



NIEHS

National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences

Annual Report

2007

for the National Clearinghouse for
Worker Safety and Health Training



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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training 2006/2007 Year End Report

Introduction

Annually, MDB, Inc. highlights its work providing an extensive range of communication and technical assistance services to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Education and Training Program (NIEHS WETP) in the Clearinghouse Fiscal Year-End Report. The 2007 Fiscal Year-End Report covers NIEHS WETP Clearinghouse activities from August 16, 2006 to September 15, 2007. The 2007 fiscal year was a challenging and exciting year for the National Clearinghouse. This fiscal year was largely focused on four tasks: 1) developing materials for workers who may respond to an avian influenza outbreak; 2) developing materials for workers responding to an attack using radiological dispersal devices (RDD); 3) a web migration from the www.wetp.org URL to the <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp> URL and; 4) coordinating the National Trainers' Exchange.

Overview

MDB Inc. has completed its 2nd year in providing technical and research support for the NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program and ensuring the smooth operation of the NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse.

WETP continued its emergency preparedness and response training initiatives following Hurricane Katrina and focused on developing more training tools for skilled support personnel who respond to emergencies. The framework for developing the tools is based on the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) 15 Disaster Planning Scenarios: Pandemic/Avian influenza being one, and a dirty bomb scenario being another. Avian and pandemic influenza became a growing concern to the preparedness and response community due to the rapid spread of avian influenza and the escalating number of human deaths from pandemic influenza in eastern Asia. The Worker Education and Training Program made the decision to be proactive in preparing workers by administering several grants to existing WETP Awardees and initiating interagency collaborations. These awardees developed training courses and manuals designed to prepare healthcare workers and skilled support personnel that may be involved in an avian influenza emergency response. As part of this effort, the National Clearinghouse developed a training tool entitled, "Protecting Workers from Avian Influenza." The tool was designed to assist trainers in educating workers on avian influenza and the types of hazards and activities that may be involved in an avian influenza response. The draft training tool was shared with a number of people in a variety of agencies and organizations within the safety and health, emergency response and agricultural community for suggestions and feedback. This feedback was incorporated into the final document.

Other tasks included the development of the RDD training tool, development of a new Clearinghouse fact sheet, updating the Brownfields/Minority Worker Training Program brochure, development of a training tool to educate cleanup workers at the Department of Energy (DOE) on its Safety and Health Program Rule (10 CFR 851), and successful migration to a new URL.

2007 Activities and Deliverables

Prime Task One: Establish, manage and operate an information clearinghouse for the distribution of technical information produced by the Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Monthly Summaries

Ms. Weinstock made monthly trips to Research Triangle Park, NC to meet with Worker Education and Training Branch (WETB) staff to discuss the previous month's contract activities and upcoming activities as well as examine remaining budget allocations. A monthly report summarized by contract task and a budget spreadsheet are disseminated to WETB staff each month. This form of reporting maintains accountability for the project, while introducing a necessary degree of flexibility when faced with changing priorities. Other Clearinghouse team members either accompany Ms. Weinstock or join via teleconference as needed.

HASL and the Curricula Catalog

The MDB Inc. IT team, spearheaded by Manfred Stanfield, made some incremental changes to both HASL and to the curricula catalog. Most of the changes incurred this year were largely a result of the NIEHS web migration. The Clearinghouse has also been producing a report which allows WETB staff to see which awardees have uploaded what new curricula to the catalog and when.

Advisory Board

The Clearinghouse Advisory Board met on March 28, 2007 in Las Vegas, Nevada prior to the National Trainers Exchange. The board heard about Clearinghouse activities over the past year and members were asked to provide input on the revised Brownfields/Minority Worker Training brochure. A large part of the meeting was devoted to discussing the Key Issues document that had come out of a February WETP Strategic Planning Meeting facilitated by the Clearinghouse. The board also discussed possible topics and locations for new workshops.

