

Health and Safety Minutes
For December 9, 2008
PEF/DOCS

Attending for DOCS: John Ludwin, Nancy Lyng, Linda Klopf, Robert Kennedy, A. Tousignant, Maynard Porter, Peter Bogarski, Pete Buehler and Teresa Wuerdeman
For PEF: Tom Donahue, Jonathan Rosen, Rich Amyot, John Sroka, Jim Gonyo, and Ed Bradley.

Old Business:

Item 1 Workplace Violence Legislation

PEF provided an update. Jonathan Rosen gave a status update. Revisions have been made which will not affect legislation as it applies to DOCS. Regulations were republished on November 26, 2008 in the State Register. A public hearing will be held on January 20, 2009. Robert Kennedy indicated that the DOCS committee would be reactivated which includes CSEA and NYSCOPBA. They would be developing a training component on workplace violence.

Item 2 Coworker Violence

J. Rosen indicated that PEF is a partner on a grant awarded to University of Maryland from the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health to conduct a survey of coworker violence. A copy of the survey has been forwarded to DOCS for review. T. Donahue had sent Associate Commissioner Rivera a letter on August 18, 2008 with proposal for his consideration. Paul Korotkin, DOCS Research Director is currently reviewing the proposal. The survey has been conducted at other state agencies. The research is being coordinated by Jane Lipscomb from the University of Maryland. The survey is done online or paper. J. Rosen is to send copies of survey to committee chairs. PEF feels this is very worthwhile initiative considering the feedback that PEF obtained from its focus groups and other feedback obtained in working on Workplace Violence.

Item 3 Commissioners initiative on harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.

B. Kennedy indicated that Training of Trainers has been completed and the facilities can expect to start receiving the training in January/February. J. Ludwin indicated that there would be several means for individuals to address their concerns. B. Kennedy indicated working with the chain of command, I. Rivera, C. Harvey/Diversity Management, prior to EEOC complaint being filed. J. Gonyo offered that in many cases the chain of command at the local level is the problem when they are not receptive to addressing victim's complaints. This leads people to go outside the agency. B. Kennedy agreed that this might be a possibility. Again it was offered that PEF was looking at ways division leaders and field representatives

can be used to track incidents and reports from members. B. Kennedy indicated that diversity Management has numbers of incidents reported statewide. PEF asked if it would be possible for Charlie Harvey of Diversity Management be able to attend our next meeting. J. Ludwin will see if he is available.

Item 4 Domestic Violence in the workplace

DOCS offered that Lucy Bluier (?) from office of Diversity Management is taking the lead on this issue. A six-hour training will be given to stewards. PEF appreciates DOCS' reviewing our recommendations and incorporating some of them into policy.

Item 5 Ventilation Proposals for Vocational Shops

Maynard Porter gave a very detailed presentation on DOCS proposals to address ventilation problems in some of its facilities including academic classrooms at Franklin. Jack Huntington from DOCS is working to identify proper equipment for "Point of Operation Applications" for Welding, Small engine, Masonry, and some paint applications in Building Maintenance shops.

Below is a list of Facilities and the ventilation projects that are planned for the vocational areas. It is a list of prioritized projects generated by Mario and his staff in order that we can address the ventilation issues appropriately.

Vocational Welding Shops.

Washington CF--Project # 43879, Provide ventilation in welding shop, Scheduled to bid 5/27/09--Project complete within 6 months.

Eastern CF--Provide ventilation in welding shop, In the 5 Year Plan to bid in Fiscal Year 10/11.

Woodbourne CF--Provide ventilation in welding shop, In the 5 year plan to bid in Fiscal Year 10/11.

Wyoming CF--Provide ventilation in welding shop, In the 5 year plan to bid in fiscal year 10/11.

Sing-Sing CF--Provide building for oxygen generator, 1612 # 07-070-05 Approved 10/2/07. Facility to construct the building.

Vocational Small Engine Repair Shops.

Franklin CF--Project # 43898, Provide ventilation small engine repair shop, Scheduled to bid 7/1/09--Project complete within 6 months.

Sing-Sing CF--Provide ventilation small engine shop, In the 5 year plan to bid in fiscal year 10/11.

Livingston CF--Provide ventilation small engine shop, In the 5 year plan to bid in fiscal year 10/11.

Otisville CF--Provide ventilation small engine shop, In the 5 year plan to bid in fiscal year 10/11.

