



MARYLAND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (MOSH) ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022– 11:00 a.m. | MOSH Headquarters– Hunt Valley
10946 Golden West Drive | Suite #160
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

Board Members Present

Steve Connelly, Agriculture Member
Elizabeth "Sissy" Martin, Industry Member
Clifford Mitchell, M.D., Health Member
Neill Christopher, Public Member
Frank Trujillo, Industry Member
John Gibula, Public Member
Carol Dodson, Business Member
Richard Ruehl, Labor Member
Rob Holsey, Labor Member
Ed Arellano, Health Member

DLI Staff Present

Matt Helminiak, Commissioner
Mischelle Vanreusel, Regulatory Mgr.
Michael Penn, Compliance Chief
Cristina Campbell Harris, IH Supervisor
Sarah Harlan, Asst. Attorney General
Mark Broadwater, Program Manager
Laura Apicella, MOSH Outreach
Tiffany Jones, Board Coordinator

Board Members Absent

Member from the Public

Mike Anderson Joe Xavier
Gavin West Darryl Alexander
Scott Schneider

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by board chair, Neill Christopher at 11:09 a.m. Roll call was taken to confirm that a quorum was met.

REPORTS

Compliance Chief Michael Penn starting his report by notifying the Board of the sudden passing of John Rosansky MOSH Compliance Officer III from Region #3 in Baltimore County.

New Hires

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| 2 | Compliance Officers |
|---|---------------------|

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Industrial Hygienist |
| 6 | Safety Officer |
| 1 | Certified Safety Professional |
| 1 | Certified Industrial Hygienist |
| 1 | Safety Manager |

Professional staff training and development continues virtually from OSHA in addition to in-house training. MOSH has resumed staff back to OSHA Training Institute (OTI) in Chicago for training.

Workplace Fatalities

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 4 | Falls |
| 3 | Electrocutions |
| 1 | Crushed By |
| 3 | Struck By |
| 3 | Fire Fighters |

Recommended Protocol for Firefighters

After the Stricker Street fire fighter fatalities, MOSH recommended a number of measures that local fire departments should implement including receiving a credible report of a trapped individual and supervisor approval before entering a "well-involved structure." A memo of all recommended policy changes was sent to the Mayor of Baltimore and covered in an article in the Baltimore Sun Newspaper.

Firefighter and Board member, Richard Rhuel asked if the proposed policy changes were shared with fire fighters in advance. He suggested that it would be difficult to change the firefighter culture and applauded the effort by MOSH to implement new policies but expressed concern that the policy might be too strict. Mischelle suggested that we can share the letter and the proposed policy changes and noted that it does not prohibit a firefighter from entering a building but requires permission from a supervisor. She added that there was no pushback from the firefighter community on the policy proposed and the changes were embraced.

Petroleum Management Environmental Services (PMES)

Michael Penn performed a demonstration to highlight how a fatality at Curtis Bay's Petroleum Management Environmental Services (PMES) occurred where 16 citations were ultimately issued.

Dr. Clifford Mitchell inquired if there was any previous interaction that MOSH or the fire department had with Petroleum Management Environmental Services and asked about ways to prevent a similar incident from reoccurring. Penn stated that the Maryland

Department of the Environment issues permits for businesses like PMES. Commissioner Helminiak offered to see if a MOU existed or might be established between the two agencies so that MOSH would be notified when permits for similar businesses are issued,

MOSH Online Complaint Form

Mark Broadwater introduced the development of MOSH's online complaint form from using Google Online platform. The form was several months in development and allows users to easily submit complaints electronically.

Opioid Use and Suicide in the Construction Industry

Dr. Clifford Mitchell reported on the alarming trends in opioid use and suicide in the construction industry. The rates are the highest of any part of the workforce. Currently, the National Institute for Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the University of Maryland's School of Social Work and the School of Medicine are working on ways to address reducing opioids in the workplace from opioids management experts. The short-term goal is to introduce a pilot program to develop the workplace toolkits. Dr. Mitchell expressed an interest in having Maryland participate in collaboration with NIOSH to investigate and mitigate the growing suicide rates. Mishcelle Vanreusel said it was an important issue and that the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) should be involved in the collaboration.

Heat Stress:

Commissioner Helminiak provided an overview of the HB 722, the 2020 legislation that required MOSH to develop heat stress standards.

Regional Informational Sessions: Four publicized regional informational hearings were held in Easton, Hagerstown, Laurel, and Hunt Valley (in person and virtually) to solicit stakeholder input. Additionally, a dedicated email was created to accept public comments.

Cristina Campbell Harris did a presentation about the draft regulations and outlined the criteria used for developing them.

There was discussion among DLI staff, the members of the Board and the members of the public who were present about the draft regulations. There were also some questions and discussion about the regulatory process and how things would proceed going forward.

New Business:

Mischelle Vanreusel alerted the board that new calculations are being considered for maximum penalty caps for OSHA violations that will be introduced in an upcoming legislative session.

Ileana O'Brien

Ileana O'Brien, a former employee, mentor, and invaluable resource for MOSH died as a result of a car accident with a drunk driver. Her passing is a huge and significant loss for MOSH as she was an integral part of the agency.

Adjourn

A motion was set forth by Frank Trujillo to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth "Sissy" Martin and passed unanimously.