National Clearinghouse Advisory Board

Membership List			
Name:	Organization:	Name:	Organization:
Pat Berntsen	Kirkwood	Beverly Wright	Dillard University
LaMont Byrd	Teamsters	Tom McQuiston	USW
Don Ellenberger	CPWR	Glenn Paulson	UMDNJ
Doug Feil	Kirkwood	Paul Renner	Labor Institute/USW
Mike Gill	USW	Craig Slatin	The New England Consortium
Mike Glassic	Y-Stress	Barbara McCabe	IUOE
Gary Gustafson	Laborers-AGC	Kizetta Vaughn	CPWR
Dave Neun	IAFF	Ebony Turner	Dillard University

Strategic Planning

On February 7-8, 2007, the Clearinghouse held a strategic planning meeting with WETB. Issues discussed included:

- Expanding our partners and champions
- The possibility of growing the program
- Encouraging awardee partnership activities
- Capturing the history of the program
- Defining emerging issues and determining the extent to which the program should engage in them

From that meeting, a “Key Issues” paper was developed and shared with the Clearinghouse Advisory Board and awardees’ advisory boards, and will be shared with WETP Champions at the Champions meeting next fiscal year. In addition, participants at the National Trainers’ Exchange were asked to provide input as to where they thought the program should be going in the next five years.

Prime Task Two: Arrange and manage technical meetings and workshops related to scientific, administrative, and regulatory issues associated with training for hazardous waste workers and emergency responders.

The Fall Awardee Meeting and Technical Workshop was technically held during the previous contract year. However, follow-up activities such as the workshop report fell into the 2006/2007 contract year. The National Clearinghouse coordinated and assisted in the facilitation of the Fall 2006 Annual Awardee Meeting and Technical Workshop themed, “**Disaster Response Training: From WTC to Katrina, Five Years of Lessons Learned,**” convened on September 13-15, 2006 at St. John’s University in New York, New York. The conference was designed to explore the lessons learned in worker training and safety from both Katrina and WTC disasters. More than 100 people attended this conference.

During the spring of 2007, the National Clearinghouse coordinated and co-facilitated the **NIEHS Awardee Meeting and Fifth National Trainers’ Exchange: “Looking Back and Moving Forward: 20 Years of Worker Education and Training,”** held on March 28-30th, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Trainers Exchange was held at the Flamingo Hotel and this year’s Trainers’ Exchange provided its attendees with 43 workshops to choose from. All of the workshops were facilitated by WETP awardees. A total of 217 participants attended this year’s National Training Exchange. Following the theme of the 2007 NIEHS WETP National Trainer’s Exchange, the Clearinghouse staff prepared a life-sized banner entitled, “The Social Political Context for WETP,” on which participants from various awardee organizations placed photos and notes of important historical events of the worker training movement dating from 1970 to 2010.

November 2, 2007

Avian/Pandemic Influenza Briefing Research Triangle Park, NC

The National Clearinghouse coordinated and co-facilitated an interagency meeting on worker training for avian influenza and pandemic influenza. The meeting’s purpose was threefold. First, it pulled together people who are interested in and potentially working on training and education materials for workers who will need to be protected in the event of either an avian or pandemic flu outbreak to share what they are working on. Second, the meeting helped WETP and the National Clearinghouse determine what materials should be developed by the National Clearinghouse to best supplement what others are already doing. Thirdly, the meeting synthesized the many different materials and guidance documents to concentrate on the core issues of worker protection

training. Eighteen different organizations were represented. The meeting served to bring people to together to share materials and make contact with others who are developing materials to protect workers. A need to engage with additional organizations was identified.

As part of the avian/pandemic influenza initiative, several webpages that provided information on avian and pandemic influenza of import to the worker training community were added to the National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Training website.

April 10, 2007

Avian Influenza Response: Worker Safety and Health Training Riverdale, MD

In the spring of 2007, WETP co-sponsored an avian influenza conference with USDA APHIS to foster collaboration on training workers for an avian influenza outbreak in the U.S. This meeting provided an opportunity for NIEHS and APHIS to learn what training was being developed or already existed to help protect workers during a response. Representatives from EPA also participated in the meeting.

This led to an even larger joint NIEHS/APHIS meeting, **Protecting Avian Influenza Responders** in September 2007. This meeting had more than 250 participants from a variety of federal, state and local governments as well as private industry, unions and academia. Conference attendees heard from state, federal and industry representatives, as well as from an international panel and participated in a game/exercise where they were able to make decisions regarding resource allocations during a mock avian influenza outbreak. Participants had an opportunity to see a variety of training products and programs that have been developed to protect workers responding an avian influenza outbreak and also attended breakout sessions on issues ranging from HAZWOPER and Incident Command to the hazards of depopulation operations and critical stress management.

