

CHARGE TO THE NORA CROSS-SECTOR COUNCIL
Version of March 8, 2007

MISSION

The mission of the NORA Cross-Sector Council is to enhance the effectiveness of NORA Sector Councils by:

1. Assuring appropriate coordination, sharing of findings, and cross-use of products among the NORA Sector Councils;
2. Providing guidance and common tools for developing strategic plans, maintaining partnerships, and tracking progress;
3. Providing information about cross-sector issues that NORA Sector Councils should consider while preparing or updating their strategic plans (see Appendix 1); and
4. Assisting in the development and implementation of priorities that are similar in the strategic plans of different NORA Sector Councils, which will include highlighting priority cross-sector opportunities for those researchers and other audiences whose focus is typically not defined by sectors.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The NORA Cross-Sector Council will:

1. Represent all stakeholders;
2. Seek broad stakeholder participation in all its activities;
3. Practice transparency by publicizing its activities, methods and decisions; and
4. Review and revise its membership periodically to maintain broad expertise, diverse perspectives and energized members.

OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The NORA Cross-Sector Council will:

1. Be co-chaired by the NIOSH NORA Coordinator and by two stakeholder representatives;
2. Have a core membership of both co-leaders of each NORA Sector Council;
3. Invite additional participation in workgroups by those with special expertise, as needed;
4. Undertake only those activities that are consistent with NORA, as determined by the NIOSH Director;
5. Develop a systematic approach to identifying commonalities in the strategic plans of the NORA Sector Councils where additional coordination is needed;
6. Post draft documents on the web for stakeholder input prior to finalizing them;
7. Develop appropriate mechanisms to assure effective communication among NORA Sector Councils and to track and evaluate its own activities and accomplishments.

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Appendix 1
Generic and cross-sector issues for consideration by NORA Sector Councils

The mission of the NORA Cross-Sector Council includes “providing information about cross-sector issues that NORA Sector Councils should consider while preparing or updating their research strategies.” The goal is to have strategic plans that deal with a range of approaches to a range of important problems and not just to include wider implementation of known solutions for those well-documented injuries and fatalities that will result in quick successes. To illustrate this, the NORA Cross-Sector Council might require each NORA Sector Council to consider including the following types of issues in their strategic plan:

I. Time to implementation:

- A. The problem is clear and solutions are known now, but approaches must be developed to achieve wider implementation.
- B. The problem is clear but solutions are unclear, so research is needed to develop effective solutions.
- C. Emerging problems need to be defined and understood sufficiently that work on solutions can begin.

II. Exposure/Disease/Injury

- A. Chronic and systemic diseases, such as cancer and reproductive, cardiovascular, neurologic and renal diseases
- B. Noise and Hearing loss
- C. Immune, dermal and infectious diseases
- D. Musculoskeletal disorders
- E. Respiratory diseases
- F. Traumatic injury
- G. Work organization, and stress-related disorders

III. Approaches

- A. Surveillance of health and exposures
- B. Epidemiology
- C. Laboratory studies of disease/injury mechanisms
- D. Exposure assessment
- E. Hazard evaluation
- F. Laboratory studies of controls and potential interventions
- G. Quantitative risk assessment
- H. Instrumentation development
- I. Pilot studies of interventions
- J. Social and economic consequences
- K. Intervention effectiveness studies
- L. Demonstrations
- M. Information Delivery

IV. Work Environment and Workforce

- A. Mixed exposures, including indoor environment
- B. Populations with special risks
- C. Failures of occupational safety and health systems