

**NIEHS Spring Workshop Notes**  
**Wednesday, April 2, 2008**

**1:00 p.m. Welcome – NIEHS Update**

**Program Funding**

*Chip Hughes (WETP)*

- Discussed President's budget cut with appropriations and how to keep core funding for program.
- Talked about refusal of EPA to share funds regarding Brownfields.
- A significant funding gap between current committed levels and their current appropriation levels, necessitating an across the board reduction
- Wants to keep alive the local training for the MWTP
- No support for the Brownfields MWTP by EPA will mean the closeout of those programs

**New Initiatives**

*Jim Remington*

- Partnerships---will continue and grow
- NIOSH-went to town hall meeting on Emergency Response and Disaster Response, future plans to coordinate activities with one another
  - WETP designing breakouts with CDC in Atlanta at surveillance meeting in May
- Planning to travel to Los Alamos for DOE site Training Meeting on 851 Awareness
- Revitalization of the Disaster Site Worker Course in parte
- Talked with ATSDR and WETP will be giving input on a new data surveillance system
- Goal is to gain some efficiency in preparing people on pre disaster preparedness
- Will be holding a panel on Avian Flu in Tampa
- California having a Earthquake Disaster forum in the fall, working on getting plugged into program

**SBIR Update**

*Ted Outwater( WETP)*

**Small Business Research Program**

- Looking at products that are vital in Hazardous incidents
- products are doing well

## **Program Updates**

*Sharon Beard*

- Programs have been very busy
- Mwtp went from 22 cities to 12, because of assessment in areas and the need for programs
- Brownfield program went from 18 to 10 cities due to funding and some programs doing better than others.
- The largest programs are in Oakland, Dillard, Chicago and New Orleans
- 234 students each year in the MWTP
- 318 students each year for Brownfields with a 68% job placement rate
- Advised that the curricula catalog needs to be 508 compliant
  - needs to be accessible to people with disabilities

Comments:

Awardees feel that to make to catalog curricula compliant will be very expensive and feel there need to be other alternatives

Deborah from Clearinghouse advised that she has uploaded curricula and is working on making documents 508 compliant

## **NIH Update**

*Carolyn Mason*

Request for 2008 is same

Closeout Documents are now submitted to a centralized location

2008 funding

- HWWT receiving 91% of committed funding (19,701,644)
- HDPT receiving 91% of committed funding (2,571,927)
- MWT receiving 94% of committed funding (3,700,923)
- BMWT receiving -100% of committed funding (2,619,694)
- DOE receiving >100% of committed funding (9,397,670)

## **National Clearinghouse Update**

*Deborah Weinstock*

Discussed green jobs and how they tie into training that is done

- Need to adhere to strategic plan and stay focused on the DOE plan
- Working toward 851 rule

## **Department of Energy/NIEHS Program Update** **2:15pm**

### **Introduction and Overview of the Program**

*Ted Outwater, NIEHS*

- Since 1993, over 20,000 classes conducted, over 300,000 people trained
- 34,000 workers trained last year, an increase from last year
- This is an important part of the DOE complex

### **DOE Policy Issues and Training**

*Bill McArthur, Director Office of Worker Safety and Health Policy, DOE*

- Has played a key role in developing the 851 standard
- 10 CFR 835 “Occupational Radiation Protection” – Subpart J – Radiation Safety Training – “all general employees shall be trained in radiation safety”
- 10 CFR 850 “Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Program” – 850.7 Training and counseling
- 10 CFR 851 “Worker Safety and Health Program”
  - Developed the regulation from a DOE directive
  - Has been working with the regulation for a long time
  - Considerable amount of training required by DOL requirements

### *Training Resources*

- DOE is committed to training – they have representatives on numerous advisory groups and have a lot of information posted on the website
- Directives and Technical Standards
  - Guidance documents, manuals, and handbooks at <http://www.directives.doe.gov>
- safety bulletins
- safety advisories
- safety alerts
- HHS Web sites – provides video and training pages
- Worked on a training video with the national Training Center (NTS-HS60)
- Provide support to OS/IH SIG
- Have a representative on the NIEHS advisory group
- Have a representative on the HAMMER group