Vocational Masonry Shops.

Gouverneur CF has submitted a 1612 to install an air scrubber in the masonry shop. Approval/Disapproval is pending the air surveys requested by Mario.

Vocational Building Maintenance.

Orleans CF--Mario indicates that complaints have been received about fumes. Investigation is ongoing.

Vocational Paint Shop.

Orleans CF--Mario indicates that complaints have been received about fumes. Investigation is ongoing.

New Business:**Item 1** Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control

J. Rosen referred to an ongoing situation at a DOCS facility concerning a needle stick incident. PEF questioned what the process is for needles used with fuzeon medication. A. Tousignant stated DOCS approached manufacturer to remove the unsafe needle and was told it could not be done. J. Rosen stated that OSHA criteria mandated the safest delivery system available. Peter Bogarski indicated that in the past facilities were told not to use the hinged cap needle included with fuzeon (remove part and dispose of device in facility). N. Lyng offered that directions from company were not to use if box had been opened or tampered with. Direction had been sent out to not use these syringes. DOCS offered that manufacturer is the sole supplier of drug and they are not willing to change syringes they use. J. Rosen offered that we could get the FDA involved to put pressure on manufacturer to get them to change. J. Rosen stated that policy is that plan is to be reviewed annually, was this done? L. Klopff offered that plan was updated annually and that Bloodbourne Exposure Policy is in process of revision. PEF requested copies of policies and plan. L. Klopff offered that there is an ongoing review with quarterly committee meetings and that DOCS exceeds the standard. DOCS will send copies of info on this process. B. Kennedy indicated that there is a PESH complaint and a copy of the report will be provided.

Item 2 Safe Patient Handling Conference in Niagara Falls in October

Three people from DOCS Central Office attended conference, including Sue Post who will give DOCS feedback that will be forwarded to the committee. J. Rosen offered that follow up training would qualify as a SHIP grant should an interest exist. PEF had requested information on past injuries relating to patient handling. P. Buehler stated injuries for past three years; 2006: 8 injuries, 2007: 15 injuries, 2008: 7 injuries. PEF asked if cause of injuries or type of injury could be provided for our next meeting.

Item 3 Franklin Correctional Facility, Indoor Air Quality

In August D. Williams, Maynard Porter, and Jim Gonyo visited Franklin Correctional Facility to address air quality issues in the academic program building. DOCS is proposing installing wall units for each classroom to provide fresh air to classrooms. DOCS is doing a study on installing a particular unit and is waiting for OGS data. Study will be completed in Spring 2009. May do a test installment or all at once depending on OGS data on unit cost and budget allotments. In wintertime the issue of energy loss is significant if we are pumping fresh cold air in and heated air out of building. DOCS is considering some type of heat pump versus just fans to move air. With difficult budgeting ahead it was offered that capital expenditures for health and safety are still a priority with the department. The most difficult situations will be addressed first and when an adequate solution is found additional facilities will be retrofitted. Facilities located upstate have different needs than some facilities downstate due to temperature extremes. DOCS was commended on taking this issue on as it affects the health of all of the buildings inhabitants.

Item 4 Key issue at Livingston Correctional Facility.

At Livingston Correctional Facility the corrections officer assigned to the vocational school did not have a key to access the shops. These keys had to be obtained from the arsenal in the event of an emergency. PEF notified DOCS Fire And Safety about this issue. It has been determined that as of October 22, 2008 the corrections officer assigned to the vocational school at Livingston will have a key to access classroom doors as needed. PEF is appreciative of DOCS intervention and support on this issue.

Open Dialogue: Referring to minutes from last meeting was memo reissued on tape being removed from exercise equipment and the availability of sanitizers in all areas of use. DOCS will reissue memo and copy to J. Gonyo

T. Donahue asked if there had been a change in policy or directive that required Nurse Administrator to do monthly check of AED's at facility. B. Kennedy replied that there was no change and the inspection can be done by fire and safety officer or who ever is designated by the superintendent by directive 2174. It is up to the superintendent to assign someone as AED coordinator for each facility. DOCS has extra AEDS available and are to be notified should there be a need DOCS will try to get them distributed.

Next Meeting Scheduled for March 26,2009 at PEF headquarters, 9 AM.

John Ludwin NYSDOCS

James Gonyo PEF /H&S

