Review of Progress Implementation Report for NIOSH Personal Protective Technologies Program

Submitted by Board of Scientific Counselors

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BSC Working Group Members

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Recommendations In Progress:

Recommendation #1 (Issue 1.2): Participate in policy development and standards across all types of PPT.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 **5**

Brief Justification:

- This team has done a fabulous job managing this task and moving it forward.
- Moving to wider occupations and types of PPE/PPT has been a significant and important achievement.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 **5**

Brief Justification:

- The process has involved strong stakeholder input, which has been a critical element to its success.
- The single goal of standard development, which is very difficult to define and implement in this regulatory climate, may underestimate actual impact. Other types of performance measures and metrics, such as policy implementation, could show a wider impact, especially for standards in an area that have significant barriers to passage. For example, an upgraded company policy or a union's effort to improve coverage in the spirit of a proposed standard also shows progress. The many interactions with the stakeholders could be one place to collect this type of information. Feedback from companies and other partners regarding policy effectiveness would also be helpful.
- Self-sustaining certification through fees is a promising approach. Evaluation will be critical to help show this as a generalizable model.

Recommendation #1 (Issue 1.3): Oversee certification of all PPT including an assessment of certification mechanisms.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 **4.5** 5

Brief Justification:

The online resources show some progress with more potential in the future. The plan to move towards decisions about voluntary vs. audit standards is clear. The framework with stakeholder input and engagement is a strong step forward. The committee notes that this recommendation is an extremely ambitious and large task.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 **4.5** 5

Brief Justification:

Slow progress in reaching full impact may be best approach, as it is important to have a strong conceptual framework and stakeholder engagement and input along the way. There is not a lot of dissemination or products in hand at this point, but the activities poise the program to be in a good position for more impact in the near future. With the breadth of this goal, nationally recognized, rather than nationally accepted, standards may be a more attainable goal.

Recommendation #1 (Issue 1.5): Conduct outreach programs for optimal use and acceptance of PPT by workers.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 **5**

Brief Justification:

The program has clearly developed many activities in outreach, with a broad audience, and progress has been substantial. We recommend that a communication plan or conceptual model be developed to clearly define the messaging at all levels, with a clear plan to reach the worker level. This might be a good time to take an inventory of the work that has been done to compile lessons learned, best practices, and outcomes. It is important that the program implements information from funded projects in a coordinated way. The use of stakeholder success stories could be helpful in documenting activities and impact.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 **4.5** 5

Brief Justification:

The activities are reaching many audiences using multiple mechanisms. Social messaging, reaching out to ERCs, and the use of the Supercourse are examples. The program might be able to leverage activities of other NIOSH programs and partners to extend the messages to wider audiences. The Trusted Source website is a good resource. It would be helpful to know what actions are the results of making this information available, and perhaps some of these impact metrics could be built into the website (e.g. a place to post successes, a survey for repeat web visitors). The committee had a clarification question: It appears that construction is not actively part of these activities. Perhaps because these messages are getting out through NIOSH other activities?

Recommendation #4 (Issue 4.1): Define barriers to and facilitators of PPT use.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 **5**

Brief Justification:

The program has developed a good plan. The program may have an opportunity to partner with NIOSH divisions and other experts in workplace culture and change.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 **5**

Brief Justification:

The program is conducting many activities in this area. The report mentions the use of informal feedback, but it would be helpful to have a more formal evaluation, especially to demonstrate impact for the end user. The program needs to ensure that knowledge of barriers feeds back into outreach efforts, as it is clear that this knowledge feeds back into design. The program has an opportunity to begin evaluating different messaging and educational approaches to learn what works best.

Recommendation #4 (Issue 4.2)*: *Develop innovative PPT designs and test methods to improve comfort, fit, and usability.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 **5**

Brief Justification:

The program's databases, such as the facial shape database, are very valuable and will likely contribute even more as they grow. Innovative designs can be informed by the barriers being identified, such as through the BREATHE working group.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 **5**

Brief Justification:

The impact of these activities is strong and poised for even greater future impact. The program has potential to collaboration with NIOSH evaluation experts to help keep track of best practices and methods to overcome barriers.