

Safety and Workplace Violence Prevention Committee Minutes

February 20, 2025

Virtual 14:00 – 15:00

Present: Tammy Heck DCSS/ Safety Committee Chairperson, Renin Cassidy RD, Danny Wiederrick Maintenance Engineer, Chris Matala, Director Supply Chain, Gail Cutrell Home Supervisor, Tina Po SW, Elaine Hathaway DT II North, Ercelene Kinnebrew, Clinical Education Manager, Taylor Miller, Infection Prevention Manager, Ripen Thind, Office Services; Melanie Stout, Human Resources, Tara Scott, Lake City Clinical Manager

Not Present: Krystle Harrington Director Patient Safety & Quality, Tosha Mackness Clinical Director, Candace Cruz SW, Khalid Yassir IT Service Team Lead, Kevaney St. James DT II South, Aby Sebastian Clinical Unit Coordinator Central, Michael Kellogg, Senior Director, Facility Planning & Management, Kristina Eddy, Employee Health Manager, Beth Woodworth Executive Assistant Administration, Sis Espirito, People Operations and Experience Manager HR, Uris Rullan, Office Services

Facilities: Auburn Kidney Center, Burien Kidney Center, Enumclaw Kidney Center, Everett Kidney Center, Federal Way East Kidney Center, Federal Way West Campus Kidney Center, Fife Kidney Center, Kent Kidney Center, Kirkland Kidney Center, Lake City Kidney Center, Bellevue Kidney Center, Panther Lake Kidney Center, Port Angeles Kidney Center, Rainier Beach Kidney Center, Renton Kidney Center, Scribner Kidney Center, SeaTac Kidney Center, Snoqualmie Ridge Kidney Center, Yesler Terrace Kidney Center, Home Dept. & PD Programs, Hospital Services, Logistics, Burien Administrative Locations.

AGENDA DETAILS

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Tammy Heck
 - Welcome new members
 - Introduction of member

2. ADMINISTRATIVE
 - Previous November 2024 minutes were approved by Chris Matala and seconded by Gail Cutrell.

3. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

- Accident and Injury Data – Tammy Heck provided the Committee with employee injuries by NKC location and type for the prior quarter.

November 2024 – January 2025

Back Injuries = 2; Yesler Terrace and Rainier Beach

Strain/Sprain = 1; Fife

Slips/Trips/Falls = 1; Everett

Needlesticks/Sharps = 3; Everett, Scribner and Federal Way West

WV = 23

Other = 1; staff bumped nose on isolation door causing swelling.

Total = 31

- Workplace Violence:

1 patient verbal abuse towards another patient

17 patients verbal abuse towards staff

1 staff verbal abuse towards staff

3 patient verbal & physical abuse towards staff

1 patient verbal abuse towards staff

- Environment of Care Rounding 2025 – Tammy Heck

Kirkland

Auburn

Trending items found at the EOC rounds included:

- Some equipment, such as computers on wheels, was not locked.
- Chemical containers were not labeled.
- Electric heaters were found under desks.
- Staff given education on emergency exits

- After Action Report – Tammy Heck

Windstorm – November 2024

The open action items continue to be reviewed and revamped by the stakeholders.

- The goal is to be better prepared if another event were to occur.
- During the windstorm patients were given emergency information on diet plans and contacted to schedule alternative dialysis times – the feedback NKC received from patients was very positive.
- Resources for staff were identified and made available.
- The emergency voicemail line is deactivated. Staff will contact their direct leadership in a disaster or emergency event.
- Staff can look at the NKC website for updates. Social media will direct viewers to the website.
- Facility Spreadsheets are being updated and will be posted in the Orange Disaster Binders.
- In the event of a power outage, desktop phones numbers can be forwarded to any other phone number, for example, a clinic without power can forward their phones to another clinic with power.

- Workplace Violence Prevention – Tammy Heck
 - We have seen an increase in workplace violence but whether it's due to an actual increase or due to more knowledge about reporting is unknown.
 - There are currently plans to bring in an organization specializing in workplace violence and de-escalation education to provide training to staff – may see implementation in March 2025.
 - A suggestion was brought up to also educate management on psychological aspects of workplace violence.
 - There are also plans to implement training on how to respond to an active shooter situation in the next few months.

- Inclement Weather – Tammy Heck reported the snow team was activated twice during inclement weather during the winter season. No reports of patient or staff injuries this year.
- Hazard Vulnerability Assessments – NKC was included in a meeting, in February, through NWHRN to evaluate HVA for the Central area. Once the data is evaluated and compiled, NWHRN will release the suggestions for HV risk assessments and NKC will evaluate risk for our clinics and facilities.

- Safety In-Services that have been assigned include:
 - Code Blue – December 2024
 - Bloodborne Pathogens – December 2024
 - Hand Hygiene – December 2024
 - Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls – December 2024
 - Fire Drill – January 2025
 - Body Mechanics – Due in February 2025
 - People's Team compiling 2025 in-services in MedTrainer

4. AGENDA ITEMS

- Hospital Equipment Drain Hoses
 - Moses Suherman, Biomed Director – Reports the Biomed department is working on replacing the hospital services RO equipment with longer hoses & providing extensions for those that cannot be replaced to avoid injuries.
- Yesler Conference Room Doors
 - An employee sustained a finger injury while opening or closing the doors. In response, a sign has been placed near the doors to inform others unfamiliar with their operation of the potential risk of injury. Plant Ops is looking into a part to avoid injuries during use.
- Fire Drills for non-clinical staff working in clinical facility office areas
 - Non-clinical staff are missing out on fire drills - working on ways to incorporate them.

5. COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

- On the 3rd Thursday, every other month, 2:00-3:00 pm.
 - April 17, 2025
 - June 19, 2025