



REPORT PURSUANT TO CGS 31-402

Occupational Health Clinics Advisory Committee
Annual Report

Submitted by
Interim Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo
Connecticut Department of Labor

To the Governor &
General Assembly

Reporting Period
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

CGS 31-402. There is hereby established an Occupational Health Clinics Advisory Committee. Said committee shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than September 15, 1990, and annually thereafter, their recommendations as to:

- (1) Methods for the coordination of activities among occupational health clinics, auxiliary occupational health clinics, the state and any other entities;
- (2) methods and the nature of disclosure of research and data collection results and related educational information;
- (3) the appropriate methods of funding, including sources of funding for, occupational health clinics and related state activities, particularly regarding surveillance, and
- (4) delineation of new goals in occupational disease detection and prevention.

The advisory committee shall consist of fifteen persons as follows: The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters concerning occupational health and safety or their designees, two persons appointed by the Governor, one person appointed by the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission, one person appointed by the Labor Commissioner, one person appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health, one person appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate to represent the insurance industry, one person appointed by the majority leader of the Senate to represent the business community, one person appointed by the minority leader of the Senate to represent the labor community, one person appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives to represent the medical community, one person appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives to represent the labor community and one person appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives to represent the business community.

REPORT

(1) Methods for the coordination of activities among occupational health clinics, auxiliary occupational health clinics, the state and any other entities;

Representatives from the occupational health clinics and auxiliary occupational health clinics participated in four Occupational Health Surveillance Work Group meetings. These meetings allow clinic representatives to network with their peers, discussing the challenges and triumphs they encounter while operating their respective clinics.

The Occupational Health Clinics fulfilled their responsibility to host one Occupational Work Group Meeting per fiscal year with the following topics:

- Griffin Hospital: Recognizing covid symptoms; return to work capabilities and how to keep our staffing cleared and safe within the work place
- Middlesex Health: Challenges in Assessing Fitness-for-Duty

- UConn Health: Occupational Contact Dermatitis during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Yale: COVID-19: Progress and Future Challenges for Occupational Health Providers

(2) Methods and the nature of disclosure of research and data collection results and related educational information;

The occupational health clinics and the auxiliary occupational health clinics have submitted an estimated total of 10,700 Physician’s Reports of Occupational Diseases. Of the 10,700 reports, 7,600 were reports of injury and 3,100 were reports of disease. DOL processed these reports by coding them with their industry class using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), the nature of the injury, the part of body affected, and the occupation of the injured at the time of the event. Once coded, the injuries are entered into DOL’s database. The reports of disease were sent to DPH for entry into their database. Once processed, the data is used to identify trends in injuries and illnesses that are occurring in Connecticut.

DPH and CONN-OSHA also publish quarterly newsletters. These publications are a source of information for injury/disease trends, chemical exposures, prevention of occupational safety and health hazards, and other topics.

(3) The appropriate methods of funding, including sources of funding for, occupational health clinics and related state activities, particularly regarding surveillance

During the fiscal year of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, the program appropriation was \$691,122. Grants-in-aid were awarded to four occupational health clinics and 15 auxiliary occupational health clinics and award letters and contracts were sent to each of the awardees for review and signatures.

Pursuant to sections 31-397, 31-398, and 31-403 of the general statutes, funds were allocated as follows:

Program	FY 21 Budgeted Amount	% of Total	FY 21 Actual Expenditures	Unexpended
CT Worker's Compensation Commission	\$ 103,668	15%	\$ 103,668	\$ 0
CT Department of Public Health	\$ 69,112	10%	\$ 18,725.49	\$ 50,386.51
CT Department of Labor	\$ 69,113	10%	\$ 69,113	\$ 0
Occupational Health Clinics	\$ 311,005	45%	\$ 310,354.66	\$ 650.34
Auxiliary Occupational Health Clinics	\$ 138,224	20%	\$ 138,224	\$ 0
FY 2021 Appropriation	\$ 691,122	100%	\$ 640,085.15	\$51,036.85

The purpose of the Occupational Health Clinics grant is to provide funding to public or non-profit clinics to support activities involved in the evaluation, treatment, and prevention of occupational diseases and injuries.

Grants-in-aid were awarded to four occupational health clinics and fifteen auxiliary occupational health clinics in fiscal year 2021:

- Occupational Health Clinics:
 - Griffin Hospital Occupational Medicine Center, Shelton
 - Middlesex Health Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Middletown
 - UConn Health, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Farmington
 - Yale Occupational and Environmental Medicine, New Haven

- Auxiliary Occupational Health Clinics:
 - Bristol Hospital dba MedWorks, Bristol
 - Johnson Occupational Medicine Center, Enfield
 - Medworks, LLC, Newington
 - Prospect Manchester Hospital dba CorpCare Occupational Health, South Windsor
 - St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Windsor
 - St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hartford
 - St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Torrington
 - Saint Mary's Hospital, Waterbury
 - Yale New Haven Health System Occupational Medicine and Wellness Services (YNHHS OMWS)
 - Bridgeport Hospital, Bridgeport
 - Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich
 - Greenwich Hospital, Stamford
 - Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Groton
 - Yale New Haven Hospital, Hamden
 - Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven (Sherman Ave.)
 - Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven (York St.)

For an organization to qualify as an occupational health clinic, it must meet certain criteria:

- The occupational health physician that directs the clinic must be certified or eligible to be a certified occupational health physician.
- The clinic must be a member or have plans to apply for membership in the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics.
- Industrial hygiene or related services must be available, and the clinic needs to have the ability to train physicians and other health professionals in occupational safety and health.

- Clinics need to be able to provide assistance and medical consultative services to the State of Connecticut, Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CONN-OSHA).
- Clinic members need to work with the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Labor (DOL), the Workers' Compensation Commission and the State Insurance Commissioner to reduce the burden of occupational disease.

In comparison, auxiliary occupational health clinics are general hospitals and/or other medical facilities which operate corporate medicine programs and/or employee wellness programs. These auxiliary clinics agree to provide data to CONN-OSHA on the occupational injury/illness cases that they treat.

(4) Delineation of new goals in occupational disease detection and prevention.

At this time, the primary goal of the Occupational Health Clinics Advisory Committee is to standardize the reporting of Physician Reports submitted by the Occupational Health Clinics and Auxiliary Occupational Health Clinics.

Occupational Health Clinics Advisory Committee Membership

Occupational Health Clinics Advisory Committee (CGS 31-402)	
Chairpersons of the Labor & Public Employees Committee	Senator Julie Kushner Representative Robyn Porter
Ranking members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee	Senator Rob Sampson Representative Harry Arora
Two people appointed by the Governor	Vacant
One person appointed by Chairman of Workers' Compensation Commission	Madeleine Lemieux
One person appointed by the Labor Commissioner	James Pierce
One person appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health	Thomas St. Louis
One person appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate to represent the insurance industry	Adam Seidner, MD
One person appointed by the majority leader of the Senate to represent the business community	Vacant
One person appointed by the minority leader of the Senate to represent the labor community	Vacant
One person appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives to represent the medical community	Vacant
One person appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives to represent the labor community	Vacant
One person appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives to represent the business community	Jack Braddock