

Shaughnessy Heights

OH&S Executive Report for June 2008

Committees:

JOHS: A couple of new stewards have been coming as alternate to this monthly meeting because Emon has been off. Good experience for the new OH&S stewards. A memo has gone out to the managers to inform unions about any accident/injury investigation being done. New policy is that a union steward is to complete the investigation with the manager. We need to co-ordinate with Patsy/Theresa how this is to be recorded, done and documented, possibly with yet another binder.

MHWG:: There has been no recent meeting. We just need to continue to encourage our members to use the tools made available by PHSA. There is a box of materials and a drawer in grey filing cabinet with some information for anyone to make use of.

EIP: The coordinators are still attempting to improve the time line from reporting of the member ill to when they get contacted and especially to ease the process of returning to work. PHSA has had significant delay from when the member has been given the okay to return to work, to when they actually have a meeting with the employer to facilitate their return. We need to continue to educate members of this program—and managers as well.

BBF exposure control: There has been one committee meeting where Patsy attended. The process of getting SENs into the system has been slow and still not completed in spite of WorksafeBC requiring them as of January this year. SEN-safety engineered needles- are in women's but not completely in children's yet. The IV team doesn't like our current vendors' choices, so continue to look elsewhere. Someone in the committee is doing a search at other pediatric facilities over the country to see what they are using. Some needles (such as spinal needles) don't have a safety engineered model available so there needs to have an exemption form filled out. However PHSA hasn't managed to develop one yet. There is a 65 page draft exposure control plan that I am currently reading over.

VIOLENCE prevention: The committee has been stalled as the chairperson quit his position at PHSA, so the committee has been waiting for a new chair. We have a meeting set for June 24 to meet the new chairperson. Her name is Kathryn Wellington, she comes highly recommended, as she previously worked at OSHA in their violence prevention area to develop their violence prevention program. The violence prevention signs are still a problem at C&W. A couple of weeks ago I found a stack of signs lying around, so on a walkabout the stewards and I put them up around the elevators and on the third floor inpatient areas. Two weeks later the signs are still there. The mental health building we didn't go to because the managers there are still greatly opposed to the signs, this will need to be addressed by this committee. After the sign issue is done with, this committee will be looking at developing a violence risk assessment tool to be used in our facilities. The idea would be that this risk

assessment would become a standard part of the site safety inspections done monthly/annually.

There has been an exodus of nurses from PICU lately; therefore they are suffering from a nursing staff shortage. As a result, the nurses from the third floor inpatient areas are now being reassigned to this very acute care setting. This has caused some great stress among the pediatric nurses. PICU is offering a one hour orientation which I attended on June 19. I found it very reassuring, as they are cognizant that each nurse has his/her own set of skills and experience and will try to match that with an appropriate patient assignment. There is always a lot of support around because of their "team approach" and the availability of doctors and RTs 24 hours a day. I have spoken to some of the nurses that have been reassigned to PICU and they all felt much supported during their shift. PICU gives an evaluation form to all reassigned nurses to get their feedback and to help make improvements. I continue to tell nurses that if they are reassigned there and are not comfortable with their assignment to let the charge nurse know, and if no appropriate changes made to their work, that they are to fill out a PRF.

Submitted by Diane Hystad OH&S steward