

DRAFT

JCCHS MINUTES

September 21, 2004

100 Lesmill Road

Present:

For OPSEU: Frank Pezzutto, North Bay General Hospital
Brendan Kilcline, Kingston General Hospital
Lisa McCaskell, OPSEU Senior Health & Safety Officer

For the OHA: Lynn Keays, Director Employee & Labour Relations, Humber River
Regional Hospital
Terry McMahon, Corporate Director, Human Resources, Grey Bruce
Health Services
Terry Siriska, Senior Consultant, Organizational Health Management
Services, Ontario Hospital Association

1. The minutes of July 15, 2004 were approved with corrections.
2. Business arising from the July 15 minutes
 - a) The Terms of Reference document was finalized with the removal of point #5, The Dispute Resolution Process. Lisa McCaskell will make the change to the document and email to Terry Siriska for distribution to OHA representatives.
 - b) OPSEU members report that Steve Shemluck (OHA) has communicated to their employers the TOR conditions under which OPSEU members participate on the JCCHS
 - c) Health & Safety Advisory Committee follow-up:
 - Terry Siriska will take approved JCCHS minutes to HSAC meeting;
 - OPSEU had requested an organizational chart demonstrating relationships between HSAC, Human Resources Committee, OHA Regional representatives to HSAC, WSIB Safety Group and any other relevant OHA H&S structures. Terry Siriska will investigate this request and report back to the next JCCHS meeting
 - OPSEU had requested updates on HSAC and Safety Group activities at last JCCHS meeting. At July 15, 2004 JCCHS meeting Melissa Barton (OHA) was to investigate if it was

possible for JCCHS to receive HSAC minutes. Terry Siriska will follow this up and report next meeting.

d) WSIB statistics follow-up:

- Terry Siriska provided the meeting with the HRDC Health Occupations codes that are also used by WSIB.
- Lisa McCaskell provided the meeting with a document setting out the basic parameters of the information the union is interested in getting from WSIB regarding work-related injuries and illnesses of OPSEU members.
- Terry Siriska reported that WSIB would not give us information on injury/illness rates for specific employers; nor would the Board be able to distinguish union from non-union employees in any reports. The meeting agreed that it would be useful if it was possible to get aggregate data for the 60 OPSEU-unionized hospitals and to be able to compare it to the non-unionized facilities.
- The meeting agreed that it would be useful if Terry Siriska would invite appropriate representatives from WSIB to attend our next JCCHS meeting (Nov.10) to discuss our request for information from the Board and to help us fine-tune that request in a manner that would allow the Board to supply us with the information most useful to us. Terry will show Fernand Scopa at WSIB our request as it is currently drafted and ask Fernand and another Board representative who is familiar with the data base to attend our next meeting.

e) OHA Respiratory protection survey and letter follow-up:

- At the previous JCCHS meeting, Melissa Barton had agreed to provide a copy of the OHA Respiratory Protection Program survey of hospitals to the JCCHS. Terry Siriska will bring a copy of the survey to the next meeting;
- Terry Siriska provided a copy of the July 7, 2004 letter from the OHA HSAC to CEOs of member hospitals which set out recommendations from the HSAC for ongoing respiratory protection. The recommendations in the letter were endorsed by Dr. M. Vercombe, chair of the OMA Communicable Disease Surveillance Protocol committee.
- OPSEU representatives at the meeting proposed that in future, when the OHA HSAC is doing a health and safety mailing to member hospitals that the letter should also be copied to JHSC co-chairs to assist in communication of the letter and/or recommendations. OPSEU representatives will discuss the content of the July 7 letter and bring any concerns to the next meeting.

f) Safety Engineered Medical Devices follow-up:

- The OHA prepared a package of materials on Safety Engineered Medical Devices (SEMD) that it mailed to CEOs, Human Resources and Occupational Health Professionals of member hospitals on July 29, 2004 to assist them address the issue of sharps injuries and MOL orders and recommendations. The materials were drawn from the Centres for Disease Control (U.S.), Health Canada, Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare (B.C.) and International Health Care Worker Safety Centre (University of Virginia – EPINet data collection program). The intention of the package was to assist hospitals to develop a risk assessment tool, and an implementation and evaluation plan.
- The package was distributed to Committee members. The OPSEU representatives on the Committee will consider the content of the materials and determine whether they recommend that this Committee endorse the package.
- Terry Siriska reported that representatives from the OHA and the MOHLTC met with representatives from the MOL in mid-August to discuss the MOL orders and recommendations to hospitals regarding sharps injuries and SEMDs. The OHA and MOHLTC requested the meeting to gain a better understanding of why the MOL had chosen to do the hospital ‘blitz,’ why MOL inspectors had chosen to focus on SEMDs (among other issues) and why MOL orders were not consistent in all facilities. Terry Siriska reported that the MOL representative advised OHA member hospitals to contact MOL managers to discuss the orders and recommendations if they needed further clarification or extensions to compliance dates. If employers continue to be dissatisfied with MOL orders, they have the right to appeal those orders under the OHSA.
- The OHA knew of no hospitals that had appealed orders for SEMDs. However, Terry reported that extensions to some compliance dates have been negotiated with the MOL.
- Terry Siriska reported that Toronto East General Hospital had done a trial of SEMDs and reported a significant reduction in sharps injuries
- Terry Siriska reported that the OHA intends to communicate the information gained from this meeting with the MOL to its member hospitals. OPSEU inquired whether this communication would also be copied to local JHSCs and recommended that it should be. Terry will inquire whether that is possible.
- The OHA reports that SEMDs will be a topic at the upcoming OHA Convention in November. At least two presentations will be made on sharps injuries and SEMDs.

- The OPSEU representatives inquired if it was possible for the OHA to offer passes to the three OPSEU members of the JCCHS to attend the H&S sessions of the conference scheduled for Monday, November 15. OPSEU agreed to pursue this issue using its own contacts and communications networks with the OHA.
- As a follow-up of the discussion of the EPINet data collection system, Terry Siriska agreed to investigate which of the OHA member hospitals use EPINet.

3. New Business

a) WSIB Safety Group:

- The OHA reports that the Common Element for the Safety Group next year will be Violence in the Workplace.
- This year, the Common Element was Competent Supervisor . Terry reported that hospitals submitted progress reports on their activities in May 2004. A final report will be submitted by member hospitals to the OHA in December. OPSEU requested that the final report dealing with progress on the Competent Supervisor issue be brought to the JCCHS.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held at the OHA, November 10, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes approved:

For the OHA: _____

For OPSEU: _____