



## Joint Central Committee on Health and Safety

September 19, 2007  
OPSEU Head Office, 100 Lesmill Road, North York  
10:00am-12:30pm

### MINUTES

**Present:** Lisa McCaskell  
Brendan Kilcline  
Joan Murray  
John Pellegrino  
Tim Savage  
Molly Rotering

**Regrets:** Terry McMahon  
Caroline Van Kessel

#	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION ITEM
1.	<b>Call to order:</b> The meeting called to order at 9:56am.	
2.	<b>Approval of Minutes for May 23, 2007</b> The minutes of May 23, 2007 were approved as presented.	<b>Approved</b>
3.	<p><b>Business Arising:</b></p> <p>a) <u>Sonographer Project Update/Working Session:</u> Brendan has received a communication (included in the meeting materials) from Terry McMahon giving approval to post the Sonographer assessment report from Grey Bruce Health Services. Brendan distributed a draft cover letter, briefly describing the assessment process, drafted by Terry. Brendan made small changes to the letter which he will communicate to Terry. <i>It was requested that the Sonographer Assessment and cover letter be posted on both the OPSEU and the OHA websites, which was agreed to. Tim will add an announcement of the posting into the upcoming Safety Bulletin.</i></p> <p>The Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers Inc. (OHCOW) has tabulated some of the comments from Sonographer questionnaire and Lisa is in the process of writing up the results. OHCOW points out in their cover letter that no specific conclusions can be drawn from the data due to weaknesses in the data such as the lack of a denominator – we do not know the total number of sonographers. The number of respondents varied from many to only</p>	<b>Tim Savage</b>



pandemic would be very different from what it looks like on paper. There is currently no requirement for drills but this subject was raised for awareness but the Committee agreed that it is a very important topic.

There was question regarding the Change Foundation survey and who received it. If this survey has only gone to the executive's, not the safety people, then this may explain why few responses have come back. *Tim will inquire as to the status of the Change Foundation survey.*

c) Safety Group

The health and safety session at the HealthAchieve Conference will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 6, 2007. OPSEU requested three full passes to the conference, as they have received in the past. *Tim will organize the passes with the HealthAchieve Coordinator.*

OPSEU requested time during the HealthAchieve Conference health and safety session to make a 15-minute update on the activities of the committee. *Brendan will begin drafting the presentation while Tim and John will look into the approval process.* OPSEU expressed concern that health and safety is buried in the HealthAchieve Conference agenda and that the language and timing of the session is obscure.

The OHA Region 4 Safety Group meeting occurred recently in Niagara-on-the-Lake at the offices of the Niagara Health System. There were approximately 20 participants and it was a very effective, interactive meeting due to the small size. There was discussion about whether or not it is possible to have more regional meetings. Tim is reviewing this possibility.

At the recent Safety Group meeting an update on the Section 21 Committee was given as well as a presentation from the WSIB Safety Group Consultant about the new Safety Group Audits (formerly spot checks). The new audits arose from the fact that the WSIB found that a number of hospitals surveyed (7 out of 9) were not able to produce proof that they have completed their elements. Safety Group members have some concerns about the new audit process including the fact that they felt that the proposed changes need to be presented to a large Safety Group meeting and that the process cannot change half-way through the year. Tim raised the issue that hospitals are creating and adding their own elements through the WSIB. The OHA is not being informed so the list of available elements to choose from has been growing with unsanctioned elements. That list will be reviewed and shortened. In addition, starting in 2008 there will be two common elements instead of one.

It was agreed that a JCCHS update would be provided to the Safety Groups at each meeting.

**Tim Savage**

**Tim Savage**

**Brendan  
Kilcline/Tim  
Savage/John  
Pellegrino**

d) Health and Safety Advisory Committee (HSAC)

This committee met most recently on September 17, 2007. It was agreed that an update to the HSAC regarding the JCCHS will be given at all future meetings.

