

MINUTES  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH/CLINICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Members Present: Dr. Robert Adams (Chair), Marie Zeldin, Mike Proctor, Ann Law, Jennifer Rees, Kathy Moore, Susan Tadevich & Mary Crabtree (EHS liaison)

Members Absent: Dr. Tina Harris, Nancy Ferguson, Martha Rojas, Susan Pedersen, Heather Morton, Dr. Enrique Platin

Guests: Dr. Bill Furman, Pete Reinhardt, Ray Hackney

1. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Robert Adams. As the meeting began, a fire alarm occurred and the building was evacuated. The meeting resumed after all clear was announced.
2. Crabtree reported on workplace safety statistics reported as of March 7, 2006.

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Caught in/un/btwn      | 1 |
| Fall                   | 1 |
| Absorb/Ingest          | 1 |
| Needlestick            | 6 |
| Blood exposure: splash | 3 |
| Misc NOC               | 2 |
| Misc TB                | 4 |
| Stain: Push/pull       | 1 |
| Repetitive Motion      | 2 |
| Strike against/step on | 4 |
| Struck or injured by   | 3 |

**Total**                      **28**

*Needlestick Safety Prevention Act Report*-Law passed out a report on the number of needlesticks that had occurred in 2005 along with a total number of exposures per year from 1998 to 2005. Again the population that is still at the greatest exposure risk is the doctors in the OR in which most of the occurrences are from surgical procedures. Second highest for exposure risk is the dental school in which there is an increasing incidence of lacerations due to dental tools and/or equipment.

The committee did not have any questions for Crabtree or Law regarding the statistics that were presented.

3. The next item of business was the request by the School of Medicine (SOM) to change the current University tuberculosis screening policy. Dr. Adams gave Dr. Furman the floor. Dr. Furman highlighted his report "Tuberculosis Skin Testing (TST) policy recommendations from the School of Medicine Proposal

prepared for the University Occupational Health and Clinical Safety Committee” that was submitted to members prior to the meeting. Dr. Furman stated he believed there to be a poor delivery of the policy and poor enforcement to screen new healthcare workers which should be a high priority. However, after the Vice Dean sought assistance of a consultant to determine if a termination could be done for noncompliance, it is the position of SOM to change the required annual testing which is supported by mandate for disciplinary action to a strongly recommend which doesn’t warrant any discipline action. Upon further review by Dr. Cohen and Dr. Weber, SOM has concluded that workplace exposures were not a chief source versus a person’s home or other socioeconomic sources. Rees asked if the Hospital and University would be at a higher liability if the policy was changed and an exposure did occur. Dr. Furman felt that would not be a problem. Dr. Adams then gave the floor to Crabtree. Crabtree and Law prepared a report “Tuberculosis Screening Requirements for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill” which was submitted to committee members prior to the meeting. Crabtree stated that she was prepared to answer any specific questions regarding the report if needed but wanted to stress that the committee should be considering the following:

- a. The University’s TB policy affects other entities beside the SOM and that if any changes were made then it would have to be for everyone working in a Healthcare environment to be fair and consistent;
- b. If the committee decided to change the policy, then the University will be taking the position to not follow CDC guidelines.

Dr. Adams opened the floor to other comments. Zeldin stated that she spoke to Dr. Weber and felt that annual testing was important but shouldn’t be required. Reinhardt stated that he supports the SOM and feels it is unfair to discipline the physician for failure to comply. Crabtree reminded the committee that approximately two to three years ago the University’s enforcement policy was created for ALL University employees and it was the SOM who added the statement regarding credentialing (copy of policy was provided). The policy was approved by this committee. Law commented that EHS/UEOHC had asked SOM for assistance several years ago and that is why SOM incorporated the credentialing aspect with emphasis on TB compliance and then later on SOM would focus on immunization review. Dr. Adams asked that the committee review the comments and materials provided and meet back in approximately three to four weeks to vote.

4. AED – Reinhardt submitted a proposal to the committee to support additional AEDs around campus and advise where they should be placed. Tadevich commented that exit maps posted in buildings should include the locations of AED.

The special “call to vote” committee meeting will be scheduled for April 2006. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.