



Joint Issues Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 – 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Attendance		
Committee Members	Organization	In-Person/Online
Joe Espinoza	APD	Online
Melanie Ewell	OHCC	Online
Patty Falkenstein	SEIU	Online
Hani Ghamrawi	OHCC	Online
Paul Johnson	APD	Online
Zina Lerma	APD PRU	Online
Traci Lerner	APD	Online
Roberta Lilly	OHCC	Online
Cheryl Miller	OHCC	Online
Shelly Reed	ODDS	Online
Maxime Rene	SEIU	Online
Nancy Sodeman	OHCC	Online
Patrick Van Orden	OHCC	Online
Penny VanSanten	SEIU	Online
Joy'e Willman	SEIU	Online
Amy Gordin	OHA-HSD	Online
Noel Suarez	OHA-HSD	Online
Agenda Item		Presenter/Facilitator
Need a centralized OR-HCC or DHS number to call to ensure workers notification of quarantining because either Consumer/Employer (associated family) or worker/family have virus/tested positive?		Penny VanSanten, SEIU
Ancillary, if quarantining from exposure from Consumer/Employer will DHS pay for COVID-19 testing (nasal or blood)?		Penny VanSanten, SEIU
Direct process during COVID-19 pandemic to become HCW and PCA: orientation/application and background check.		Penny VanSanten, SEIU
If appropriate, provide status on workgroups identified for OHCC and Homecare.		
Death notifications.		Cheryl Miller, OHCC
PPE mask policy – available in multiple languages.		Cheryl Miller, OHCC

Meeting Summary

1. Introductions

Cheryl Miller, Oregon Home Care Commission (OHCC) Executive Director, opened the Zoom meeting at 3:04 PM and introductions were shared. Cheryl reviewed the purpose and guidelines for the meeting.

2. Need a centralized OR-HCC or DHS number to call to ensure workers notification of quarantining because either Consumer/Employer (associated family) or worker/family have virus/tested positive?

- Addressed through Public Health Groups.
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has Contact Tracers working around the State - <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-Contact-Collaborative>.
- HIPAA concerns.

3. Ancillary, if quarantining from exposure from Consumer/Employer will DHS pay for COVID-19 testing (nasal or blood)?

Alice Cobb, Director of Carewell SEIU 503 Benefits Administration, reported to the OHCC Commission that a Testing Benefit is being worked on.

4. Direct process during COVID-19 pandemic to become HCW and PCA: orientation/application and background check?

- New applicants still work through their local office.
- New worker orientation is being held online by Carewell and includes PCAs.
- OHA-Health Systems Division (HSD) has a new contractor, Comagine, who will be responsible for initiating the PCA process for a new worker beginning in October. Until then, applicants can still go through their current Case Management Entities (CMEs).
- OHA-HSD is working on the specific details of how PCA redeterminations will be handled with Comagine.
- Reissuing for HCWs continues to go through local offices.
- Some extensions have been made during the current state of emergency; check with the local office.

5. If appropriate, provide status on workgroups identified for OHCC and Homecare.

- Great progress has been made in all the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) workgroups.
- Cheryl works directly with Mallory Hagel, and Mallory in turn works with teams of designated SEIU workgroup members who serve as representatives in the workgroup.

6. Death notifications

- In response to a question at the last Joint Issues Committee, Cheryl spoke with Angela Munkers, APD Field Services Administrator, and Jane-ellen Weidanz, APD Long Term Services and Supports Administrator, who are working on a solution. The essence of the solution is for the HCW to notify the Case Manager (CM) or the CM to notify the HCW, whomever is the first to know about a Consumer-Employer’s passing. The exact process is being determined.

7. PPE mask policy infographic – available in multiple languages.

- The PPE mask policy infographic is available in multiple languages. Those can be found here - <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCC/PSW-HCW/Pages/Health-Safety.aspx>
- The infographic was mailed to all HCWs/PSWs who had work in the last three months – over 17,000 workers. It was also mailed to every active Consumer-Employer.
- The mask policy references ADA exemptions for workers who are unable to wear a mask. Workers can request this exemption by sending a request to OHCC’s Customer Relations Team at OHCC.CustomerRelations@dhsosha.state.or.us.
- OHA-HSD is refining this policy to fit their purposes. The policy is currently under review with their management/COVID-19 team.

8. Penny Van Santen, SEIU, stated that she had received reports of Case Managers sending potential Consumer-Employers to in-home care agencies and asked if there was a way to encourage CMs to help Consumer-Employers access the Registry to connect with HCWs/PSWs. Cheryl referred to OHCC’s Employer Resource Connection (ERC) and its contractors who work directly with consumer-employers across the State and provide support in cases like this. Cheryl also asked Penny to let OHCC know if there is a specific area where this is consistently happening.

9. Penny brought up the potential of a slowdown in US mail delivery and how that might affect the timeliness of vouchers.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.

Assignment Tracker			
Topic	Owner	Assigned Date	Due Date
Future Agenda Topics			

**Next meeting:
Wednesday, September 16, 2020 - 3:00 to 4:00 PM**

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