### *Question about the fine on the 851 standard*

- Went with a contract penalty instead of a civil penalty

## **Eight-fifty What? USW 851 Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment Project**

*Doug Stephens, United Steelworkers/Tony Mazzocchi Center*

*Tom McQuiston, United Steelworkers/Tony Mazzocchi Center*

- Decided to go out and see how 851 was being implemented in the real world
- First phase included GATNAP
  - GATNAP stands for ...
- Second phase assessing worker involvement in addressing hazards and investigations
  - Request and evaluate the curricula to assess if workers were accurately prepared
  - General worker survey finds out about workers reporting problems (barriers), effectiveness of training, and level of contractor support
- Key to success
  - High level of participation
  - Strategic use of the information collected
- The process has begun
  - Teams of worker-researchers have launched data collection

## **CPWR Approach to 851**

*Don Ellenberger, CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training*

- CPWR changes it's name to better reflect the research and training for construction workers
- Stress applicability of OSHA standards at DOE sites
- Remind workers that they can decline an unsafe work assignment without fear of reprisal
- Appendix A requires a medical examination for employees by a contractor's medical physician choice
- There is some concern that the 851 rule is using the rule for unfair measures – eliminate certain workers
- Intention of 851 is good and we intend to incorporate it into our training

Showed the group a video

## **Business Breakout Session**

**4:00 p.m.**

*Carolyn Mason*

- Aug of 2007 Is when current money was distributed. Out of money. Can't do any carryovers, those extra funds have to go towards money that was promised for 2007/08.
- Notification letter will be sent to PI and business official via email sometime in early May.
- NIEHS has to look at performance to determine funds. Will look at numbers trained. Will look at ones that have been entered to date. If you are behind, get your numbers reported!
- Cost per contact hour will have to be considered as well. Some very high achieving programs may also have the steepest cost per contact hour and will lose out on funds.
- "reasonable" target hours
- Difficult decisions had to be made this year. Things had to be looked at differently.
- Have been successful moving funds (carryover requests, etc.) so that program committed levels aren't affected.
- If you reserve some of your funds this year you won't be guaranteed that you'll get to keep them.
- Brownfields program is ending this year (no funding available next year). Programs need to start planning for phase-out support now. Find flexibility in your budget – put off, do without, do with less of in order to cut funds.
- Do not encourage your subs to come in at x% less for next year. Encourage them to get in their budgets, but prime awardees may have to cut across the board.
- Concerns with universities. Subs have to get their budgets through their universities in order to get the numbers to the prime, who have early May deadlines. Universities can submit a request at fully funded notice of award levels and then NIEHS will come back and tell you that they've only approved funding at x% of what they've submitted. This will allow the primes to go back to the subs and require a lower budget. More work post-award for NIEHS and primes.
- Preliminary planning purposes – look at committed level or current level. Do not look at committed level – look at current funding level and then plan for less money.
- Submit a budget that does not exceed current budgets.

- Other option, pick a percent reduction (e.g. 4%) and tell the subs they have to cut their budget by this amount. And then put these “extra” funds into the prime’s budget. If you only receive a 2% reduction then you’ve got the “extra” money that you can re-allocate back to the subs.
- Be realistic, be conservative, when putting together your budget.
- Don’t spend all of your money thinking “I won’t have it next year, I’ve got to spend it now!” If you spend it while you’ve got it your program may be looking at a 15% cut next year. It’s hard to say, but your carryover money may be used to meet next year’s committed funding level.
- Don’t reduce your scope in hopes of affecting your budget.
- Whether or not you have a lot of carryover
- Impact on SBIR program? Funded between now and May 1 – the approps budget came in with a lower funding level. Fewer apps submitted, fewer dollars to use. RFA released in May projection = will probably go out taking into consideration what went out this year with a decrease. Funding 2 phase 2 programs – less than \$500,000.
- Good news! IG Report
- History = used to pick a large number of grants to audit. Never found any problems so they reduced it to 5-7 grants that were audited. Last year the IG’s office asked for the files of 20 programs. Entrance conference – meeting with auditors NIEHS were told they would be doing a much bigger, more thorough review. Travel, conferences, etc. were closely reviewed. IG’s office also decided to pick 5 grantees to visit on-site to review their files.
- Absolutely no findings (good news!) were found during last year’s audit. And they decided not to visit anyone on-site.
- This year’s audit is only 5-7 grants – back on track with previous years. Auditor expects to finish in one day this year.
- RFA for 2009 is in the horizon. NIEHS has to enter the anticipated amount of funds requested or how many grants can be funded. RFA has to be on the street a minimum of 5-6 months before the applications are do. RFA will probably be released late this year.
- Meetings/conferences are expensive. Could we have fewer to save money for the awardees? The meetings are an opportunity to find out what’s going on and to interact with the other awardees.

