

Stakeholders Meeting Minutes
SOP St. Paul
4/28/08 10am

In attendance: D. Beardsley, K. Carlson, B. Imholte, J. Juntunen, J. Loveland, P. Sheehan

Discussion Items:

1. Legislative Update: Sheehan reported SFM budget now funded through insurance surcharge. Legislature is tapping fund for deficit reduction. Open inspector position is on hold.
 2. Moratorium Exception Update: Loveland reported ME process timeline has been expanded from 90 to 150 days among other changes. Too many projects were unable to be completed within old timeline.
 3. Industry Trends: Beardsley reported Long Term Care industry continues to see activity in downsizing, closures or sales. Currently 388 Nursing homes in operation and projected to fall to 380 by year end.
 4. QIS Surveys: Beardsley questioned whether SFM inspectors were performing inspections any different during QIS Surveys. Loveland : No. Protocols for LSC surveys have not changed.
 5. Locked Doors in Vertical Exits: Beardsley reported his organization is working with concerned citizen coalition to lobby CMS for change to interpretation. Sheehan: During surveys, locked exits are not being cited if staff, family and cognitive residents can demonstrate ability to unlock doors. Instructions on how to unlock doors in emergencies can be posted at door. The POC should also list how facility will educate and train staff, families and cognitive residents. Door Handles relocated to upper portion of door are absolutely not allowed. Loveland: CMS has many K38 waiver requests that will most likely be denied.
 6. Oxygen Ignition Sources: Sheehan discussed the NFPA definition referencing “site of intentional expulsion” and challenging CMS position on 5 foot rule as referenced in CGA Pamphlets. Consultation with industry experts indicates dissipation to less than 23% occurs within 2-5 inches of the site of intentional expulsion. CMS has been issuing deficiencies when residents on oxygen are observed under hair dryers but not citing when other ignition sources are present within 5 feet. SFM inspectors will use within 12 inches of site of intentional expulsion. ECRI was suggested as possible education for future healthcare engineering programs.
 7. Elevator Sprinkler Issue: Loveland reinforced that CMS is enforcing NFPA 13 as written. Heads in hoistway top, pit or machine room may only be eliminated if the exceptions can be met. Attempts to design to the exceptions should be made. Considerable discussion about uniformity of elevator inspector interpretations and AHJ’s. Issues with elevators should be brought to DOLI.
 8. Complete Fire Sprinkler: Sheehan announced that the requirements for a complete fire sprinkler system should be posted by late summer 2008.
 9. CMS LSC Code Adoption: Sheehan reported that CMS has indicated they are removing the 2006 edition of LSC from consideration and will be reviewing the 2009 edition for consideration.
 10. CMS Hospital LSC Inspections: Loveland reported a single LSC deficiency will take a hospital out of compliance with Conditions of Participation and Joint Commission facilities lose CMS deemed status.
 11. Sprinkler Heads in Freestanding Wardrobes: Sheehan reported CMS opinion that freestanding wardrobes fastened to wall by screw, bracket, etc. do not need sprinkler head inside. Coverage can be outside of unit.
 12. Annual Fire Alarm Inspection Documentation: Sheehan reported all elements of the 4 page form for documenting the annual FA inspection from NFPA 72 must be addressed regardless of what company/form is used. Additional data (ie. sensitivity tests) should be referenced as attachments.
 13. Sprinkler System Documentation: Juntunen reported facility documentation often lacks appropriate test documentation for underground piping.
 14. Canopies and Awnings: Concern voiced over CMS position K12 Construction Type on sprinklers required in decorative canopies or awnings. Loveland to review prior documentation from CMS
- Meeting adjourned @ 12:05pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by Carlson