

MINUTES
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH/CLINICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Members Present: Marie Zeldin (Chair), Nancy Ferguson, Robert Adams, Tina Harris, Sue Riggsbee, Kathy Moore, Stephanie Lowther Kidd (EHS liaison)

Members Absent: Enrique Platin, Mike Proctor, Ann Law, Susan Pedersen, Mary Crabtree (EHS liaison)

Guests: John Worthington (EHS Biological Safety Officer)

1. The meeting was called to order. The committee members all introduced themselves, due to the appointment of new committee members.
2. Minutes from the March meeting were approved.
3. Kidd reported on workplace safety statistics from 3/26/03 to 1/28/04. The committee discussed the categories and talked about the ones with the highest numbers. The statistics were highest in the cut, puncture, scrape: hand tool category. This category deals with injuries by scalpels, scissors, and other sharps that caused injuries to employees in the Clinic Environment. The committee also talked about the number of TB exposures. The unusually high number was due to an exposure in one of the clinic buildings. There were only three needlesticks in the clinic environment. Other statistics included 4 blood exposure (splash), 4 non-otherwise categorized, 2 cut by broken glass, 1 cut by object being handled, 3 strain repetitive motion, 1 lifting, 1 struck by motor vehicle, 1 caught in, and 1 fall, slip, or trip.

Needlestick Safety Prevention Act Report-Kidd reported on the needlestick source log from January through December 2003. The highest number of employees injured by sharps incidents was physicians and mainly occurring in the surgical units and operating rooms. The committee also discussed the cleaning/sorting category due to there being some incidents, which seemed to be in the same locations. The committee discussed that there may be some training opportunities to teach staff members different ways of cleaning/sorting of instruments. The main locations of these incidents occurring are the OCME and the Dental School.

4. There was new business discussed. The committee discussed the new employee orientation that is available on the web. They all agreed that this has increased their level of compliance due to the accessibility to all of the staff members.

There was discussion of making some cross-environment training sections, for people working in a clinical environment but may actually be in an office setting. The committee also discussed the hospital's Code of Conduct and the fact that the University does not include this in their training. There was discussion on including this with the University's training.

5. There was no old business discussed.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2004 from 2:00-3:30 at Student Health Service, 2nd floor Administration East Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.