A meeting recently took place between Ontario Coalition of Business, the Ministry of Labor and the Chair of the WSIB regarding the fact that the WSI Act was amended without notice. The amendment to the Act allows cabinet to change the WSI premiums without consulting the WSIB in order to pay down the under-funded liability by 2014.

e) JHSC Survey by CREOD

Lisa provided an update on the survey of Joint Health & Safety Committees by The Centre for Research Expertise in Occupational Disease (CREOD), and reported that a larger article is being created. *Lisa had sent a synopsis of this study to Kim and Tim will put this synopsis into the Safety Bulletin.*

To continue with phase two of this research an application for funding is being submitted to WSIB Bridging the Gap. In this second phase, if the funding is approved, the researchers will be investigating at one site in order to try to drill down into the findings of the larger survey. Lisa is interested in the contradictory finding of positive overall health and safety systems which comply with legislation, while anecdotal evidence indicates that health and safety systems are not working very well. The researchers will also be trying to get a handle on the effectiveness of the health and safety committees as well as perceptions of those committees.

f) Request to WSIB Regarding an updated Lost Time Incidents report

Tim has received the benchmark data and is communicating with the WSIB regarding further information. He will continue to bring further information back to this committee. It was hoped that there would be an opportunity for another study to rise out of this information, much like the Sonographer study.

**New Business:**

a) WSIB Health and Safety Accreditation

The hospital accreditation requirements by CCHSA have changed. The focus is now on patient safety while worker health and safety items have been almost completely removed. It may be that the hospitals are expected to do a separate Safety Accreditation using the CSA Z1000.06 standard/QMI Audit. The WSIB Health & Safety Accreditation currently being developed is not intended to be mandatory. Consultations regarding the WSIB accreditation program and a pilot project beginning in November 2007 are proceeding. The incentive for completing the WSIB program is not yet clear but it will

**Tim Savage**

	<p>likely be a next step following completion of the WSIB Safety Group Program. The elimination of NEER in favour of WSIB Accreditation is also being considered. Since funding is tied to accreditation, a hospital must be accredited before they see any savings. If you are WSIB accredited the firm will receive an automatic discount on their premiums, as opposed to a NEER rebate. With the WSIB accreditation, if a firm fails a WSIB audit then its premiums will be raised and it will receive a surcharge as a penalty.</p> <p>b) <u>New Sharps Regulation</u>  Brendan distributed the new regulation (Regulation 474/07). OPSEU has concerns that the delayed introduction of this regulation may discourage further implementation efforts by hospitals which are already involved in the changeover process. There will be a reminder about the new regulation in the upcoming Safety Bulletin.</p> <p>One of the limitations of the new regulation is that it only covers hollow-bore needles that have a safety-engineered version. There was discussion about the limitations of the safety-engineered needles and the fact that these needles are not practical or appropriate to use in all situations. It was suggested that the JCCHS put out a bulletin, regarding practical advice for implementing safety-engineered sharps in healthcare facilities. <i>It was agreed to bring this issue forward for discussion at the next JCCHS meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Tim will report back on the results of implementing safety-engineered sharps from the Safety Groups in early 2008.</i></p> <p>c) <u>Communication from this committee</u>  OHA used to send out the Safety Bulletin to OPSEU but this practice has stopped. <i>Molly will ensure that OPSEU receives it from now on and will forward an electronic copy of the previous bulletin to OPSEU.</i></p> <p>Lisa brought forward concerns about communicating information from this committee to members, both OPSEU and OHA. It was requested that OPSEU have a link to the OHA Safety Bulletin on their site. <i>Tim will check to make sure that this would be acceptable with OHA Public and Policy Affairs division.</i></p> <p>Lisa suggested that there be a regular report from this committee included in the all future OHA Safety Bulletins. That was agreed to. <i>The co-chairs will write this after each meeting and forward it to Tim.</i></p> <p><i>Tim will ensure that the JCCHS minutes are posted on the portion of the OHA website that is accessible to Safety Group members. OPSEU will be distributing the minutes to a wider range of organizations and members.</i></p> <p>It was agreed, as above, that there will be a JCCHS report at each HSAC and Safety Group meeting. <i>The report written by the co-chairs will be used.</i></p>	<p><b>Bring Forward</b></p> <p><b>Tim Savage</b></p> <p><b>Molly Roterog</b></p> <p><b>Tim Savage</b></p> <p><b>Brendan Kilcline/Joan Murray</b></p> <p><b>Tim Savage</b></p> <p><b>Brendan Kilcline Terry</b></p>
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<b>4.</b>	<b>Next Meeting Date:</b> Wednesday, December 12, 2007 from 10:00am to 12:30pm at the OHA offices.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b> The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.	