MARYLAND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (MOSH) ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 3, 2024– 10:00 a.m.| MOSH Headquarters– Hunt Valley
10946 Golden West Drive | Suite #160
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

Board Members Present
Steve Connelly, Agriculture Member
Elizabeth "Sissy" Martin, Industry Member
Clifford Mitchell, M.D., Health Member
Neill Christopher, Public Member
Frank Trujillo, Industry Member
Jeff Lochte, Public Member
Rob Holsey, Labor Member
Ed Arellano, Health Member

DLI Staff Present
Devki Virk, Commissioner
Michael Penn, Chief of Compliance
Cristina Campbell Harris, IH Supervisor
Jenny Baker, Asst. Attorney General
Andrew Friel, Legislative Administrator
Gavin Anderson, Lead Industrial Hygienist
Ebonie Wilborn, Industrial Hygienist
Barry Dillow, MOSH Consultation Supervisor
Brian Timberlake, Assistant Chief/Region IV Supervisor

Board Members Absent
Carol Dodson
John Gibula
Richard Ruehl

Public Attendees
John F. Rekus
Andrea Buie

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by board chair, Neill Christopher at 10:08 a.m. Roll call was taken to confirm a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Steve Connelly to approve the minutes and seconded by Sissy Martin. The motion passed unanimously.

MOSH UPDATES

Acting Assistant Commissioner & Chief of Compliance Michael Penn reported on some of the outcomes of the Governor's Workzone Task Force created following the 695 workzone crash that he, Brian Ellis, and Malcolm Rhett participated in. He also provided a broad overview of MOSH's role in the Francis Scott Key Bridge catastrophe. He noted that the effort to support

workplace safety within the fire department continues. OSHA has extended the deadline to comment on new fire service regulations that proposes updates to 1910.156 to June 21, 2024.

Mr. Penn discussed MOSH staff hiring, vacancies, and training schedules.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Commissioner Virk provided the status update on the MOSH penalty legislation which proposes to raise the MOSH penalty caps to meet or exceed OSHA's current limits. The bill passed both houses of the Maryland General Assembly and is awaiting signature by Governor Moore.

Commissioner Virk explained that she had testified in support of the sunset bill to extend the authority for the MOSH Advisory Board. Member Frank Trujillo offered to testify on behalf of the board if needed and the Commissioner explained that hold up was related to sunset bills in general and not the MOSH Advisory Board specifically.

There also was a discussion of legislation related to increasing penalties for speeding near highway work zones.

Commissioner Virk expressed her gratitude for being able to work with the MOSH Board on issues surrounding workplace health and safety.

MOSH HEAT STRESS PREVENTION STANDARD

Commissioner Virk provided an overview of the recent heat prevention standards before turning the conversation over to Cristina Campbel Harris.

Ms. Campbell Harris shared feedback and detailed the comments from the stakeholder meetings and those submitted through the heat stress illness dedicated email.

There was discussion among DLI staff, the members of the Board and the members of the public who were present about the draft regulations. The Commissioner explained that the next step will be to evaluate the comments and make decisions on revisions if any. DLI will then hold another MOSH Board meeting prior to starting the formal regulatory process.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Trujillo suggested that MOSH reinstitute a Strategic Partnership for Excellence in Construction Safety (SPECS) program and offered to lead the effort.

Dr. Mitchell mentioned the recent interagency collaboration among the Maryland Cannabis Administration, MOSH, and the Maryland Department of Health that resulted in a Cannabis Roundtable. He noted that the roundtable discussion points will be the foundation for future training and education.

There was a discussion of the Maryland Department of Health's efforts to create a recovery-free workplace to reduce opioids use and suicide within the construction industry.

ADJOURN

A motion was put forth by Ms. Martin to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Connelly. The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.