## **HWWT/HDPT/DOE Issues Notes**

**Room E1/E2**

**4:00 p.m.**

*Chip Hughes, NIEHS*

*Ted Outwater, NIEHS*

*Jim Remington, NIEHS*

### *Agenda*

- OSHA Disaster Site Worker Meeting
- Earthquake Briefing
- DOE 851 Meeting

### *Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard (HB 5577)*

- Requires background checks
- All companies must top screen
- 100 - 300 chemicals are included in the list
  - Original bill language was if the company had any amount, now it's cumulative 100 grams
  - Main concern of government is nerve agents
- Includes mandatory training language
- Water treatment shouldn't be exempted

### *5-Year Strategic Plan*

- Announcement in spring or early summer 2009 – anticipated award 2010

### *OSHA 10 Classes*

- NY OSHA says that they can train 50 students to 1 instructor – minimum criteria for NIEHS is 30 to 1. DMS will accept 40 to 1.
- OSHA trainer training discussion

### *OSHA 5600, 7600 Courses - Proposed Changes*

- CPWR and IUOE are qualified to perform the training
- OSHA requires a refresher for instructors, but there is no refresher course
- We offered to develop a refresher course
- Put a lot of resources into the development of this course
- Take lessons learned from 9/11 and put that into a training course

- Never figured out how to intersect with the credentialing process
- Any discussion about putting this course in the DHS requirements?
  - No, but that would be terrific if it happened
- Focus has been on NIMS, health and safety has not been a priority
- Duluth, MN
  - As a result of the incident, incident command now has a very good understanding of people's roles

## **Brownfields and Minority Worker Training Program Issues**

*Sharon Beard, WETB*

### **Performance Measures of Success**

- Job Placement rates-performance of sites, most successful in job placement and sustainability and come up with recommendations
- Meeting program training goals and obj.
- Timely and accurate reporting of data—numbers
- Continuity of operations at sites/cities
- Fiscal responsibility-reporting finances on time, jumbling of budgets
- Duplication of effort-if there are 2 of the same programs, funding comes into question for the same efforts
- Receipt of other funding
  - These will all be used in deciding if a program will need to be eliminated with the 2 million dollar program deficit
- Looking at cost per contact hour when looking at program and the justification for the costs –costs range from 20-200/hour

### **Comments/Questions:**

- WETB will award amounts of money depending on the assessment
- Discussed option of closing out Brownfield Worker cites so that the MWTP can stay alive
- If the grantee has the Brownfield programs and MWTP it will be easier to make a decision in which one to close out
- Money can be moved between from brownfields and MWTP because their scope is very similar
- Grantee needs to make the strongest argument in their letter of continuation to keep their program running, if not it will be shut down or operations may need to closed down

### **Brownfields Conference**

- May 5-7, 2008 at the Asian Village at Renaissance Center in Detroit, MI
- B/MWTP Dinner and Meeting and EJ Caucus May 4, 2008 4-9pm

## **Green Jobs**

Speaker: Paul Renner

- Discussed Green Jobs Conference in Pittsburgh-coalition between Sierra Club and United Steelworkers Union
- Talked about retrofitting buildings and conference center where it was held at the first LEED Certified conference centers
- Most popular speaker was Van Jones and his idea of green jobs and the green economy, and his call for government funding to provide jobs that are a pathway out of poverty
- Defined what “green” really is and that it’s not just a product, but the process/manufacturing of how the product is made is considered a green job. Definition has expanded.
- Green Chemistry-has a profound implication, evaluating chemicals and their toxicity and safety. There is a huge opportunity to create jobs for chemists and researchers and practical application. Most of these jobs are in China and not on US soil.

Comments:

Green Jobs is an area that can be fit into your program areas scope; look at demographics and

## **Green Jobs**

Kizetta Vaughn

- Discussed the types of jobs available and how they coincide with the goals of MWTP and Brownfield Training Program
- Solar panel training pilot program in East Palo Alto, OIC by identifying the solar job market and connecting the minority worker training program
- Discussed the outline of the solar panel program 8wk program—entry requirements coincide with the entry requirements for the MWTP
- Program developed jobs and is actually competing for the 125 million green job money as the Ella Baker Center in Oakland, CA.
- Thinks that what B/MWTP mirrors themselves as green jobs and a great opportunity for training