



**American Federation of
Government Employees**
Council of Prison Locals
LOCAL 501
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DATE: August 26, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Labor Relations Meeting

FROM: A. Reynaldo, Executive V.P.

SUBJECT: Union Agenda Item: Infectious Control

It has come to the attention of the Union that inmates that are not medically screened after hours or in the absence of medical staff are sent to S.H.U. to be housed until medical staff completes the intake process.

This process is very vital, because it entails the PPD skin test and the taking of body temperature. These test are for verification that the inmates do not carry Tuberculosis or the most recent H1N1 virus.

R/D is equipped with U/V filtration air handlers that destroy and eliminate all bacteria and virus that are airborne, which is the most serious form of contamination for all inmates and staff.

These incidents are happing on a daily basis, but is most noted on weekends when medical staff leaves the facility at 2200.

Taking inmates to S.H.U. when they are not medically screened poses a very serious liability to inmates and staff and at the same time places the institution at a very potential risk of contamination to S.H.U. and the rest of the facility due to the fact that there are no filtration of any kind in any housing unit to eliminate these pathogens.

As per the Master Agreement: Article 27 - Health and Safety, the employer will lower the inherent hazards to the very minimum for staff. Skipping or cutting corners in this area is not lowering the inherent hazards but the contrary, is enhances these risks, because staff can carry these diseases to their family and love ones.

Based on these factors, the Union recommends several options in order to comply and to avoid a potential serious outbreak in the institution.

- 1) Keep inmates in R/D overnight until medical staff arrives the next day and then when they are properly screened, sent them to their designated units.
- 2) Prevent the entry of any arrest to the institution after hours, like other FDC's are doing in order to avoid the risk of contamination. Permit inmate entry from 0600 - 2400.

The Union feels that there is a renewed sense of urgency in this matter due to the current development of the H1N1 outbreaks that is happening in this country and in the World. In being proactive and concern, we are lowering the risks that a contamination occurs and at the same time prevent that our family and love ones are exposed.

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