

**JOINT CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SAFETY**  
**May 23, 2007**  
**10:00am-12:30pm**  
**OHA – Heritage Room**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** OPSEU – Lisa McCaskell, Brendan Kilcline, Joan Murray  
OHA – Terry McMahon, John Pellegrino, Tim Savage, Kimberly Burrows

#	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION ITEM
1.	<p><b>Call to order:</b>  Meeting Called to Order 10:09 am.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes for February 28, 2007</b></p> <p>L. McCaskell explained that there were some changes made to the minutes that were sent out to the committee. The revised minutes were circulated and approved.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Business Arising:</u></b></p> <p><b>a) Sonographer Project Update/Working Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. McCaskell provided the committee with the 'Item Frequency Report: Sonographer Health and Safety Survey' which outlines the results from Survey B. This document shows total responses to questions, but does not include written responses to open-ended questions. On average, there were 118 responses to each question. L. McCaskell met with OHCOW staff to discuss how best to analyse the survey data. OHCOW will assist further by working with some of the written response data. One problem analyzing the data is that we do not know how many sonographers in total work in Ontario hospitals, so the response rate to the survey is unknown.</li> <li>• Results to a number of questions show that a majority of respondents report working while in pain. Despite this finding, other questions indicate that the majority of those who report pain, do not file WSIB claims. Other responses seemed to indicate that even when WSIB claims are filed, few are approved. The committee discussed possible interpretations of this data.</li> <li>• Responses to another question indicated that a majority of respondents believe that there are physical modifications to their work environment that could reduce the amount of work-related injuries.</li> <li>• The committee discussed how to promote and communicate the major trends seen in the data, posting of one ergonomic assessment on the OHA website and a summary of the project findings..</li> <li>• T. Savage explained that the 'Synopsis of Recommendations – Ergonomic Report – Synography' will be included in the next OHA Health and Safety Bulletin.</li> <li>• T. McMahon will confirm whether the entire ergonomic assessment from Grey Bruce Health Services can be posted. A cover letter written by this committee's Co-Chairs will be included with the assessment when posted on the OHA website. The letter will briefly describe how the assessment was done and the outcomes of the assessment, such as the purchase of new equipment. This cover letter will also explain that a summary of the report can be found in the 2007 Spring/Summer OHA Health and Safety Bulletin.</li> <li>• Committee decided to add a section to the article in the OHA Bulletin</li> </ul>	<p><b>T. McMahon</b></p>

	<p>explaining that a complete ergonomic report will be posted on the OHA website soon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T. McMahon will draft the cover letter and bring to the committee for feedback.</li> <li>• OHCOW is planning a Labour Health &amp; Safety Research Conference in November, in part to assess health and safety research needs. OHCOW is planning a poster presentation on this committee's ergonomic assessment project. L. McCaskell will report further details at the next meeting in September.</li> <li>• Committee discussed whether there should be an update from committee at HealthAchieve2007. Perhaps 15 minute presentation given by the co-chairs. T. Savage will propose this to T. Siriska.</li> <li>• L. McCaskell reported that she recently received another survey A which K. Burrows will send to C. Van Kessel.</li> <li>• L. McCaskell introduced a new study from B.C. about sonographer ergonomics. She will email it to committee members.</li> <li>• T. Savage to inform C. Van Kessel to contact Hawkesbury &amp; District General Hospital and Chatham Kent Health Alliance to inquire which recommendations from their ergo assessments have been implemented.</li> <li>• K. Burrows to scan the Grey Bruce Health Services report (from last meeting's minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Pandemic Influenza Planning Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K. Sequeira informed T. Savage prior to this meeting that there was no new information to report at this meeting.</li> <li>• T. McMahon noted that the Sunnybrook pandemic influenza plan is very useful model.</li> <li>• Pandemic planning issues are discussed with members through the Health and Safety Advisory Committee (HSAC).</li> <li>• T. Savage to distribute a recent Lancet article by M. Gardam on pandemic planning.</li> <li>• K. Sequeira to attend next meeting in September.</li> <li>• B. Kilcline inquired if the rest of the committee was aware of a Change Foundation hospital survey regarding pandemic planning. Apparently the survey went to CEOs and emergency departments with instructions not to share the survey with other departments. Other committee members were unaware of this survey.</li> </ul> <p><b>c) Safety Group Update</b></p> <p>T. Savage provided an update on the Safety Group – which included the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Safety Group meeting on May 7 involved presentations from the MoL, the WSIB and QMI. QMI is working with CCHSA on H&amp;S aspects of accreditation. Questions on H&amp;S have been removed from the CCHSA accreditation documents. OSACH will provide health care specific materials for the audit. The Hospital for Sick Children is currently piloting this program. The OHA is proposing that hospitals should be given equivalency with the WSIB accreditation so that hospitals do not have to pay for two accreditations.</li> </ul> <p><b>d) Health and Safety Advisory Committee- Update</b> Nothing to update. (T. Savage)</p> <p><b>e) JHSC Survey by CREOD- Update</b></p>	<p><b>T. Savage</b></p> <p><b>T. McMahon</b></p> <p><b>K. Burrows</b></p> <p><b>L. McCaskell</b></p> <p><b>T. Savage</b></p> <p><b>K. Burrows</b></p> <p><b>T. Savage</b></p>
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	<p>L. McCaskell informed the committee that the data collection for the JHSC survey by CREOD is complete. A total of 214 responses have been received; 110 worker and 104 management. As per the initial review of the results it appears that legally required H&amp;S structures and other requirements are in place in the majority of responding hospitals. The data is not yet available for distribution; however, the survey results and interpretation will be published at a later date. The researchers are also examining matched data from employer and worker reps from the same hospitals in order to determine if the worker representative and the management representative are reporting the same information on the surveys.</p> <p><b>f) Request to WSIB for updated reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. McCaskell had previously provided T. Savage with the Committee's 2005 request to WSIB for reports on workplace injuries and illnesses in the hospital sector. OPSEU has proposed that we repeat this request so that the Committee can learn if there are changes in injury/illness rates and issues.</li> <li>• L. McCaskell will re-send T. Savage the material and he will follow up with the request to WSIB.</li> </ul>	<p><b>T. Savage L. McCaskell</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Next Meeting date:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday September 19, 2007 at the OPSEU Offices 10:00 am – 12:30 pm</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjournment</b> Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM</p>	