



Joint Central Committee on Health and Safety

February 27, 2008
OPSEU Office, 31 Wellesley Street East, Toronto
10:00am-1:00pm

MINUTES

Present: Brendan Kilcline, Co-Chair
Lisa McCaskell
Joan Murray
Laura Kiedyk
John Pellegrino
Tim Savage
Caroline Van Kessel
Molly Rotering

#	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION ITEM
1.	Call to order: The meeting called to order at 10:02am.	
2.	Approval of Minutes for December 12, 2007 J. Pellegrino made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, J. Murray seconded the motion.	Approved
3.	Business Arising: <u>Replacement for Terry McMahon:</u> <i>C. Van Kessel will follow-up on this item and send a message to hospitals to request a replacement.</i> a) <u>Safety Group Update:</u> The first meeting of the 2008 OHA Safety Group took place on February 4, 2008. Of approximately 75 Safety Group participants, there are about 50 who are in their fifth or sixth years which means that next year as members complete their term, there will be a large drop in the number of members. T. Savage has created a Safety Group listserv on Google Groups and has had positive uptake on it from members. The WSIB is increasing stringency for the Safety Group audits for greater accountability and because of the new \$20M cap on rebates. The WSIB has a plan in place for a pilot program of the Health and	C. Van Kessel

Safety Accreditation program. Two hospitals in Toronto have volunteered for the pilot program and will likely be partnered with one of the safety organizations for the audit process. T. Savage reviewed the proposed program explaining that it will be completely outside of the hospital accreditation program and that currently there has been no decision about offering incentives to participants.

The review of the revised hospital accreditation program is complete and organizations are currently completing the process. It was noted that hospital accreditation is primarily focused on patient safety issues and almost all health and safety aspects have been removed, except where a health and safety measure affects patient safety.

There is a potential for hospitals to move from the WSIB schedule 1 to schedule 2. If this shift occurs, hospitals will no longer be eligible for the incentives of the safety group and health and safety accreditation. CSA and ISO accreditation may look more attractive if this change occurs.

b) Health and Safety Advisory Committee Update:

The Health and Safety Advisory Committee discussed both the Safety Group and workplace violence at their most recent meeting.

c) JHSC Survey by CREOD Update:

L. McCaskell reported that CROED did not get funded. Though this is disappointing they may resubmit their proposal.

d) Request to WSIB – Updated LTI Report: Update:

T. Savage had distributed further WSIB LTI information prior to this meeting and, even though this is not the level of reporting that had been received previously, it contains valid and useful information. The occupation cross-referenced with the nature of injury is needed in order to create appropriate prevention strategies. *L. McCaskell will approach OSACH and request the same information from them. T. Savage will go back to WSIB one more time and see if he can get the appropriate information. L. McCaskell will send the 2005 information to J. Pellegrino and M. Rotering so that a comparison to the needed information can be made.*

e) Sonographer Assessment:

B. Kilcline has been in contact with T. McMahon regarding the cover letter for the Assessment. *The cover letter will be available shortly so that both it and the Assessment can be posted to the OPSEU and OHA websites.*

f) Sharps Regulation (OPSEU sharps position):

There was discussion regarding whether this committee should be providing guidance about implementing the Sharps Regulation. T. Savage is waiting to hear further comments from Dr. Genesove from the Ministry of Labor. Regarding blunt needles, Dr. Genesove agreed that they are considered regular needles. However, depending on the

**L. McCaskell/
T. Savage**

B. Kilcline

barrel being used there may not be a safety sharps equivalent that can be attached. There was also discussion regarding the difficulties around implementing the sharps regulation within nuclear medicine and hemodialysis units. The Ministry of Labor has stated that while medical personnel are in the process of being trained about the safety devices, they can continue to use conventional needles. By and large, most hospitals are progressing with implementation but some technical details still require clarification. J. Pellegrino has been sending out a blitz of information on issues related to implementing the new regulation to his staff. It was suggested that this information be posted on the Safety Group listserv. The issue of whether this Committee should/could provide guidance to assist workplaces implement the regulation successfully will be brought forward to the meeting in September.

g) Recommendations - Workplace Violence:

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term care has given OHA and OSACH funding to hold workplace violence awareness sessions across the province. OSACH has already begun giving a basic level workshop which will be presented in 14 sessions across the province. The OHA is organizing a one-day conference on workplace violence to be held on April 11. The OHA workshop will focus on the Dupont Inquest recommendations, common language, the Toronto East General Hospital program as well as panel discussions around workplace diversity and the challenges around workplace violence in remote locations. The OHA will also be rolling out, with the OMA and the College of Physician and Surgeons, the guidelines on Managing the Disruptive Physician. Those guidelines are now available on the College website. Teleconferences and workshops to introduce these guidelines will be coming up.

There was discussion regarding the horizontal or “softer” workplace violence that may not be covered in any upcoming regulations as well as bullying or harassment from superiors and the fear that employees may feel in reporting these incidents. This item will be brought forward to the next meeting.

h) Employer Accident/Illness Reporting Obligations:

J. Pellegrino and J. Murray provided examples of what reporting to Joint Health and Safety Committees is done in their facilities. L. McCaskell felt that this committee should be sending out information reminding employers about their legal reporting obligations are under OHS and the Regulation for Health Care and Residential Facilities. It is OPSEU’s experience that most employer reporting to JHSCs is not meeting the legal standards. The deeper level of detail is helpful in regards to implementing prevention programs and tracking trends. There was discussion about the level of detail that Joint Health and Safety Committees actually want. Additionally, it was stated that in some workplaces the argument that worker health information is confidential is used as the rationale for not providing the required details to the JHSC. It was suggested that it would be useful to

	<p>provide additional training for JHSCs so that all the workplace parties understand and comply with the reporting obligations as they are set out in the OHS Act and the Health Care Regulation. It was agreed that this issue should be part of the Safety Bulletin and perhaps a regular column. <i>T. Savage will ensure that this item is in the next Safety Bulletin.</i> This item will also be brought forward to the next meeting. OPSEU formally stated that they feel that this is a burning issue and has requested OHA assistance.</p> <p>i) <u>Ideas for Research Project:</u> There was some suggestion about issues relating to violence, which arose out of the statistics from the WSIB. This item will be brought forward to the next meeting, when there may be better data from the WSIB.</p>	T. Savage
4.	Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 21, 2008	
5.	Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 1:07pm.	