

WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY
POST-CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
2018 National Trainers' Exchange

1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information:

Workshop title: [Using the Pathogen Safety Training Guide & Module to Prepare Workers to Research Occupational Infectious Disease Hazards and Controls](#)

Presenter (s) Name: Shawn Gibbs and Jonathan Rosen

Presenter Organization: Indiana University and the National Clearinghouse for Occupational Safety & Health Training

Presenter Email: gibbss@indiana.edu and jrosen396@gmail.com

2. Workshop Summary:

Workshop participants reviewed the Pathogen Safety Data Guide (PSD) and Training Module and discussed their experiences and ideas on using PSD training materials. In response to the Ebola crisis, the NIEHS WTP conducted a gap analysis that identified the need to train workers on how to use existing pathogen safety data resources. It also identified that most existing training focused on a single infectious agent, rather than an all hazards approach encompassing a broad range of organisms and instilling the skills to access resources on multiple platforms to access knowledge for a yet unknown organism. The assumption of the PSD Training Module is that by training workers to use existing PSD resources they will more likely contribute to the development and implementation of infectious disease prevention and control activities, understand the logic for the control measures implemented in their workplaces, and identify gaps in prevention programs. They are also able to search for information on organisms they had not planned for, once they are identified, during a just-in-time situation. The curriculum used interactive training techniques to teach workers how to research the characteristics of infectious pathogens that they may be exposed to and how that information may be used to develop site specific risk assessment and worker protection programs, including but not limited to personal protective equipment and decontamination. Information is also provided to attendees on how the PSD module can be conducted as a standalone 4-hour program or integrated into existing programs.

3. Methods:

Methods included large group discussions with PPT and a review of exercises and activities.

4. Main Points/ Key Points Raised from Participants:

The presenters reviewed the background that led to the development of the PSD module and discussed pilots that were conducted at the Omaha Fire Department and Grady Health Care. Both organizations were involved in transporting Ebola patients and developing protocols for transport of highly infectious patients. Pilots were also held with the Raleigh / Durham Customs and Border Patrol and the United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center. Participants identified previous training they had conducted on infectious diseases. The presenters

reviewed the materials including the Guide, the PPT, the worksheet, and case studies. Participants were encouraged to download the PSD and Wiser apps, and they were briefed on how to use these applications in the room. Participants reviewed the case studies and discussed how they could be utilized within their own training programs. Participants discussed the absence of effective training in many worksites including healthcare, laboratory, and EMS. Participants talked about the difficulty related to proper use of PPE and respirators to protect workers with potential exposure to infectious agents. A retired teacher spoke of volunteering to conduct training in Puerto Rico after he connected with ICWUC trainers in Flint. A participant explained the use of the technique of using glo germ to illustrate contamination and “vomiting Larry”: to make training more hands on and interesting. Participants were encouraged to use the PSD materials and modify them to meet the needs of their organizations and the populations they are training.

5. References:

<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2554> NIEHS Infectious Disease website

6. Workshop Handouts/ Resources:

Workshop agenda

NIEHS PSD Guide

NIEHS PSD Worksheet

NIEHS PSD Case studies