

Statewide Labor Management Committee (LMC)

****Special Meeting****

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2020

1:00 pm

Skype Tele-Conference¹

Members in Attendance:

Co-Chairs:

Saundra Ross Johnson, Cabinet Secretary
Michael Begatto, Executive Director

Department of Human Resources (DHR)
American Federation of State, County &
Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Secretary Co-Chair Designee

Eric Episcopo, Director

Dept. of Labor Relations and Employment Practices (DHR)

SLMC Members:

Jennifer Biddle, Chief Bureau of Administration

Department of Corrections (DOC)

Nelson Hill, Assistant to President

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)

Nicole Majeski, Deputy Secretary

Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT)

Joseph Swiski, Chief of Administration

Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS)

Jeffrey Taschner, Executive Director

Department State Education Association (DSEA)

Subject Matter Experts (SME)

Molly Magarik, Deputy Secretary

Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS)

Joanna Carlson, Human Resource Specialist III

Department of Human Resources (DHR)

Minute Recorder: Koshema Fassett, Labor Relations & Employment Practices Specialist (DHR)

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Episcopo at 1:12 p.m. Episcopo conducted roll call and confirmed quorum. Co-Chair Johnson thanked the members for their attendance and patience as the conference line had technical difficulties and delayed the start of the meeting. Co-Chair Johnson stated for everyone to be safe and cautious as many businesses begin reopening in the State; and, proceeded with the agenda.

II. Status of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Co-Chair Johnson introduced Magarik and requested she provide updates. Magarik presented:

¹ In consideration of the Governor's declared State of Emergency and directive to apply social distancing as a result of the Coronavirus, this SLMC meeting was held by tele-conference.

- 47,542 persons have been tested for the COVID-19 virus. Delaware is currently at 8,386 positive cases; including 4,130 recoveries, and 317 deaths. Positive numbers by county: New Castle 3,053; Kent 1,281; and Sussex 4,006.
- Delaware continues to conduct contact tracing and testing and is currently behind in this process. The State has gained support from the NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) to assist in this process. This is a very detailed process including identifying the patient, persons the patient has come in contact with and who else may have been exposed. The State recognizes that all persons may not be contacted by phone; therefore, the State plans to develop a team to go into the communities to search for persons and communicate this information and investigate to determine if other persons may have been exposed.
- The State continues to encourage persons to stay at home when possible to continue to help lower the spread of the virus. The State is continuing to seek to have more tests and more test locations as it may be several months before we see a return of interaction as before the COVID-19 virus. It is important to continue to wear a face mask, maintain social distance, wash your hands regularly, and limit large gatherings as we continue to understand the level of risk associated with the virus.

Magarik thanked everyone for their continued partnership and communication in supporting the State's employees.

Co-Chair Johnson thanked Magarik for her updates and inquired if there is a system regarding how State employees are being contacted. Magarik stated that the NRC takes the lead from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the contact tracers are not permitted to say, "...we know that it's from X (person's name)...", but rather will say, "... you were around someone exposed to the virus..."; names are not disclosed.

Co-Chair Johnson inquired if there were any other questions for Magarik. Co-Chair Begatto inquired how long it may take to contact a person whom was exposed to someone positive. Magarik stated that she acknowledged the State is behind in this process, but the goal is to contact the person within 48 hours and the assistant of the NRC should help this effort.

Co-Chair Begatto inquired if he could communicate the contract trace process with members because some members think they have been exposed and not told or contacted. Magarik indicated that there is a uniform criteria that is followed which determines the level of risk and if a person should be contacted. Magarik stated that she and Co-Chair Begatto could discuss further outside this call.

Co-Chair Begatto inquired if there was anything documenting this process on the State's website. Magarik stated that there is nothing currently documented, however will see if DPH has written information. Magarik stated that each case is unique, and the tracers go where their interviews lead them and while it is an in-depth process, it is not a perfect process. Magarik reiterated that goal is to contact persons that may have been infected within 48 hours of the patient testing positive.

Co-Chair Johnson stated it DPH has something documented that would be helpful and encouraged Co-Chair Begatto and Magarik to discuss further.

Co-Chair Johnson inquired if there were any other questions for Magarik. Hill inquired the number of total Delawareans versus the number of those that have been tested. Magarik responded that there are approximately 930,000 Delawareans and 47,542 have been tested; Taschner indicated this is approximately 5% of the Delaware population. Magarik stated the State is planning larger testing events and seeking to have more tests available for universal testing.

Co-Chair Johnson inquired if there were any other questions for Magarik; there were none.

Co-Chair Johnson introduced Carlson and requested she provide updates. Carlson presented:

- DHR continues to work with the agency human resource leads and provide resources, guidance and service to State employees.

Co-Chair Johnson thanked Carlson for the updates and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Co-Chair Johnson stated there could potentially be another federal stimulus which may impact State employees.

III. Public Comment

Co-Chair Johnson asked if there were any public comments or questions; there were none.

IV. Adjournment

Co-Chair Begatto made a motion to adjourn; Hill second, and the meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.