Note from the Director – Karren Bee-Donohoe

Executive Order 88 and Start-Up NY continue to occupy a good deal of time. In early June I travelled to Minnesota as part of a three person NYS team to a learning by example workshop for statewide energy initiatives as part of an EPA grant to the National Governor’s Association. Lloyd Kass, Director of Build Smart NY and Greg Hale, Senior Advisor to Chairman of Energy & Finance in the Governor’s office were the other two members of the NY team. We had three days of sharing energy program approaches and challenges and successes. NY proved to be well positioned overall but in some areas other states were more advanced in such areas as benchmarking and data warehousing.

NY Energy Manager, the new data platform for both tracking EO88 data and providing monitoring based commissioning services, is being rolled out by the Build Smart team and will provide campuses with valuable tools for continued energy efficiency.

Start-Up NY continues with development of Campus Plans and several business plans are already approved or in process. Important for facilities staff are two items: the first is that Start-UP NY brings leasing and construction authority that didn’t previously exist. The second is that the annual private use survey is more important than ever with the introduction of businesses into the facilities as part of the Start-Up program. Campuses are asked to carefully track the location of private entities throughout the facilities for proper reporting in the annual survey.

Future developments in OCF include a closer look at the base BCI/PSI platforms and the potential to replace their systems with greater functionality and easier integration to other campus systems. - Karren Bee-Donohoe

14/15 New York State Budget Technical Correction Bill - Rebecca Goldstein

**14-15 Capital Budget:** The community colleges were greatly affected by the actions of the Governor and NYS Legislature in the capital request for the state fiscal year 2014/15. The Budget was passed by the NYS Legislature on March 31 and signed into law by Governor Cuomo on April 11, 2014. The 14/15 Budget process was comprehensive and pretty smooth until the very end when a printing error left out several capital projects.

Several community college capital projects in SUNY’s original request to the Governor and Division of the Budget (DOB) were not included in the Executive Budget released in January. During final negotiations with the Legislature, the projects were to be restored as well as some Sponsor-driven new projects added. During the last-minute negotiation and vote for the Budget, the printed version of the budget bill inadvertently left out the restored projects as well as SUNY’s language change requests for older appropriation. Other agencies had incomplete appropriation components as well.

The closing days of the legislative session were focused on high-profile initiatives. A vote on a planned clean-up bill to address printing errors did not take place. Consequently, the projects the Legislature planned on restoring were never included in the final budget. The appropriation therefore does not exist and the projects cannot be progressed by the colleges.

**15-16 Capital Budget:** SUNY’s capital budget process for 15/16 will begin shortly. The process will remain the same as past years in many ways: SUNY will still be asking colleges to review current projects and appropriations not yet accessed and inform SUNY of any planned actions and project schedules. In addition, SUNY will request projected long-range capital plans from the colleges along with additional information for projects planned in years one and two. For projects seeking appropriation for the 15/16 fiscal year, Sponsor resolutions will be required.

SUNY will be taking more proactive action in advocating for community college capital and will reach out to the colleges, Sponsors and other stakeholders during budget negotiation with specific strategies so our collective voice and advocacy efforts can be most effective.

Colleges should be receiving information on this activity soon, and Johanna Duncan -Poitier, Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges; will be reaching out to College Presidents in the next few weeks keeping colleges informed of the progress of this activity. If there are any specific questions, please contact Program Manager Rebecca Goldstein.

Residence Hall Program - Don Smith

As reported in OCF’s March newsletter, 2013-14 was a significant year for the residence hall program, which presented many challenges to System Administration and campuses. One major campus challenge was the stress put on campus cash-flows due to the new flow of monies through Tax & Finance. Fortunately, at this time, we can say that all campuses were able to meet their obligations and kept operating without significant issues.

Presently, we are in the middle of this year’s capital planning process. Once we receive all plans we will perform a thorough review, including meetings with campuses, to ensure each campus remains solvent. We believe this collaboration, especially with today’s escalating construction costs, will give us the best opportunity to continue to provide the housing necessary to compete in this extremely competitive market.

Based on bond cash on hand, we do not plan on going to market for a bond sale in the Fall of 2014.

On a project note, there are a number of larger projects either planned or underway: Fredonia is building a new 200 bed townhouse facility (Fall ’14); New Paltz is constructing a new 250 bed facility (Fall ’15); and Stony Brook will break ground this summer on a new 350 bed residence hall and dining facility, followed closely by another 400 bed facility (both Fall ’16).
Mold Response - Barbara Boyle

So, you have complaints about visible mold or mustiness – what do you do? In order for mold to grow, the conditions need to support the mold, and that means there has to be water or moisture. You should first look for evidence of leak, floods, or other high humidity. If you can fix the water, you usually fix most of the mold issue. Simple cleaning can then remove the visible mold.

A great reference on mold response is EPA’s Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings (www.epa.gov/mold/mold_remediation.html). The guide outlines a general approach to mold issues and provides two useful tables. Table 1 gives advice on cleanup and mold prevention after a clean water intrusion event (e.g., for carpet and backing: dry within 24 to 48 hrs; remove water with water extraction vacuum; reduce ambient humidity levels with a dehumidifier; and accelerate drying process with fans). Table 2 provides guidelines for remediating building materials with mold growth. It provides recommended cleanup methods (e.g., wet wipe, HEPA vac, damp mop) for various materials (e.g., paper, porous materials, cinder block, upholstered surfaces), and suggests personal protective equipment and containment based on the size of the area. The guide supports very reasonable approaches to common problems.

When do you do mold tests? The EPA, CDC, and NYS DOH all agree that for most mold events, mold sampling is not required. If mold sampling is conducted, it should be conducted by competent professionals using standard procedures as part of a well-considered sampling plan designed to support specific actions. Sampling can be expensive and time consuming. Abbreviated sampling schemes often lead to increased confusion. Sampling is not indicated to confirm cleanup. The EPA guide suggests that you use professional judgment to know that you have completed the mold cleanup/remediation when you have: completely fixed the water or moisture problem, visible mold and odors are not present, there is no apparent regrowth, and people can occupy or re-occupy the space without health complaints or physical symptoms.

Is it important to know what type of mold you are dealing with? In most circumstances, that is not particularly important. People will sometimes be concerned about “black mold” or “red mold” and while they may have different characteristics, the approach for remediation doesn’t differ very much in most situations. A recent NYS Governor’s Task Force on Toxic Mold concluded that there was not enough scientific information to differentiate “toxic mold” from regular mold and made recommendations on mold in general. Occasionally, the differentiation of mold types can be used to address complex issues, but that is more the exception.

Heroin Consequences (Needlesticks) - Barbara Boyle

Across the state there is a significant increase in the number of people who use heroin. The Governor and the Chancellor have made commitments about efforts to address the issue; and, state laws are being changed to permit more ready access to nalaxone, an anti-overdose medication. One consequence of the increased use of heroin by injection may be a potential increase of needlestick injuries to first responders, as well as custodial and maintenance staff members.

Please take some time to review your bloodborne pathogens and needlestick program. Special attention should be given to employee training, recognition and minimization of risk, response and report of incidents, and post-exposure prophylaxis protocols.

The relevant OSHA resource page is https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/. The most recent guidance for post-exposure prophylaxis is from 2013 http://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/20711. It suggests that post-exposure medical treatment be started as soon as possible, preferably within hours, of the event.

Come see us at Booth #8 at the PPAA Conference.