

MOSH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Virtual Meeting
August 26, 2026

MINUTES

Present Board Members:

Neill Christopher, Public Member / Chairperson
Steve Connelly, Agriculture Member
Grant Walker, IAFF Firefighters Local 1619
Clifford Mitchell, M.D., Health Member
Elizabeth (Sissy) Martin, Industry Member
Jeff Lochte, Public Member

Absent Board Members:

Carol Dodson, Business Member
Edward R. Arellano, Health Member
John Gibula, Public Member

DLI / MOSH Staff:

Commissioner Devki Virk
Reyna Robinson, Division Coordinator
Sarah Harlan, Assistant Attorney General
David Rodwin, Labor & Industry Senior Advisor
Christopher Williamson, Assistant Commissioner
Michael Penn, Chief of Compliance
Barry Dillow, MOSH Consultation
Cristina Campbell-Harris, PESH Unit Supervisor
Stephen Wilkinson, Industrial Hygienist

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m. Reyna Robinson welcomed attendees, reviewed the virtual-meeting procedures and recording notice, and conducted roll call. Members of the public were permitted to attend and observe; discussion during the meeting was limited to Board members and staff.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Clifford Mitchell moved to approve the minutes of the prior Board meeting. The motion was seconded. With no opposition, the minutes were approved.

MOSH Update: Michael Penn, Chief of Compliance, reported on MOSH performance and enforcement activity. MOSH met its federal performance goals. Mr. Penn also discussed development of a highway work-zone safety directive for MOSH and other DLI personnel, planned monthly programmed work-zone inspections, coordination with transportation agencies, and ongoing recruitment for open compliance positions.

MOSH Consultation Update: Barry Dillow presented federal fiscal year 2025 and 2026 year-to-date consultation data. Mr. Dillow noted that public-sector visits increased in FY 2026, an increase attributed in large part to implementation of the Davis-Martinez Act. Mr. Dillow also reported increases in serious hazards identified and employees protected, and noted that a new public-sector consultant had recently been hired and was beginning the approximately six-month qualification process.

Davis-Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act Update: MOSH reviewed implementation of the Davis-Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act of 2025. The Act eliminated the longstanding exemption from civil penalties for public bodies, requires citation copies to be provided to chief executive officials and legislative oversight bodies, established the Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) Unit, and requires an annual report on public-sector occupational safety and health. MOSH reported that \$47,500 in initial civil penalties had been assessed to public bodies through the end of May and that penalties collected under the Act are directed to the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program.

MOSH also reported that amendments adopted in June require all public bodies, regardless of size or industry, to comply with 29 CFR Part 1904 injury and illness recordkeeping and reporting requirements. The Board discussed how initial public-sector penalties may be reduced through the same abatement and informal-conference processes used for private-sector employers.

Heat Stress Standard Update: Cristina Campbell-Harris reviewed MOSH's second summer of implementation of the heat stress standard, including outreach, education, enforcement, and worker-facing resources.

Industrial Hygienist Steven Wilkinson presented a heat inspection case study including abatement measures taken by the employer. Discussion also addressed increased recognition and documentation of heat-related illnesses on OSHA 300 logs and MOSH outreach to employers where records suggest a possible heat-related event.

Workplace Violence Prevention Standard: Ms. Campbell-Harris and MOSH staff presented the development process for the workplace violence prevention standard required by the Davis-Martinez Act. MOSH conducted six public hearings between June and July - four in person in Hunt Valley, Hagerstown, Easton, and Silver Spring and two virtual - with nearly 90 attendees. MOSH received 32 oral comments and 15 written comments, most from labor representatives and worker advocates, with three written comments from employers.

Staff summarized stakeholder feedback from the public meetings.

MOSH noted that key drafting issues remain, including defining which private contractors should be covered, coordinating responsibilities at mixed public/private worksites, establishing reporting criteria and log content, protecting confidential information, maintaining an ongoing feedback loop among risk assessment, plans, and training, and avoiding duplicative obligations. Staff stated that Maryland and California are among the states currently working on workplace violence standards with reach beyond healthcare-specific requirements.

During Board discussion, Steve Connelly asked whether MOSH would provide model materials; staff confirmed plans for a template prevention plan and basic training materials that employers could supplement with site-specific procedures. Chairperson Neill Christopher supported broad scope, robust documentation, and thorough training. Grant Walker emphasized the need for reliable data and consistent reporting to support prevention and policy decisions, particularly for emergency responders. Sissy Martin asked how requirements would apply where public employees and private-sector workers or contractors work together. The Board and staff also discussed contractor coverage, differences in training needs by exposure, confidentiality, and the limited consistency of current data on violence against EMS and other first responders. MOSH agreed to follow up on how California treats EMS under its existing framework.

New Business / Next Meeting: No additional new business was raised other than scheduling the next meeting. The Board agreed to meet on Friday, September 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be available virtually, with in-person attendance welcomed if arranged in advance. MOSH intends to provide the Board with draft workplace violence prevention standard language for review and discussion.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Chairperson Christopher adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.