



# REPORT PURSUANT TO CGS 31-402

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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, 2019 – June 30, 2020

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## LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

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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.

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## REPORT

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**(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 two Occupational Health Surveillance Work Group meetings. Note, two work group meetings were canceled due to COVID-19. 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: Canceled due to COVID-19
- Middlesex Health: Canceled due to COVID-19

- UConn Health: Occupational hearing loss
- Yale: Workplace Violence in Healthcare: Learning to defuse the problem

**(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 12,532 Physician’s Reports of Occupational Diseases. Of the 12,532 reports, 8,994 were reports of injury and 3,538 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020, the program appropriation was \$689,452. Grants-in-aid were awarded to four occupational health clinics and 16 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	FY20 Budgeted Amount	% of Total	FY20 Actual Expenditures	Unexpended
CT Worker's Compensation Commission	\$ 103,418	15%	\$ 103,418	\$ 0
CT Department of Public Health	\$ 68,945	10%	\$ 50,958.75	\$ 17,986.25
CT Department of Labor	\$ 68,947.06	10%	\$ 68,945	\$ 2.06
Occupational Health Clinics	\$ 310,251.94	45%	\$ 309,295.69	\$ 956.25
Auxiliary Occupational Health Clinics	\$ 137,890	20%	\$ 137,523	\$ 367
FY 2020 Appropriation	\$ 689,452	100%	\$ 670,140.44	\$19,311.56

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 sixteen auxiliary occupational health clinics in fiscal year 2020:

- 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, New London
    - 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