

DOCS Health Safety Meeting
June 13, 2006

NYS DOCS: J.Ludwin, J. Sheridan, R. Kennedy

PEF DOCS: J. Gonyo, J. Rosen, M. Rodriguez, E. Bradley, M. LaVere

Old Business:

Hale Creek Correctional Facility

On 06/06/06 J. Gonyo and T. Donahue visited Hale Creek C.F. The purpose of the visit was to look at the windows in the school in an effort to obtain information that may be helpful in eliminating the air quality problems. Noted at the visit was the fact that the windows are double hung and are pinned at a 6" height due to security reasons. Fans have been purchased and installed on the walls. The fans were not turned on however because they are very noisy and disrupt the program. Subsequently, with the doors closed as is required in this ASAT facility, there was no fresh air in the room. The air was stale.

As noted in past meetings there is no air exchange system in the school. There has been a high turnover of counselors at this facility. Counselors that have left the facility have written personal accounts of their illnesses to DOCS. They feel their illnesses are directly related to the lack of any air exchange system in the school. J. Gonyo passed out copies of a PEF Indoor Environmental Quality Factsheet. Discussion followed.

J. Ludwin stated he was aware the windows were pinned at 6" and that was for security purposes. He further stated the air quality had been checked and there were no concerns noted. J. Rosen stated either Washington or Greene C.F. have a similar setup and have placed fans in the windows without breaching security.

J. Ludwin said he was willing to look at fans in the Washington and /or Greene facilities. He will be contacting the respective Superintendents to obtain more information on this issue. He stated a variance may have to be approved regarding the 6" pins in order to install the fans. He will make a follow-up call to J. Gonyo with the results.

Discussion followed regarding the Capitol Improvement Project slated for review in 2008-2009.

New Business:

What is DOCS doing to prepare for the potential influenza pandemic?

J. Sheridan informed the committee that DOCS is doing the following in regards to the potential influenza pandemic.

1. DOCS has formed a team primarily consisting of security and health personnel and are drafting a plan to share with the Executive Staff. Upon completion, the draft will be shared with

PEF. DOCS is part of the state response team as this is a community issue. DOCS has attended a statewide conference and will be networking with other large correctional organizations.

2. DOCS is putting together an educational piece via the training academy. They are in the process of making a 7 minute video to be shown to all health care staff in the fall.

3. Working with central pharmacy to regarding appropriate mask equipment. Masks will be purchased and stock piled. DOCS will rely on the DOH to advise them which masks are most appropriate.

Discussion followed about the vaccination.

PEF would like to network with DOCS regarding education and resources.

R. Kennedy informed the committee that a plan has been submitted to OGS to purchase 785 AED's (Auto External Defibrillator). With approval DOCS hopes to purchase the AED's in the fall. In conjunction with the new AED's a 1 hour training will be mandated for all security and health staff. Other staff may receive training on a voluntary basis. A new directive is being written.

Next meeting scheduled for September 12, 2006 at 875 Central Ave.

J. Gonyo

J. Ludwin