

Award Closeout Title Page

Project Title: Western States Occupational Network Meeting

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Abstract

The Western States Occupational Network (WestON) meeting is a collaboration between the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Western States Office, Mountain and Plains (MAP) Education and Research Center (ERC), and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). The overall goal of this meeting is to build capacity for state-based occupational epidemiology in the Western region, including improving or developing surveillance of work-related injuries and diseases, investigation of cases and outbreaks, implementation of epidemiological capacity in occupational health at the state level and dissemination of information for public health prevention. Objectives of this meeting include developing common priorities for occupational risk assessment, applied epidemiology, worksite interventions and other prevention efforts; and to promote scientific collaboration among state-based occupational epidemiologists, NIOSH and academic colleagues in the Western region. An organizing committee composed of CSTE, state and NIOSH representatives and the Director of Continuing Education at the MAP ERC regularly meet via teleconference to plan WestON meetings, finalize the agenda, invite participants, and further define objectives, goals and outcomes of each meeting.

The second WestON meeting was convened at the MAP ERC in Aurora, CO September 24-25, 2009. The meeting provided an opportunity to build capacity, explore collaborations, and provided interaction between NIOSH ERCs, Agricultural (AG) Centers and states. Fifty-seven individuals attended the meeting, comprising 15 of the 19 Western states, all six Western region ERCs, all four Western AG Centers, two representatives from NIOSH-funded training programs, and numerous scientists from NIOSH. The 2009 meeting agenda combined formal presentations with informal breakout sessions in response to suggestions from surveyed attendees at the 2008 WestON meeting. The meeting was designed to inform meeting participants about occupational safety and health (OSH) surveillance issues, provide a success story about how one state created an OSH program from scratch, update participants on the National Occupational Mortality Surveillance System, Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) activities in the West, union interaction with states, workers' compensation data for research, and minimum guidelines for state activities in occupational health (OH). Facilitated breakout sessions provided opportunities for focused discussion, sharing experiences with establishing state-based work-related injury and illness surveillance programs, and establishing collaborations.

CSTE maintains a Western state occupational epidemiology listser^y used to communicate with meeting participants, share news items of interest, distribute electronic surveys, and plan for subsequent meetings. The CSTE website also provides information on WestON and links to each meeting's agenda and meeting minutes (www.cste.orgfoh.asp).

A few notable outcomes from the meeting:

- Four additional Western states have completed (Wyoming in collaboration with the MAP ERC and the NIOSH Western States Office) or are in the process of completing the OH Indicators (Montana in collaboration with the MAP ER and the NIOSH Western States Office and North and South Dakota in collaboration with the MAP ERC, the Minnesota ERC and the NIOSH Western States Office).
- Additional Western states have applied for a PPHS Fellow to establish and administer an OH surveillance program.
- Several Western States applied for NIOSH-funded cooperative agreements for occupational safety and health surveillance.

- A. Specific Aims- The Specific aims have not been modified from the original proposal.
- B. Studies and Results August 2009— April 30, 2010

Objective 1. Build capacity among Western states to conduct surveillance of work-related injuries and illnesses, and implement epidemiological capacity in occupational health at the state level.

In collaboration with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Western States Office and the Mountain and Plains (MAP) Education and Research Center (ERC), CSTE convened the second Western States Occupational Network (WestON) meeting at the MAP ERC in Aurora, CO September 24-25, 2009. The meeting provided an opportunity to build capacity, explore collaborations, and provided interaction between NIOSH ERCs, Agricultural (AG) Centers and states.

An organizing committee composed of CSTE members and staff, state and NIOSH representatives, and the Director of Continuing Education at the MAP ERC met via teleconference on a monthly basis to plan the meeting and finalize the agenda. Each State Epidemiologist in the Western region was invited by the CSTE national office to identify one occupational epidemiologist (or individual in their state with this interest or primary responsibility) to attend the meeting. Priority for sponsored travel was given to 13 states that were not funded under the NIOSH/state cooperative agreement for occupational safety and health surveillance. These 13 states are Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Alaska, and Hawaii. In addition, representatives from the Western NIOSH ERCs and AG Centers were invited. Representatives from several NIOSH branches and divisions with surveillance activities were also invited to attend the meeting.

