

**Statewide Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2017**

**Next Meeting:** May 23, 2017 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at 1526 K Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hearing Room 4D

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- I. Announcements
  - a. Shereece Dendy called the meeting at 9:02 AM and roll call was taken.
  - b. **Present:** Shereece Dendy (M), Kevin Petska (L), Karen Girch (L), Dennis Carraher (L), Carrie Williams (M), Kerry Thompson (M), Sean Korgel (V), Julie Lowry (V)
  
- II. Approval of minutes from last meeting
  - a. The Committee voted to unanimously approve the January 24, 2017 minutes.
  
- III. Discussion of Open Issues
  - a. Safety Committee Safety Program Guidelines
    - i. The Safety Program Guidelines have been sent to Byron Diamond. There was an issue getting the email addresses of the other Directors, however the OCIO just provided Shereece Dendy with a list of non-code agency Directors on 03/27/2017.
    - ii. The Safety Program Guidelines will be sent to the Committees agency safety contacts who can then disperse the information to any additional contacts.
    - iii. Directors will be asked if they have a safety contact they would like the Committee to work with. More contacts will ensure proper disbursement of the Safety Program Guidelines.
    - iv. Deb Home contacted Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, Public Service Commission, Department of Banking and Finance, Board of Pardons, Department of Revenue, and Department of Agriculture regarding the Safety Program Guidelines. Multiple Departments were very interested, especially the Department of Banking and Finance.
    - v. Carrie Williams will get Ruben's list of contacts.
    - vi. The Governor did not respond back regarding the Safety Program Guidelines, however Shereece was given his scheduler's contact information if the Safety Committee would like to discuss the Program with him further.
  - b. State Buildings in Omaha
    - i. Shereece Dendy received a response to the memo sent regarding the air quality in the Omaha buildings. The buildings belong to Douglas County, therefore the State Building Division has no oversight to these buildings, nor can they produce any resolutions.
    - ii. Discussion was had that the State is responsible for any Workers' Compensation claims that may arise out of the unsafe working conditions in these buildings. The State could see potential lawsuits based on the air quality of the buildings.

- iii. The Committee will contact Amber Brannigan from State Building Division, and invite her to attend a Committee meeting, to see if the buildings are leased and what the State can do to address the air quality issues.
  - iv. The Committee will put together guidelines for reporting safety issues and put it on the Safety Committee website. The guidelines will be called “Reporting Unsafe Conditions”. The Committee will add specific areas for environmental and site specific hazards.
  - v. Persistence and documentation are key to resolving safety issues. Concerned workers should keep a paper trail, including the date, time, and method of contact, for each report of unsafe conditions.
- c. Workers’ Compensation
- i. Shereece Dendy provided a document with all of the Workers’ Compensation Claims that have been filed in 2017.
  - ii. Discussion was had explaining Workers’ Compensation—claims will only be approved if you are in the course and scope of your employment. The current TPA, Gallagher Bassett, is much more aggressive at denying unjustified claims, while our previous TPA, FARA, was very lenient in approval of claims.
  - iii. Shereece Dendy will pull a report of all claims from the last two years to see if there are any patterns for each agency. If patterns are identified, contact the agencies to discuss proper procedures to reduce the claims.
  - iv. DHHS has not been sending their Workers’ Compensation reports to the DHHS Safety Committee, Shereece Dendy will look into creating a report for them.
- d. Statewide Safety Committee Changes
- i. This was the last meeting for Kerry Thompson. She has recommended Sean Korgel to replace her. Kerry’s safety contact is Ron Goldenstein.
  - ii. This was the last meeting for Karen Girch. She recommended Jonathon Potter as her replacement. Karen’s safety contact is Mike Balderson.

#### IV. Adjournment

Adjourned the meeting at 10:30 A.M.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Lowry

Key: (M) = Management member, (L) = Labor member, (V) = Volunteer/Visitor member