


New York's Young Worker Safety and Health Project & "Passport To Safety"

Young Worker Safety
Network Meeting
September 24, 2009



NYCOSH and its MISSION

- New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health – non-profit organization, membership-based organization founded by unions, public health and safety advocates
- 20 COSH groups in existence around the country – WNYCOSH and CNYCOSH
- Provide training, technical assistance, advocate for workers' protections

Origins of the Project

- NYCOSH project began in 1997; outreach to vocational high schools in New York City
- Conducted training for schools and CBOS
- Developed factsheets
- began annual poster contest

Some NYS statistics...

- Between 2003 and 2006, 21 teens died on the job
- 2,330 teens reported injuries, including 530 aged 17 and younger
- NYSDOL finds (annually) more than 1,000 teens working in violation of the child labor laws

More NYS statistics...

- Teen injury rate in private industry: 173/10,000
- All workers: 140/10,000
- Retail and food service, healthcare and social assistance jobs account for the highest injury rates among teens

Objectives of NYCOSH Young Worker Project

- Educate teens about the hazards they may face on the job;
- Educate high school teachers, community educators, parents, unions and advocates about teen safety issues;
- Organize to develop campaign to address many issues related to teen safety

Building a coalition...

- NYCOSH Youth Advisory Committee, led to..
- New York State Young Worker Safety and Health Project – first met in Fall 2007
- New outreach to include more partners in this effort, following efforts of other states

Efforts of the Project:

- June is Teen Worker Safety Month
- Increase in outreach and enforcement, and collaboration among agencies – expansion of Buffalo/WC program
- Building the network

Some Recommendations

- A better system of data collection of teen injuries
- A modern, on-line worker permit system
- Integrate workplace safety and health education into the curriculum of secondary schools

More recommendations...

- Explore on-line educational programs, like “Passport to Safety”
- Conduct a coordinated public education campaign
- Develop youth-friendly websites so teens can more readily access information
- Increase targeted enforcement

Passport to Safety Pilot Project

- On-line training tool for teens developed in Canada
- How it came about
- Now used in Australia

How it happened in New York

- Paul Kells attended meeting of statewide committee
- Worker Compensation Board rep got approval from Chair to fund pilot project (\$20,000)

Work in Progress/subcommittees

- Participant selection – who will get the 5,000 passports? It's a statewide effort...
- Curriculum – re-writing the curriculum to match NY standards...
- Evaluation - NYSDOH to evaluate curriculum and the process

Plan...

- To conduct the pilot in the Spring...
- Evaluate and review...
- At the same time, begin campaign to figure out how to pay for program in the long run

Factors...

- Big project for a family small group of dedicated people across agencies
- Evaluation issues with schools – what are the protocols?
- How do we secure continued funding?

Most importantly...

- Will this training tool provide teens with the tools they need to better understand and address workplace safety and health issues?

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Susan McQuade, NYCOSH
- 212-227-6440, ext. 12
- smcquade@nycosh.org