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A formal evaluation was conducted and results indicate that the overall rating of the meeting was Excellent (on a 5-point Likert scale with Excellent being the highest rating). Presentations that impacted attendees the most were: Developing an OSH Program from Scratch, the overview of the FACE Program, and the Grant Writing breakout session. Other novel presentations and discussions included OSHA activities in the West, union interactions with states, and two breakout sessions addressing regional issues in neighboring states and working with your ERC/AG center.

Objective 2. Develop common priorities for occupational risk assessment, applied epidemiology, worksite interventions and other prevention efforts.

A main goal of the WestON meetings is to provide attendees the opportunity to learn more about how to develop state occupational epidemiology capacity. Corey Campbell, Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) fellow in Colorado, provided a basic how-to" example of developing a state-based OH surveillance program from scratch. As a result of this presentation, meeting participants agreed on the benefits of having one OH specialist in each state or a regional fellowship model by utilizing existing fellowship programs and university

assets. One outcome of the meeting was the need to present a business case for OH capacity in states, including at least one OH fellow in each state.

Common priorities indicated in the meeting evaluation included the need to invite to future meetings speakers/participants with expertise in areas such as: migrant health populations, Native American and tribal health agencies, colleagues in Mexico and Canada including border health programs, EPA, and ATSDR. The planning committee will incorporate these priorities into future WestON meetings.

Objective 3. Promote scientific collaboration among state-based occupational epidemiologists, NIOSH and academic colleagues in the Western region.

Fifty-seven individuals attended the meeting, comprising 15 of the 19 Western states (except South Dakota, North Dakota, Hawaii, and Wyoming), all six Western region ERCs, all four Western AG Centers, two representatives from NIOSH-funded training programs, and numerous scientists from NIOSH. Two breakout sessions provided participants the opportunity to discuss collaborations in a smaller setting: In 'Regional Issues in Neighboring States,' participants discussed regional issues, including industries (Oil & Gas, Agriculture, Mining, etc) and areas for collaboration; and in 'Working with your ERC/Ag Center' representatives from each ERC/Ag Center discussed opportunities for collaboration, such as providing topics for graduate student's thesis projects.

CSTE continues to maintain a Western state occupational epidemiology listserver^y used to communicate with meeting participants, share news items of interest, distribute electronic surveys, and plan for subsequent meetings. The CSTE website also provides information on WestON and links to each meeting's agenda and meeting minutes (www.cste.oro/oh.asu).

A few notable outcomes from the meeting:

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C. Significance

As a tool to build epidemiological capacity in states, the WestON meeting is an innovative approach that brings together more experienced states and states that are just beginning to consider developing an occupational epidemiology program. The NIOSH Western States Office has been an integral part of planning WestON meetings and helping to develop ties between NIOSH and state health departments. The WestON planning committee invites NIOSH-funded ERCs and AG Centers to the meeting and provides an innovative opportunity for discussion about collaboration between academic and state-based occupational epidemiology programs. Finally, the newly established MAP ERC has been a key partner in this effort, and has committed solidly to the concept of promoting collaboration and supporting the development of occupational epidemiology within their region.

D. Plans

The planning committee strives to include more ambitious and innovative activities in future meeting agendas including the addition of a student track, more union and industry representation, illustration of case studies that can be modeled in states in the West, and providing an opportunity for environmental health specialist, departments of agriculture and transportation, and other industries to present their issues and ideas for collaboration and prioritization

Department of Health and Human Services
Final Invention Statement and Certification
 (For Grant or Award)

1R130H009753-01

A. We hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, all inventions are listed below which were conceived and/or first actually reduced to practice during the course of work under the above-referenced DHHS grantor award for the period

08/01/2009 through 07/31/2010
original effective date *date of termination*

B. Inventions (Note: If no inventions have been made under the grantor award, insert the word "NONE" under Title below.)

NAME OF INVENTOR	TITLE OF INVENTION	DATE REPORTED TO DHHS
	None	
<i>(Use continuation sheet if necessary)</i>		

C. Signature—This block *must* be signed by an official authorized to sign on behalf of the institution.

Title	and Mailing Address of Institution
Deputy Director	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Typed Name	2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
LaKesha Robinson	Atlanta, GA 30341

Signature _____ Date 07/19/2010