



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20857

TO: The Record
Health Facilities Advisory Committee (HFAC)
Members

FROM: Recording HFAC Secretary

SUBJECT: February 1, 1995 Meeting

Members and Attendance:

CAPT Gary Radtke, Chairman, IHS HQ/DFPC*
CAPT Kenneth Harper, Vice-Chairman, OES-X/WA*
ADM Thomas Gallegos, Member, OES-VI/TX*
Mr. Emilio Pucillo, Member, OES-II/NY**
CAPT Mark Brumbaugh, Member, IHS/Alaska Area Office**
CAPT Dennis Taylor, Member, IHS/Albuquerque Area
Office*
CAPT Gary McFarland, Member, IHS/Billings Area
Office**
CAPT George Byrns, Member, IHS HQ/DEH*
CDR Alan Petersen, Member, IHS HQ/DFM*
Mr. James Biasco, Guest
CAPT Gordon Wilcox, Guest
CAPT Steve Aoyama, Guest
CDR Jose Cuzme, Guest
CDR William Lowe, Guest
Mr. Henry Cruz, Recording Secretary, IHS HQ/DFPC

(* - voting members present)

(**- voting members not present due to previous
commitment)

Introductions:

Meeting via conference call started 1:20 PM. Total present: 12 with 6 voting members. Minutes of the October 5, 1994 meeting were approved. On December 14, 1994, a meeting was conducted without a quorum, only two voting members were in attendance. Proposals 24 and 30 were discussed but no motions were made.

Items discussed:

I. Old Business:

P-15, Fire Sprinklers versus Alternate Provisions - OES Dallas developed a guideline related to Title I of the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-522) dated October 26, 1992. ADM Gallegos briefly explained this guideline and discussion followed. A motion was made by CAPT Radtke to accept this guideline, seconded by CAPT Bryns, and voted in favor by the six HFAC members present. A decision notice will be made for signature by CAPT Radtke, HFAC Chairman. Copies of this guideline and a signed decision notice will be mailed to HFAC members, and will be distributed to Area Offices.

P-24, Flood Plain Criteria - It was suggested to mail a copy of the HHS General Administration Manual, Chapter 30-50-20, Floodplain Management, to all HFAC members. CDR Cuzme, HQ/DFPC, will discuss this issue in March 1995 meeting. On December 14, 1994, CAPT Aoyama, HQ/DEH, gave a brief comment on the Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines.

P-30, Request for Waiver; for complying at the end of each day with turning off the oxygen tanks at the source. - CAPT Harper was assigned to respond in writing, to the originator of this request for waiver. A copy of this letter will be mailed to all HFAC members. On December 14, 1994, Mr. Johnson reported his findings indicating that JCAHO does not grant any waivers regarding NFPA 101, Life Safety Code. Also, the HFAC membership suggested that HFAC take no actions on any codes related to life safety. For this request, no decision notice is required.

II. New Business:

P-20, Nitrous Oxide - CAPT McFarland was scheduled to present this proposal. He indicated postponement of his presentation to the April 1995 meeting.

P-21, EPA Guideline on Storm Runoff - ADM Gallegos indicated that a final draft will be mailed to HFAC members for their review.

P-22, On Site Incineration - Postponed for discussion until the March 1995 meeting.

P-25, Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Handling - Postponed for discussion at a later date. CAPT Bryns will further research this executive order and other protocol information. Copies will be mailed to the HFAC members at a later date.

P-28, Transient Voltage Surge Suppression - Proposal will be presented in March 1995 meeting for discussion. CAPT Harper received comments from the HFAC members and indicated that these comments are incorporated in the final draft.

III. Other Issues:

1) AIA meeting - CAPT Bryns reported on some major isolation room issues discussed at the January 1995 AIA meeting;

a. Protective isolation is to be eliminated, and a new category called "protective environments" will be created. Protective environments are special rooms used to house bone marrow or organ transplant recipient. These rooms will require at least 12 air changes per hour (ACH) and will be equipped with HEPA filters. CAPT Bryns indicated that **these special protective environments are not needed in the IHS.**

The IHS "protective isolation rooms" were constructed because there was an assumption that these rooms would be used to house AIDS patients. According to CAPT Bryns, this is a dangerous practice because to be classified as having AIDS means the patient is already infected with one or more pathogens such as tuberculosis (TB). These patients generally stay home until these infectious cause them to be hospitalized. After they are treated, most return home where they are often re-infected. The use of protective environments is of no benefit to these patients; however, placing AIDS patients in positive pressure rooms may result in exposure to our staff or other patients to TB or other airborne infectious. Some of the specific AIA recommendations were:

- The AIA recommended that two-way isolation rooms not be allowed, and that rooms be used for negative pressure isolation. Negative pressure isolation rooms may be used to house non-infected patients when they are not required for use as isolation rooms.

- The CDC recommended a minimum of 12 ACH for TB isolation rooms, for outpatient rooms used to examine suspected TB cases, and for dental operatories used to treat TB cases. AIA supports the 12 ACH requirement for new construction. The proposed IHS TB infection control circular requires at least 12 ACH in newly constructed rooms, and at least 6 ACH in existing isolation rooms and outpatient examination/treatment rooms used for TB. Existing dental operatories used to treat suspected TB cases should have at least 10 ACH.

b. There was also a proposal to eliminate the need for anterooms for most application. It is unknown how much support there is for this proposal. Our experience is that nursing wants the double door air lock. CAPT Bryns recommended that any decision to change current IHS design regarding anterooms be delayed until after the July 1995 AIA meeting where the standards will be finalized.

A motion was made by CAPT Harper to adopt guideline in line item (III.1)a.) only, seconded by ADM Gallegos, and voted in favor by the six HFAC members present. This decision will be incorporated as an addendum to decision notices D-6 and/or D-7. Copies will be mailed to HFAC members at a later date.

2) Tribal Representation - Mr. Biasco suggested that a tribal representative should serve in the HFAC. This issue will be discussed in March 1995 meeting.

IV. Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be March 1, 1995, 12:00 noon, EST. Attached are copies of the HHS GAM, Chapter 30-50-20, Floodplain Management; Proposals and Decisions dated 2/1/95; and Agenda for the March 1995 meeting.

Meeting was closed at 2:10 PM EST.

Respectfully Submitted,


Henry D. Cruz