

Miner Health Partnership Breakout Session Summary

9.8.2022

Question 1

Do you want to participate in the MSHA/NIOSH work to help inform the mining-specific opioid resource guide that Jerry mentioned?

a. Do you want to participate in a partnership working group or help co-facilitate one (more details to follow)?

b. Are there other groups that you know of that are already set up to engage on this topic?

- Responses were overwhelming affirmative and supportive in having the partnership engage in the collaboration between NIOSH and MSHA
 - Some expressed opportunities to bring in other colleagues that may have unique perspectives and experience (e.g., medical officer)
 - There was emphasis to ensure that frontline workers are represented, as it wasn't obvious if they would logistically be able to participate and are difficult to reach
- Some questions remain regarding what the expectations are, but anticipate this will be better defined once a subgroup within the partnership is formed and co-facilitators are identified
- Several mentioned that it would be good to consider reaching out to other groups and agencies to assess what resources they have implemented and have shown effective
 - e.g., recovery organizations, OSHA's efforts on mental illness (that may cover substance use), NIEHS, other countries (and legislation)
- While the MSHA effort is targeting opioids, may consider broadening scope to substance use and misuse
- Mentioned the need for diverse partnership involvement as worker trainer methods may need to be tailored to different sectors, commodities, and culture of each
- Appreciation that this topic is being pursued; that the normal silos are being knocked down; and more collaboration and involvement are being held between Industrial Hygiene, safety, medical, and leadership
- Inclusion of digestible resources (e.g., a 1-pager) to have easily accessible on-site is often helpful and effective

Question 2

Would you like to play a more active role in the partnership?

For example: lead working group activities and communications, present at future meetings, assist in resource dissemination, etc.

- Strong interest expressed across the spectrum of attendees and their organizations to play a more active role and lead conversations; however, responses were also dependent on the topic and area of expertise
- Similarly, there is general agreement that partnership members are willing to help disseminate information and resources, as appropriate

- Several also discussed that coordinating more with MSHA (on several topics of health and exposure) could also be useful for disseminating information, given semi-regular presence at mines
- *Note from Jerry:* in the not-too-distant future, we'll likely want to create a partnership list related to areas of expertise and topics of interest from the partnership members

Question 3

How do you want to receive information from the partnership, such as with the opioid resource guide and related evaluation of partnership activities? For example: newsletter, social media, webinars, etc.

a. How often?

- Nearly all mediums of communication were highlighted. It is indeed multifactorial, and dependent on the specific content as well as in consideration of time and urgency
 - Social media
 - Currently NIOSH Mining uses Twitter, Facebook, although members of the partnership who completed the poll overwhelmingly indicated LinkedIn as their primary social media platform
 - Looking to establish a LinkedIn feature
 - Establishing and maintaining a webpage
 - For both the Miner Health Program and Partnership
 - Can serve as a centralized warehouse of sorts for partnership-related products
 - NIOSH Science Blog - <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/>
 - Newsletter
 - Suggested annually to begin and as often as quarterly depending on volume of activities of the partnership, content generation from all
 - Webinars
 - These have been valuable in creating opportunities for direct interaction with experts
 - Can be recorded and shared by broader audience
 - In coordination with MSHA, where appropriate
 - MSHA front webpage for high impact topics (e.g., silica rule, opioid workplace guide)
 - Spring Thaw meetings
 - Quarterly stakeholder call hosted by MSHA
 - Where appropriate, engage with equipment manufacturers
 - Emails to health and safety officers
 - Good 'ol fashioned onsite mine visits

Question 4

In thinking about mental health and substance use/misuse prevention in your workplace, what support would you like to see from the partnership and NIOSH to help?

a. What activities do you want the partnership to pursue?

For example: developing resources and tools, identify effective workplace strategies, compile and disseminate a list of resources, etc.?

- Responses emphasized various attributes related to the need for establishing trainings, education, and awareness campaigns
- Ideas included, but not limited to:
 - Educate workers on their rights (e.g., what happens if they disclose a substance use disorder? Are they protected?)
 - Tools that show the minimum standards or guidance on how to incorporate into training
 - Develop toolbox talks and training that help destigmatize
 - Identify best practices across the industry
 - Look to others and what they're doing to learn, develop practices, and disseminate.
 - Take advantage of cross-pollination and consider what is working well in other industries (e.g., agriculture, construction)
 - Create a resource portal for sharing best practices
 - Reach out to mental health and drug addiction facilities near mines and set up partnerships