

DOCS Health and Safety Minutes
September 26, 2007

Present: For DOCS; J. Ludwin, K. Woodruff, and T. Wundeman. For PEF; E. Bradley, J. Rosen, R. Amyot, and J. Gonyo.

June minutes were signed and exchanged.

Old Business:

Item 1 Hale Creek Correctional Facility

PEF ask that DOCS provide for the record action taken to implement fans to introduce fresh air into counseling rooms at Hale Creek this past June.

DOCS indicated that contractors added electrical receptacles and installed two way fans in all classrooms at Hale Creek. PEF thanked J. Ludwin's leadership in getting these fans installed.

Item 2 Workplace Violence Legislation

PEF seeks what role it will have in establishing this initiative as stated by the Workplace Violence legislation. Will DOCS approve of a proposed pilot project at Auburn and Elmira as suggested in June meeting?

DOCS stated that A. Annunci was working with I. Rivera on this initiative. A draft of the directive is available which is open to comments from the unions. Meetings will be scheduled with the unions for discussion and input. No pilot project scheduled at this time.

Item 3 Use Of and Reporting of Secondary Exits

Since DOCS has recognized the need of having a secondary egress drill once a year as suggested by OSHA, PEF is only aware of three facilities that have done so out of 70 facilities across the state. Great Meadow, where the need surface close to threes years ago has finally completed a secondary drill with staff only. At Altona, J. Gonyo brought it to the attention of the Fire and Safety Officer and has been doing them for two years. Auburn Correctional finally has done a secondary drill only due to the fact that J. Sroka brought it to the attention of the executive team. The executive team at Auburn was unaware that these drills should be done.

IF the drills are not being done, and DOCS has no reliable system to report the drills (KHRT Code), executive teams are unaware that they are recommended, how does DOCS expect that this initiative will be carried out?

K. woodruff indicated that he will email all facilities with directions to include secondary route drills on their monthly reports. If no secondary drills are reported, the appropriate Deputy

Superintendent will be contacted to find out why they are not being done. He also indicated the drills are done every quarter and every shift. Secondary egress is to be done once per year.

Item 4 Personal Alarm Devices

PEF ask that DOCS provide the Health and Safety Committee with time table of implementation as promised in June meeting.

DOCS has generated a memorandum of understanding with PEF and CSEA in regards to the implementation of the new personal alarms. The first alarms will be assigned to Elmira Correctional Facility. The use of the alarms will be mandatory.

PEF offered thanks to the Commissioner for moving this proposal ahead.

Item 5 Chemical Agents

PEF's Jonathan Rosen is to provide DOCS with a report on precautionary processes for Chemical Agents for review.

PEF stated that it was important to define "exposure". PEF defines exposure as to sensitization over time and potential for serious reaction from repeated contact with chemical agents. J. Rosen will summarize this report and submit later.

Item 6 Upgrade of Exhaust and filter systems for Vocational Shops

DOCS indicated at the June meeting it would provide PEF with details of a five year timeline for upgrading exhaust and filter systems in its Vocational Shops including its Welding Shops.

DOCS is to survey all Vocational Supervisors seeking input as for the need for upgrading exhaust and filter systems. Money from capital improvements could be used for inexpensive projects whereas capitol projects will be necessary for integrated systems, i.e. welding.

New Business:

Item 1 Tuberculosis Control Guidelines

Is DOCS making any changes based on the Center for Disease Control July 7, 2007 issuance of Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis in Correctional Facilities? Are changes to occur regarding tuberculosis skin testing of staff?

No report was available, table to December meeting.

Item 2 Use of Non Corcraft Cleaning Products

PEF has been advised that some facilities are using non Corcraft cleaning products. It is our understanding that only Corcraft products are to be used to reduce incidences of non compatibility with other products. PEF ask that facilities, including stewards be made aware of this policy by memo.

Table to next meeting.

John Ludwin, DOCS

James Gonyo, PEF