

Minutes
IDPH Informal Dispute Resolution Committee
Meeting of May 15, 2008
VOA Offices, Chicago

Committee Members Present:

Henry Kowalenko, Chairperson
Ann Guild
Patrick Grzybek
David Mikos
David Volz
Harry Wolin
Vern Wegerer

Committee Members Absent:

Doug King
Joe Brueck

Guests:

Steve Call, Facilities Directors, Prov. United Samaritan Medical Center, Danville
Alan Copas, Security Director, Prov. United Samaritan Medical Center, Danville
George Vernia, Plant Operations Asst. Dir., Prov. United Samaritan, Danville
Nicole Boose, Emergency Services Dir., Prov. United Samaritan Medical Center, Danville

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 by Henry Kowalenko, Chairperson. The meeting minutes from the March meeting were reviewed and Dave Mikos made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Vern Wegerer. The meeting minutes were approved as written.

Due to the status of the Committee at the January meeting, Henry asked that the Committee to reaffirm the IDR decision regarding Northwestern Memorial locking issue. A vote was taken and all members present were in favor of reaffirming the January decision, none opposed.

Henry nominated Harry Wolin as Co-Chairperson of the Committee, the motion was seconded by Pat Gryzbek, none opposed. Harry Wolin was voted as Committee Co-Chairperson.

The Committee heard a presentation from Steve Call, Facilities Directors, Alan Copas, Security Director, Nicole Boose, Emergency Services Directors, George Vernia, Plant Operations Asst. Dir., from Provena United Samaritan, Danville. The Presenters were requesting an exception to IDPH's finding of noncompliance with Section 250.2450 (c) of the Hospital Licensing Requirements and NFPA 101 18.2.2.2.4 regarding door locking arrangements. The Presenters requested the Department to allow them to apply exception 18.2.2.2.4 (1) which allows "door-locking arrangements without delayed egress.....where clinical needs of the patients required specialized security measures.....". Mr. Steve Call

presented the Facility's case and introduced the Presenters on behalf of the Facility. Ms. Nicole Boose explained the clinical needs of the patients and how they felt this exception related to the Facility's situation. She also voiced concerns regarding the ability to limit access to the area based on the increase in crime and the ability to protect the patients they serve. Mr. George Vernia and Alan Copas described the current security setup for the area in question. Mr. Kowalenko made a presentation on behalf of the Department's to show why the Department felt that the exception the Facility was asking permission to use did not apply to this situation. The Licensing Requirements interprets "clinical needs of the patients" as relating to mental or medical condition of the patients, not security. Mr. Kowalenko summarized that only a delayed egress electronic lock is permitted for non psychiatric areas and only one such electronic locking device is permitted to the exit discharge by the Hospital Licensing Requirements. After both presentations were concluded the Committee was given an opportunity to ask questions from Presenters. Mr. Kowalenko and the Presenters for Provena United Samaritan Hospital were excused while the Committee discussed the Presenters' request in closed session. After completing their deliberations, the Committee stated their decision to Mr. Kowalenko and the Presenters, The Committee found no compelling argument to recommend modification to the Code to allow more than (1) one electronic locking device in an egress path.

After lunch the following issues were discussed:

- The IDR forms for submission need to be changed to request that the Presenters provide 1 set of plans to include an overall floor plan of the area in question, fire zone, room names and required exiting from the area. Jody to make changes to the form for discussion at June meeting.
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital has proposed changes to the Licensing Requirements regarding their IDR process and the ruling. This will be included in the agenda for the June meeting.
- Ann Guild asked if the Department had any comments on the Governor's Executive order regarding seismic zones. Henry stated he had not seen the order. Ann Guild will forward to Henry.
- Henry stated that the Department has had inquiries regarding future IDR presentations but as of yet the Facilities have not submitted the packets for review.
- The process of reviewing and updating the rules, Henry will provide a list of the problematic areas the Department has had issues with. He will provide this list for the June meeting. It was proposed that sections of the rules be given to the Committee members with the expertise to review and comment.
- Add July back to the calendar and have a meeting on July 17th at the offices of Anderson Mikos Architects.

Henry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 pm, seconded by Pat Grzybek. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2008, at the IDPH offices, 525 W. Jefferson, 4th floor Conference room, Springfield.