

Group 4 Health & Safety Committee

July 22, 2008

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

T-269, Health Sciences Building

Meeting Minutes

Present: Lisa Anderson, Hall Health Primary Care Center
Jim Angelosante, HS Administration
Ann Aumann, UW Medical Center
Thomas Beikler, School of Dentistry
Rita Bellanca, WA National Primate Research Center
Siobhan Brown, School of Medicine
Laura Campbell, Comparative Medicine
Ed Farnham, HS Administration
Robert Hamilton, Harborview Medical Center
Rich Lee, School of Dentistry
Barbara Lovseth, School of Medicine
René Lucas, School of Public Health & Community Medicine
Cindy Moore, Health Services
Irene Moy, Health Sciences Academic Services & Facilities
Phil Numoto, Environmental Health & Safety
Mamadou Sambou, UW Medical Center
Stephanie Steppe, Health Sciences Administration
Chuck Treser, School of Public Health & Community Medicine
Joyce Tsuji, School of Nursing

Absent: Paul Bentson, WFSE
Gail Harrell Colfax, School of Social Work
Ruth Del Rosario, School of Pharmacy
Bob Ennes, Health Sciences Administration
Julie Hart, School of Nursing
Patricia Hedtke, School of Pharmacy
Charlene Karr-May, Comparative Medicine
Kathy Maher, Harborview Medical Center
Suzanne Mason, Hall Health Primary Care Center
Alex Peck, Environmental Health & Safety
Eshy Shahrazed, Health Sciences Library
Melinda Young, WA National Primate Research Center

Guests: Susan Colligan, Joseph Kwok, Michael Merrill, and Denis Sapiro from
Environmental Health & Safety
Liz Kindred, Harborview Medical Center

Stephanie Steppe called the meeting to order. Members introduced themselves to welcome new committee members and guests.

Outdoor Heat Exposure Rule

Joseph Kwok from EH&S gave a PowerPoint presentation on the new Outdoor Heat Exposure Rule. Although this rule applies to outdoor work environments, the recommendations are so practical that EH&S believes they can be applied to indoor conditions as well, e.g., in laboratories and operating rooms where PPE is applied. Joseph gave an overview of the scope and purpose of the rule, environmental and personal factors that contributed to the risk of heat related illness, and helpful tips for working in the heat. He distributed a heat related illness education pamphlet that describes signs/symptoms of heat stroke and heat exhaustion and things to do if symptoms are observed. This pamphlet is downloadable from the L&I website at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/FormPub/Detail.asp?DocID=2311>

Joseph told members that two online training courses related to the Outdoor Heat Exposure Rule will soon be available on the EH&S website. There will be training for supervisors themselves and training for supervisors to train their employees. Joseph emphasized that the presentation he just gave is an abridged version of what is designed to train supervisors. He suggested that members and their staff use the complete version for the training, but he is happy to share his presentation with them through Irene before the official training goes online.

Review of June Meeting Minutes

The June meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

U-Wide Safety Committee Meeting Report

Ed Farnham attended the U-Wide Safety Committee meeting and reported the following:

- Joseph gave a presentation on OARS version 2. There are still details to be finalized before it "goes live" and replaces the current reporting system.
- Karen VanDusen talked about the importance of asbestos awareness training for UW employees.
- Denis Sapiro reported that the L&I investigation regarding an electrician's accident in I-015 was closed. L&I investigation of the sudden death of a School of Dentistry employee is expected to be closed soon.

Chair Election

Stephanie attended her last meeting as chair of the committee. She nominated Barbara Lovseth to be the next chair; it was seconded. Barbara was unanimously elected as new chair of Group 4, effective immediately.

Members thanked Stephanie for her many years of commitment and effort to make the University a safer place to work. They wished her a wonderful retirement!

HS, HMC and UWMC I/A Subcommittee Reports

Ann Aumann gave a summary report on the 34 UWMC incidents and accidents in the month of June. She also gave a brief update on the installation of new ceiling lifts in the hospital. Besides online training, the lift team is offering training to various departments on the various lifts available, to

include the ceiling lifts. Ann reported that the joint meeting between EH&S and the two medical centers took place at the end of June. They are working on procedures to download the information on corrective actions from PSN to OARS. Ann is trying to get access to PSN so that she is able to get further I/A follow-up information to be reported to the Group 4 committee.

On behalf of the subcommittee, Barbara Lovseth reported on the non-hospital I/A reports for the period of June 1 to June 30, 2008. Subcommittee members met with Joseph Kwok to review and follow-up on 11 reports. In addition, Custodial Services have reported 2 incidents involving improper disposal of syringes with needles in waste cans in the School of Dentistry space. EH&S has provided training to individuals working in this space after the incidents occurred. As there was no corrective action information provided in the reports for 2 incidents that occurred in Comparative Medicine, subcommittee members asked Laura Campbell to remind her group that this information is required for all reports.

Since there were several incidents involving handling mice, the subcommittee felt that mouse handling training is necessary for individuals working in the animal facilities of Comparative Medicine and Primate Center. Laura responded that the Animal Care and Welfare Office at IACAU provides such training. She will double-check and report back to the committee in the next meeting the details of how this training happens and who is required to take training. Summary of the subcommittee meeting with other discussion items was distributed.

Denis Sapiro distributed a list of 20 incidents and accidents that took place in HMC in 2007. The University was cited by L&I as a result of not ensuring that the safety committee evaluated the investigations and made corrective actions. Also distributed were copies of these reports. Denis led members through all the reports and the supervisory review comments. He discussed some cases with members and noted their comments. He reminded members from HMC to make sure that, in the future, their safety officers report all incidents and accidents and their reports are reviewed and get followed-up.

Robert Hamilton added that HMC Public Safety was aware of these incidents. They have reviewed and discussed most of the cases with their safety officers. They look for trends of accidents and determine if additional training and equipment improvement were necessary. They have encouraged safety officers to report as soon as incidents and accidents occur and also make available paper report forms as an option to reporting online.

Union Safety Concerns

Due to schedule conflicts, there was no union representation at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.