

Historic Residential Builders Safety Meeting Hosted By MICCS and the Indiana Department of Labor



Jason Wright (Centex Homes), Miguel Rivera (Commissioner, Indiana Dept. of Labor), Ron Reehling (Chairman, MICCS Board of Directors), Bob Kozac (MICCS Board of Directors)

Indianapolis, IN – A historic meeting, hosted by MICCS and the Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL), was held on Friday, June 9th bringing together 10 of the largest residential builders in Central Indiana to discuss safety obstacles and needs on job sites. Jason Wright, of Centex Homes, led the charge, after he had approached MICCS with a request for assistance. The meeting addressed two basic questions: What are residential builders looking for in the realm of job safety and How can residential builders work together to upgrade safety in their construction sector in Indiana?

Commissioner of Labor Miguel Rivera, Sr., who is an ex-officio member of the MICCS Board of Directors, provided extraordinary assistance by writing to all major residential builders, encouraging their attendance. Rivera noted that IOSHA has for years been relatively inactive with regard to this sector, which accounts for a significant number of job site accidents and fatalities in our industry.

The meeting included much dialogue between the residential builders, MICCS, and IDOL concluding unanimously that there is a need for assistance in safety programs and training in the residential market. MICCS and IDOL gave brief presentations regarding what programs they offer, but also expressed the possibility of developing programs that are tailored to the specific needs of the residential market.

Assisting in preparing for the meeting and in its discussions was an ad hoc committee formed by MICCS Board Chairman Ron Reehling, Jr. of National Starch. These members are:



Gary Price (President, MICCS) taking part in the meeting along with Jason Wright and Miguel Rivera.

Mark Badgley, Johnson Controls
Kent Burget, Safety Management Group
Ron Hanson, Safety Management Group
John Lindenschmidt, Risk Management Services
Bob Kozac, Jacobs Engineering
Sam Mishelow, Meyer Najem Construction
Jason Wright, Centex Homes

The path ahead will include forming a Steering Committee that will help guide the formation of these programs and continually assess the needs of the industry. MICCS President Gary Price noted that MICCS, when formed, considered the residential sector to be a part of its mission. He said that several attempts have been made in the intervening years to reach out, but results were disappointing. "I have always believed that success will occur with this sector – which is filled with good people in a highly competitive atmosphere – when they made the first step, which they have done. Their enthusiasm at this meeting matched those of the earliest MICCS leaders who formed MICCS. With the added assistance of Commissioner Rivera, I believe that this initiative holds the promise of significantly extending the influence of MICCS, thereby inching us closer to achieving our mission of zero accidents," said Price.

"My initial thought when Jason Wright first contacted me was that this endeavor would be an uphill battle for the Residential sector, for MICCS, and IDOL. With the support of residential participants we experienced in this meeting, I have no doubt that this group is ready to take action in residential safety," remarked Scott Grimes, Executive Director of MICCS.

The next meeting of the Residential Safety Committee will occur on Thursday, July 20th from 7:30 am to 9:30 am at the Marriott East. Discussions will include assessing the highest priority needs and developing committees to address these needs. If you are interested in attending the next meeting and are involved in residential building, please [click here](#) for more information. A MICCS staff member will contact you soon.