

TO: Maine Worksite Wellness Initiative (MWWI) Year 2 (2010-11) Members and Prospective Members
FR: R.H. Ross, Convener
DA: 1 May 2011
RE: Year 2 Meeting 5, Thursday, 7 April 2011, 3:00-4:30pm, University of New England, Portland, Maine.

Present: Tom Algozzine, David Crawford, Abigail S. DiPasquale, Jonathan Klane, Lynn Lavorgna-Landry, Del Leonard, Bill McPeck, Robert Ross, Amy Wagner, Leslie Walleigh. **Regrets:** Joel Allumbaugh, Tom Downing, Ruth DuFresne, Jaime Nicole Laliberte, Dean Paterson, Bill Primmerman, Andy Spaulding. The Convener regrets anyone overlooked.

The Center for Community and Public Health at the University of New England hosted Meeting 5 (thanks Mary Louie), 3:00-4:30 pm, Hersey Hall, Rm 220, UNE, 716 Stevens Avenue, Portland, Maine. Meeting 5 was given to Occupational Safety and Health. **NB:** Year 1 docs > <http://www.une.edu/mhprc/projects/mwwi/index.cfm>, Year 2 > <http://www.une.edu/mhprc/projects/mwwi/yeartwo.cfm>.

- 1. Roundtable.** Bob Ross began by describing several pdf's he had distributed pre-meeting, including a piece by the opinion leader Michael H. Samuelson (Founding President & CEO, The Health & Wellness Institute <http://www.hwainstitute.com/>, and <http://www.samuelsonwellness.com/>), "10 Key Observations from Thirty-Five Years in the Field: What Got Us Where We Are Today...Won't Get us Where We Need to be Tomorrow, which Bill McPeck had wanted circulated. Tom Algozzine reported why Robert McClellan, MD, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock and the Prevention Research Center at Dartmouth had been delayed starting up the MWWI's sister initiative, the New Hampshire Workplace Health Research Network (NH-WHRN), i.e. (McLellan) "implementing Electronic Medical Records across the medical center has been all consuming." Abby DiPasquale reported that the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust was talking to counterparts in New Hampshire as well as Massachusetts about municipal employee wellness programs. Jonathan Klane described his abiding interest in the integration of worksite health promotion and occupational safety and health. The best work on the subject, he said, is "Integrating Employee Health: A Model Program for NASA" (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11290), a six-page précis of which is attached hereon. He will offer an Industrial Hygiene seminar at AIHce 2011 in Portland OR May 14-19 (<http://www.aihce2011.org/aihce11/>), even though it may be "preaching to the choir." David Crawford invited MWWI members to contact and to urge Maine's U.S. Senate delegation not to vote to repeal the HC Affordability Act, including its wellness provisions. Bill McPeck described how the AHA, ALA, and ADA were alike on the wrong side of a nationwide employer effort to raise the percentage of health care insurance cost employees may be required to pay-in from 20 to 30%.
- 2. Briefing.** The Briefing, given by MWWI member Del Leonard, MPH, CIH, was entitled "The Status of Legal and Recommended Occupational Airborne Exposure Limits: OSHA PELs and ACGIH TLVs, A Quantitative Examination," a thorough, data-driven analysis of the Origins and connections between most commonly used air contaminant limits, Definitions and terms, Difference between air limits and comprehensive health standards, Examination of substances with carcinogen designations, and a Case study of Molybdenum Exposure Assessment. Conclusion: A new paradigm for addressing exposure to substances is needed. OSHA has failed to update/add PELs over forty years. It is a long-standing issue in OH&S professional practice. A host of related complexities, challenges, and ethical dilemmas now face by occupational hygienists. TLVs and other OELs help but are not the whole solution.
- 3. Presentation.** The Presentation, given by Molly Jacobs, MPH, Project Manager at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, University of Massachusetts Lowell, was titled "Lessons Learned: Moving Beyond Setting Occupational Health Standards One Chemical at a Time." In January 2011, Molly and colleagues at the Lowell Center released a report, Lessons Learned: Solutions for Workplace Safety and Health that documents six case studies of occupational health and safety failures across industry sectors, worker populations, and hazards. She 1) reviewed limitations in OSHA's system of establishing occupational exposure limits to toxic substances Diacetyl and Methylene chloride & 1-bromopropane, and 2) Outlined a series of potential solutions, including Programmatic (e.g. generic standards) and System-level (e.g. Comprehensive chemicals policy reform, Prevention through design) changes. Lessons learned? a) there are too many chemicals to regulate one at a time (Supreme Court's benzene decision put significance of risk on each individual chemical, not class of chemicals for example); b) the rule-making process is long and tedious (workers remain at risk while rule making occurs); c) the U.S. system of chemicals management is disjointed; d) OSHA standards focus on risk management via engineering controls, not on source reduction/substitution regulations.

Mark your calendars please for **Meeting 6, 7, and 8** as follow: Meeting 6/26 May/Augusta: Andy and Bill M--"The Hero Scorecard. Meeting 7/9 June: Tom A and TBD/Portland--"Cost drivers: Insurer and pharm perspectives." Meeting 8/ 23 June: Tom D and Dean P/Portland-- "Mental Health: Missing piece in worksite wellness."