

Local 054 OHS Committee Report May 14 AGM

Good morning,

I would like to thank the members of the Sub Committee that came out to report issues in their worksite and work as a group to try and come up with solutions and bring awareness to safety concerns.

Working Short-Most departments are working short-staffed as AHS has not backfilled jobs. Patient Safety is compromised and jobs are being undone. This will only be exacerbated when AHS has been split into 4 agencies.

Downtown Safety-Claudia reported working at the CN Tower for over a year with no problems and reported that she felt secure within the building as long as staff did not prop open doors, and was able to get an escort at the end of the shift. Meanwhile Himanshu and Annabelle reported feeling unsafe in the downtown area.

Scent Policy- AHS and AUPE both have strict Scent Policies that are not being adhered to. This causes problems ranging from headaches, nausea/vomiting, asthmatic attacks to anaphylactic reactions. These incidences affect the mental and physical health of the afflicted. Violators should be asked to remove the offensive products, reminded of the scent policy and if you have no luck working with the individual, report to management and file a Mysafetynet, AUPE Reporting Form and WCB. Scent problems can lead to lifelong consequences and have a cumulative affect that may manifest years down the road, so it is important to report incidences now in case of total impairment of your senses down the road and you become incapable of working or enjoying any quality of life. If your management refuses to ask the offender to remove the product, shower and change their clothing, or in the case of products such as citrus, shellfish, peanuts to remove the products from the area and thoroughly wash their hands, send yourself an email detailing this refusal and note it in the reports. If you have a Health and Safety Committee these incidences should also be reported and work with them to resolve the issue and look at getting additional signage to remind individuals of their obligation to keep the workplace an allergen-free environment. Reminded that scents are not necessarily what you put on, but lifestyle scents as well can cause problems, especially for smoke, and body odour can cause staff and the public to react negatively.

Chapter Report Backs

Chater 6-JWHS Committees have reported many instances of code black (bomb threat) over the last few months. They are going over the procedures to make sure everyone is aware and prepared in the case that a bomb-threat is actually real. They have also seen a resurgence of Covid in the hospital and people are no longer wearing proper PPE as they were during the “pandemic” and therefore staff are again being exposed. It was reported that food services staff are going into rooms, and although wearing paper masks, they are not being protected or informed about what patients are hospitalized for. One staff member was exposed and it took a few tests to determine they were positive and by this time they themselves passed out and was hospitalized. WCB informed the member they were not entitled to compensation, even though she continues to

experience complications. As well other patients are being exposed because a curtain is no barrier to an airborne contaminant.

Chapter 8-Reported that quarantine and covid protocols remain at the Alberta Hospital. A cart is posted in the wards for anyone going into rooms to change gowns, gloves and masks when they are required to enter a room. Because these are locked wards, food services staff do not enter patients rooms, but precautions are being followed. They report that contracted cleaners are not emptying garbage cans regularly, and administrative and nursing staff are told to empty their own garbage in hallway receptacles. Water has a brown tinge of colour, but is tested regularly and is potable, but they did have a major water main break. There are mice in some buildings.

May 6-11 was Health and Safety Week and AHS has a series of Lunch and Learn to bring awareness. Hopefully you were able to join some of these and make yourself more aware of issues such as psychological safety, harassment and violence, physical safety on the job, stress and occupational hygiene. They also had a number of fun activities such as crossword puzzles, guides to help bring awareness to issues.

If you would like to attend any of our meetings, or you have information you would like to present, please contact us at cindybill9@gmail.com

With this I move my report

Cindy Bill

Local 054 OHS Liaison and SubCommittee Chair