

## FDA/NTEU COOPERATION COUNCIL

The first meeting of the FDA/NTEU Cooperation Council was held over two days on June 15 and 16, 2010, at the Federal Research Center at White Oak, Silver Spring, Maryland. The primary purpose of the meeting was for members from the FDA, HHS and NTEU to introduce themselves to each other and become familiar with the expectations from all sides of the table. The meeting was co-chaired by Russ Abbott from FDA and Sharon Quinn Harris, from NTEU National. The group also established ground rules and a charter that outlined the purpose and objectives of the Council. Members of the Council are:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Russ Abbott	Deputy Commissioner for Administration	FDA
Sharon Quinn Harris	National Negotiator	NTEU
George Pyramides	President	NTEU Chapter 292
Marsha Hayden	VP and Chief Steward	NTEU Chapter 282
Michael Theodorakis	Executive Vice President	NTEU Chapter 282
Malcolm Frazier	Regional Director for ORA	FDA
Ruth McKee	Executive Officer for CDRH	FDA
David Wardrop	Executive Officer for CVM	FDA
Bernice Friedlander	President	NTEU Chapter 282
Eric Mettler	Executive Officer for CTP	FDA
Jim Sigg	Executive Officer for CBER	FDA
Mike Roberts	President	NTEU Chapter 212
Kim Holden	Assistant Commissioner for Management	FDA
Cheryl Monroe	President, Chapter 230	Detroit District Laboratory
Jackie Thomas Clay	HHS guest	
Charlette Montgomery	HHS guest	

Although the group discussed a number of issues, the main topic of conversation focused on the implementation of the new HHS-wide CBA and the extension of cooperative councils to Centers, NCTR, ORA and the OC.

The council did believe that, although there is only a short period of time before the HHS-wide CBA is placed into effect, there were a few items that should be clarified now.

Training for the new HHS CBA: The council believes that training to inform employees on the basics of the new CBA should be conducted in a series of joint sessions where BUEs, NBUEs, NTEU and Labor Relations staff all participate at the same time in the same meeting. It is extremely important to the success of the consolidated CBA that we all have a mutual understanding of the CBA and that for particular articles like AWS, Awards and FWAP, we all have the same understanding of each.

Ongoing Technical Changes to the CBA by DHHS: DHHS and NTEU are working together to correct minor errors and make technical changes to the CBA to ensure that it is consistent with current law and regulation.

Status of MOUs and Past Practices in existence prior to the implementation of the new CBA: Current MOUs will remain in effect and expire under the terms contained therein; however, MOUs, or the portions thereof, that are inconsistent with the new CBA are extinguished upon the effective date of the consolidated HHS/NTEU CBA. Similarly, past practices that are not inconsistent with the consolidated HHS/NTEU/CBA remain in effect. Past practices that are inconsistent with the CBA will be extinguished upon the effective date of the HHS/NTEU CBA. MOUs specific to ORA concerning the voluntary and mandatory foreign inspections were incorporated into the new CBA. In addition MOUs currently under discussion with NTEU specific to the White Oak Campus (Tobacco Free and office moves) will continue to be negotiated.

Status of FWAP agreements currently in place: Current FWAP agreements that are in effect remain in place. There is a new website at:

<http://inside.fda.gov:9003/EmployeeResources/NationalTreasuryEmployeesUnion/FDANTEUCooperationCouncil/default.htm>

where you can find a summary of this meeting, an electronic copy of the draft consolidated CBA and the charter. Other postings will become available after each meeting of the Council. The next meeting will be on July 27 and 28, 2010, at the Federal Research Center.

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