Prime Task Three: Facilitate the transmission of technical information related to the development of safety and health training programs for hazardous waste workers and emergency responders.

Web Site Development and Web Site Maintenance

During the 2006-2007 contract year the Clearinghouse focused the bulk of its web development and maintenance tasks on migrating its website to a new URL and ensuring that the new site came into compliance with the new NEIHS style manual as the entire NIEHS website went through an overhaul. The transition was successfully completed in August.

Weekly Digital Newsbrief

Since its inception, the National Clearinghouse weekly Newsbrief has served as a unique resource for keeping abreast on issues surrounding worker safety, health, and training. The weekly Newsbrief features current news articles, research studies, government reports, upcoming events, and employment opportunities within the topic areas of emergency preparedness and response, homeland security, environmental cleanup, and chemical safety as they relate to worker training and worker safety. The National Clearinghouse weekly Newsbrief is unique for two reasons: it is the only newsbrief distributed by a federal government agency solely devoted to worker training and safety in the areas mentioned, and rather than feature frontliners, its purpose is to feature articles and documents that don't normally make front page news.

Outreach

The National Clearinghouse enhanced outreach efforts by developing and redesigning a number of printed materials for WETP programs and the Clearinghouse. The National Clearinghouse produced its first fact sheet designed to provide information on its various functions and activities. In addition, the Clearinghouse updated and provided a new look to the WETP Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program brochure.

NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse Compendium

Due to budget issues resulting from the web migration, the Compendium was not produced this year. However, Clearinghouse staff did save articles and other publications of note for inclusion in the next Compendium that is produced.

Prime Task Four: Develop, analyze, and compile program research products to support new training initiatives and the continuation of program efficacy measures.

Major initiatives that took place under Task 4 included:

- A new initiative to reach out to the DOE community through development of a training tool on DOE's Safety and Health Program Rule, 10 CFR 851 was undertaken during this contact year. This involved developing the training tool and arranging meetings to share the tool and get feedback on it from workers and DOE officials and contractors around the Hanford and Oak Ridge sites. The meetings were held February 21-22, 2007 and April 26, 2007 respectively. The Clearinghouse developed a fact sheet on the rule and a PowerPoint presentation explaining the key sections of the rule and how workers can use the rule to ensure their safety and health.
- The Clearinghouse also developed a training tool on the hazards of responding to an incident caused by Radiological Dispersal Devices (RDD). This task was undertaken jointly with HAMMER with the "consent" of the HAMMER Steering Committee as proposed to the committee at the September 21, 2006 meeting in Richland, Washington. HAMMER's role in the project was to provide content, expertise and assist with identifying key DOE staff to involve in the development process. Input on the RDD training tool and booklet – "Protecting Yourself During a Dirty Bomb Response" was also provided at the Hanford and Oak Ridge Meetings mentioned above.
- Development and production of the Protecting Avian Influenza Responders training tool and booklet. This joint effort between NIEHS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) began in November 2006 with the meeting mentioned above in Research Triangle Park, NC.

Partnerships and Representation

Members of the Clearinghouse staff represented the Clearinghouse and the WETP throughout the year in the following:

- Deborah Weinstock's participation in the National Response Team meetings and calls;
- Deborah Weinstock's participation in the 2006 APHA meeting;
- Deborah Weinstock's attendance at the 2006 SBRP meeting;
- Don Elisburg's participation in the APA/NIOSH Work, Stress and Health 2006 Conference;

- Deborah Weinstock's attendance at the Fall 2006 DOE HAMMER Steering Committee Meeting;
- Deborah Weinstock and Xanthia James' participation in the 2006 Brownfields conference (November 13-16, 2006). Xanthia staffed the booth and Deborah presented at a session on Health and Safety Tools and Resources;
- Manfred Stanfield's participation on the NIEHS Web Coordinating Committee.

Conclusion

The 2007 NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse Report is designed to highlight the Clearinghouse's and in turn the Program's achievements from August 2006 to September 2007. For the past year MDB, Inc. has delivered operational and research assistance and will continue to enhance the capabilities of the NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse in the years to come.

MDB, Inc.

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