information in the How-To guide on access to BLS data (no longer request CD). This applies to several indicators. Kathy L (IA) and Derry S (NE) will work on updating the CSTE website indicator webpage to acknowledge state contributions.

New Indicator Proposal: Work-related Traumatic Injuries Requiring Hospitalization

Jeanne Spears presented the proposed work-related traumatic injuries indicator to the Subcommittee.

Subcommittee Vote: Passed – continue with pilot testing and finalization with the occupational health indicator workgroup.

Action Item - NY, LA, MO, and one more state agreed to pilot test this indicator.

Vote to Include a New Indicator: Asthma caused or made worse by work

The adoption of this new indicator was approved by the Subcommittee. Based on comments received prior to the vote, Karen and Gretchen agreed to go back to OHI workgroup to include language to data options section and to background section (this is a self reported indicator).

New Lead Management Guidelines

Lead guidance approved - with corrections discussed during ABLES meeting. This will be posted on the CSTE website shortly.

OHIP Process Discussion

OHIP intern applications will now be due by the end of October. Ken discussed that AOEC has expressed concern in regards to students' access to the workplace/ workers/ or other applied occupational/public health activities. Please consider this in your future applications and continue to apply.

Action Item – Erin will send out application/announcement for states to apply in August.

Spring Subcommittee Meeting Follow-up

OSHA discontinued the OSHA Data Initiative (ODI) for 2013 and has started a new initiative. The recommendations generated from the Taking Steps to Close the Gaps meeting have been shared with meeting participants and finalized. The recommendations document includes a table of accomplishments. This will be forwarded to the subcommittee shortly and will be on the CSTE website.

2014 Occupational Health Position Statement

The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMACS) conducted by NCHS used to have a separate variable indicating whether the hospital visit was work-related. In recent years, this variable has been taken off the survey; thus the only way to identify work-related cases is through payment by Workers' Compensation. Tish Davis raised the possibility of a position statement recommending that NCHS re-introduce the work-related variable to this and potentially other surveys. Other option is to have the CSTE president send a letter to NCHS. Tish will follow up with NIOSH/DSR colleagues on this issue. If you would like to volunteer to assist with this, please email Tish (letitia.davis@state.ma.us).

Fall Subcommittee Meeting Discussion

It was decided that the Subcommittee will convene only one national meeting in the next funding cycle to be held immediately before or after the OH Surveillance Partners meeting. This meeting may go longer than in the past to offset the absence of the spring meeting. The decision to defer a spring meeting was the time needed to organize such a meeting and time needed to allow states to begin to prepare for the anticipated new NIOSH RFP in 2014.