

# PEF Labor Management Meeting

October 23, 2007  
10:00 AM  
One Commerce Plaza, Training Room A

## **Attendees:**

### **Management:**

Gloria Toal  
John Arena  
Dan Romero  
Bob Morris  
Debra Stark  
**BHR**  
Gloria Heydary

### **Labor:**

Jodi Cumbo  
Dayle Gruder  
Richard Fletcher  
Marion Fox  
Roseanne Lewitt  
Steven Schwartz  
Maddie Shannon-Roberts  
Susan Radosh, PEF

## **Agenda**

Caseload Projections  
New Hires for New Fiscal Year  
Lease Status for all PC's  
Status of Funding for headsets  
Morale  
Overtime  
Consistency of new processes added to the eDib process  
QDD Unit in each PC?  
More hours for Dr's for QDD cases  
Gr 23 Compensation for on call personnel

## **Additional Information**

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## Agenda

### Caseload Projections

Discussion: Deputy Commissioner Toal stated that caseload projections are 149,708 initials, 23,207 CDR's and 8,500 Informal Remands. It was further indicated that these numbers are subject to change.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

### New Hires for New Fiscal Year

Discussion: *PEF would like to know will there be any new hires for new fiscal year?*

Deputy Commissioner Toal stated that she has no information in regards to new hires. However, a request for new hires is ongoing.

Conclusions:

Action items: Management will provide staffing numbers for the past 12 months.

Person responsible: John  
Arena

Deadline:

### Lease Status for all PC's

Discussion:

John Arena stated that lease information is available on the OTDA Intranet. The Binghamton lease continues on a month to month basis. We anticipate OGS to reach a final agreement in the near future. Initial negotiations will begin in Buffalo shortly. DDD supports continuing leases in both locations.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

### Status of Funding for headsets

Discussion: Management stated the headsets and amplifiers have been ordered with delivery date anticipated to be 4 to 6 weeks.

Conclusions:

Action items: Management will provide headset information to labor.

Person responsible:

Deadline:

### Morale

Discussion: *PEF has concerns regarding morale. How does DDD plan to address this deteriorating issue?*

Deputy Commissioner Toal indicated that she will discuss this issue and union concerns with the Program Managers. Further discussion will continue at the next DDD LM meeting.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

## Overtime

Discussion: *PEF would like to know is overtime planned for the new fiscal year? PEF has concerns regarding prompt payment of overtime.*

Management indicated that presently there are no set plans for overtime. DDD will follow OTDA policy in regard to Compensation Time for Grade 23's and above. With regard to prompt payment of OT, the union was informed that OT vouchers as submitted by employees will be scanned and forwarded via email to OTDA payroll. It is hoped this procedure will eliminate delays which may have been caused by mailing. The union suggested that the ATC be used as the vehicle for overtime payment and may present this idea to OTDA statewide labor management.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

## Consistency of new processes added to the eDib process

Discussion: *In light of the new processes that will be added to electronic disability (eDib) process, i.e. QDD, ecdr, (electronic CDR), ODN upgrade (post decision notice), military case, "compassionate allowances", PEF would like to know what plans are in place to ensure consistency in the delivery in all PC's.*

Management indicated that QDD software will roll out on 11/13/07. The download will occur in early December. The PDN pilot will start in Buffalo soon. Electronic CDR will come out next year, tentatively in early spring. Management stated that Military cases have been received and compassionate allowances have not yet been fully defined. A fix to expedite opening Case Note messaging will go out this week. Systems is actively working on questionnaire development. LIV integration into local folder view is scheduled to occur in November. The email migration is scheduled to be piloted in January. Labor is requesting that analysts receive reduced case intake based on systems downtime.

Conclusions:

Action items: Labor is requesting a copy of Central Office Systems downtime tracking of main eDib servers.

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Management will look into downtime issue.

**QDD Unit in each PC?**

Discussion: *Will there be a QDD unit in each PC? If so, how will members be identified to staff it? Will it be rotational?*

Management stated that QDD cases are 5% of the projected allowances and are identified by SSA. Those cases are to be done within 20 days. There is not going to be a QDD unit, analysts selected by Program Managers will work these cases.

Conclusions:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

**More hours for Dr's for QDD cases**

Discussion: *Will the Dr's get more hours as QDD cases require a 20 day turnaround, and must be signed off by a doctor, in addition to the doctors regular workload?*

Management stated that specific Medical Doctor's will be selected by DPM's to review QDD cases. Doctor's will not receive additional hours based on QDD casework.

Conclusions:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

**Gr 23 Compensation for on call personnel**

Discussion: *PEF has concern regarding on call/recall of IT personnel, specifically Grade 23's. PEF request for compensation for those members. Grade 23's are on autodial. In the event the room temperature reaches 80 degrees, the 23's have to come in and turn on fans and cool off rooms and receive no compensation.*

Management indicated lead 23's in each processing center are connected to auto dial to be contacted via email or phone call in case of an off hours IT room emergency. Labor requests compensation for Grade 23's time spent dealing with off hours IT room emergencies.

Conclusions: Management will assess and evaluate.

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

**Additional Information**

Labor proposed the next meeting dates: January 9<sup>th</sup>, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Management will get back to Labor in regarding availability.

Informational:

**Labor said there are Federal workers doing telecommuting from home. Can we know more about it?**

Managements position is that telecommuting is not an available option for DDD employees.