

MEETING MINUTES

OTDA PEF Labor Management Meeting

Date: February 3, 2021

Location: OTDA, 40 North Pearl Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Albany, NY

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Introductions

Agenda Items

1. Agenda Item – DDD Telecommuting

New Business Old Business

Description: Labor requests a status report on the testing of software and current pilot on DDD telecommuting.

Response: All sites have completed their large-scale proof of concept with the exception of Endicott, which is scheduled to be completed Friday, February 5, 2021. Albany, Buffalo and Manhattan are in the process of a volunteer staff reduction pilot with staff working one week in the office and one week of telework. Endicott will begin the pilot per volunteer basis on Monday February 8, 2021. Management will continue to monitor the process to ensure that data integrity remains across all systems and platforms, and confirm that required production goals stay on target.

Action Item:

2. Agenda Item – Update on DDD Hiring and Promotions for Fiscal Year 2021 and Beyond

New Business Old Business

Description: Some claimants have been waiting a year for their decision. Is there any movement on more full-time staff to address this?

Labor is requesting an update on hiring and promotions for fiscal year 2021 and beyond in anticipation of the limited budget.

What is the plan to replace Disability Analysts (DA) 2s who have either retired, resigned or been hired by SSA? What is the geographic allocation of these items?

Have waivers for hiring been requested from DOB?

Response: The Division of Disability Determinations (DDD) has not received hiring authority beyond the previously authorized ten medical and physician consultants for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (FFY21). Management does not anticipate that we will receive additional hires, but will immediately pursue if authorization is given. Management would like to have noted that since November 2020, DDD received Division of the Budget (DOB) approval to back fill 20 statewide promotional items.

Action Item:

3. Agenda Item – Update on the Temporary March 2 Calendar for OAH ALJ's

New Business Old Business

Description: Labor requests an update on the temporary 3/2 calendar for OAH Administrative Law Judges (ALJ's). Management was to report back of the scheduling change within 4-6 weeks of implementation.

Response: The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) is just keeping up with the backlog and requests. The current schedule will remain in place for the foreseeable future due to the backlog and the increase of requests. OAH leadership will meet with labor to discuss the suggestions to address the workload within the next two weeks. PEF will provide member suggestions to management prior to said meeting.

Action Item:

PEF MINA

4. Agenda Item – Restoring Accruals for Endicott Employees for December 18, 2020

New Business Old Business

Description: What is the status of restoring accruals which Endicott employees used on December 18, 2020, while the county was still in a state of emergency?

Response: The Bureau of Human Resources submitted the request for the Suspension of the Attendance Rules to the Civil Service Commission on January 14, 2021. We are currently waiting for the request to be placed on the Commissions' calendar.

Action Item:

EMERGENCY

5. Agenda Item – Leases for DDD Worksites

New Business Old Business

Description: 100 Church Street (PC1) received verbal information that the move has been postponed to summer 2021. Would you be able to provide any other details on this?

PC1 (Manhattan) and PC4 (Endicott) are requesting an update on their leases. What are the plans to renew and is there any timeframe? Any other details?

Are there any other OTDA/DDD locations with expiring leases that we can get information about?

Response: The DDD move to Beaver Street is tentatively scheduled for August 13 through 15, 2021.

A new lease for Endicott is currently being worked on by the Office of General Services (OGS).

The Albany lease is in final stages of approval.

A new Buffalo lease has been executed through August 2029.

Action Item:

6. Agenda Item – Link to Register for the COVID-19 Vaccine

New Business Old Business

Description: Labor requests management posts a link to register for the COVID-19 vaccine on the OTDA intranet.

Response: A link to the Department of Health COVID-19 vaccination site has been placed on OTDA's intranet site under COVID-19 OTDA Employee Information.

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

Action Item:

EMMA

Informational Items/ Accomplishments

Next Meeting/Date & Place

Proposed dates for the next OTDA PEF Labor/Management Meeting are:

- May 19, 2021
- May 20, 2021
- May 27, 2021
- June 2, 2021
- June 3, 2021
- June 10, 2021

The following individuals were present at the OTDA PEF Labor/Management Meeting held on February 3, 2021, at OTDA, 40 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY:

Labor:

Carl Anderson – telephone
Pam August
Christopher Banach -- telephone
Sharon DeSilva -- telephone
Danielle Freeman
Germaine Greco - telephone
Mickey Heller
Martin Robinson -- telephone
Maddie Shannon Roberts – telephone
Ryan Stoliker
Deborah Walton

Management:

Kenneth Crannell -- telephone
Roy Esnard -- telephone
Linda Glassman - telephone
Barbara Guinn
Michael Hein
Wallis Howe-Rosenzweig -- telephone
Lisa Renee Keegan
Mark Longtoe - telephone
John Nieckarz III
Eric Schwenzfeier
Jill Shadick