

Group 4 Health & Safety Committee
September 23, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
T-269, Health Sciences Building
Meeting Minutes

Present: Lisa Anderson, Hall Health
Ann Aumann, UWMC
Thomas Beikler, School of Dentistry
Rita Bellanca, WNPRC
Retha Hay, Employee Health
Ed Farnham, HS Administration
Rich Lee, Dentistry
Barbara Lovseth, SOM
Rene Lucas, Public Health
Kathy Maher, HMC
Suzanne Mason, Hall Health
Michael Merrill, EH&S
Phil Numoto, EH&S, ExOfficio
Mamadou Sambous, UWMC
Chuck Treser, Public Health
Melinda Young, WNRPC

Absent: Jim Angelosante, HS Admin, ExOfficio
Paul Bentson, WFSE
Siobhan Brown, SOM
Laura Campbell, Comp Med
Gail Harrell Colfax, Social Work
Ruth Del Rosario, Pharmacy
Bob Ennes, HS Administration
Robert Hamilton, HMC
Patricia Hedtke, Pharmacy
Julie Hart, Nursing
Carlene Karr-May, Comp Med
Cindy Moore, Health Services, ExOfficio
Eshy Shaharazad, HS Libraty, ExOfficio
Joyce Tsuji, Nursing

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Lovseth. The volunteer minute recorder was not present so Barbara asked for another volunteer; Melinda Young graciously agreed to do record the minutes.. There was a quorum present to approve the August meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as written.

Barbara reported that she is continuing to work on getting the minutes posted to the website.

1. U-Wide Safety Committee Meeting Report

Rich Lee reported on the following:

From August, 2008 meeting: a) As many department relocate to the UW Tower there was discussion on how the moves are impacting the structure to the various Health and Safety Committees on Campus. b) Dave Leonard with input from Denis Sapiro reported on the supervisor safety training EHS has been working on. In the future, there may even be a

“certification” program for supervisors. c) The goal of EHS is to have any employee know the name of their representative on their organizational safety committee.

From the September, 2008 meeting: This meeting included a road trip to the Bothell Campus where they had a presentation on Environmental programs. a) During the meeting Denis Sapiro reported that there were no new L&I cases opened in the last month. In addition one case closed-the accidental death in the School of Dentistry inspection was officially closed with no violations being found. One is closing -L&I Compliance inspection at HMC for public safety officer hazards and one is nearing closure-The HMC Environmental Services floor care and floor cleaning indoor air quality inspection where the concerns have included concerns around chlorine based products. L&I continues to investigate the electrician’s electrical shock, fall, and broken hip accident at HSB. B) Denis also reported that Oregon OSHA showed up at a recent University of Oregon game to do sound level measurements – and found levels that exceeded OSHA action levels. It is possible that one of our games could be monitored. However, based on measurements done at the Husky Stadium in 1991, it’s unlikely that excessively high levels would be found.

2. Non-HMC/UWMC Incident/Accident Report Review – Rita Bellanca

Rita reported on the recent subcommittee review of eleven Health Sciences OARS reports. There were several trips near the Surgery Pavilion and in W-46. She provided a short review of two Primate Center PPE issues and three which involved equipment use at the PC. Susan Colligan has been working on the later with the Primate Center employee and supervisor. And a sharps injury in School of Dentistry involving sharpening of tools. This was just one injury so not a trend.

There were some issues around the BB elevators which Denis will follow up on. It is also essential that Bob Ennes and Nikki Peters know of the issues as well as Facilities Services. Barb Lovseth will follow-up with Bob and Nikki.

3. UWMC Incident/Accident Report Review - Ann Aumann

Ann reported that they have reviewed 41 PSN reports which included 2 ergonomic issues, 2 biological exposures, 14 exposures to unknown odor, 5 lifting issues, 2 sharps injury reports and 5 slips, trips and falls and 3 workplace violence issues. Ann further explained that the odor issues stem from “hot” emergency power batteries that were installed in a pit under one of the treatment vaults in Radiation Oncology. Phil Numoto is looking at other emergency power battery installations as they do not need to be in a pit and generally are not in newer construction.

4. HMC Incident/Accident Report Review - Kathy Maher

Kathy reported that due to meeting schedule conflict with the Group 4 preceding the HMC committee review of the PSN reports, she will not have a report this month but will provide a report next month.

5. Member Reports

Kathy Maher shared some handouts and expertise on ergonomics. She and Chuck Treser demonstrated neutral posture when using a laptop.

She also suggested that this website is a great resource for laboratory ergonomic issues
<http://ergonomics.ucla.edu/>

6. EHS Updates

Michael Merrill distributed new EHS safety poster on glasses and goggle use. This led to some discussion around the issue of new reader safety glasses for those bifocal users. Several people volunteered to share these items next month.

Michael also reported that campus wide there is about a 15% completion rate on the online asbestos training. EHS was hoping for 100% compliance by this time. One issue seems to be that senior management has not mandated training or at least not mandated it in the eyes of some.

This led to a lively discussion on supervisor training or more importantly the lack of supervisor training especially supervisor safety responsibility training on campus. So often the words "should do" are used instead of mandatory.

It was decided that Group 4 should take their concerns up to the U-Wide. A statement like Group 4 requests that mandatory supervisor training for employee health and safety be developed which provides clear guidelines around expectations and responsibilities for supervisors will be included in the next Group 4 report to the U-wide Safety Committee.

Next Meeting

In the next meeting, Evacuation Warden issues with Nikki Peters and Stan Wiegman.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Melinda Young

10/24/08