“It’s Time to get Uncomfortable”

Bringing Awareness to Lifestyle Issues and Focusing on the Path to Prevention, Recovery and Support
FOCUS FIVE

Addiction, Suicide Prevention & Behavioral Health

Falls 38.8%

Caught-In or -Between 7.2%

Struck-By 9.6%

Electrocution 8.6%

Time to Add a New Focus?
Indiana Union of Operating Engineers

Resolution

Whereas every four minutes someone in the U.S. dies from alcohol or drug addiction.

Whereas 20 million Americans are suffering with addictions and 23 million Americans are in recovery, affecting 1 in 3 American households.

Whereas alcohol and substance misuse in the construction and extraction industries are estimated to be two times the national average.

Whereas mental health issues, addiction and suicide are not typical conversations on construction sites and that the stigma associated with these issues can prevent co-workers from seeking help, resulting in suffering in silence and shame, or worse.

Whereas starting these conversations may be intimidating; having such conversations can help workers cope with these issues on the job site and at home.

Whereas initiating a peer to peer education program on substance abuse issues is proven effective means for training workers to help communicate with each other and their family members in methods to address these problems.

Whereas there are many unscrupulous addiction treatment centers that, at great financial cost, fail to provide the support workers and their families need to successfully recover.

Therefore be it resolved that the IUOE is committed to raising addiction awareness with journey persons, apprentices and union leadership. And that the IUOE is committed to developing curriculum for use at the local union level to help prevent lifestyle addiction and suicide.

Therefore be it further resolved that the IUOE encourages its local unions to form partnerships with reputable third party advocates such as Facing Addiction and Labor Assistance Professionals (LAP) to assist locals in educating members about addiction.
On April 29, 2019, 39 people representing more than 2 dozen locals across the country came together to approach something plaguing the Operating Engineers, and that is lifestyle issues. Lifestyle issues range from substance abuse, suicide, behavioral health disorders, or anything that impacts your day to day life. The introductory lifestyle course was held April 29- May 2\(^{nd}\) at the Training Center in Crosby, Texas.
Course Subjects

- Safety
- Union History of Assistance Programs
- Role of Peers in the Workplace
- Ethics
- Confidentiality
- Effective communication
- Lifestyle issues and what it means
- Stress
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Trauma
- Addiction
- Behavioral Health Issues
- Suicide Prevention
- Veterans Issues
- Family Impact
- Bullying, Jobsite/Home/Cyber
- Sexual Assault/Harassment
- Jobsite Issues
- Recognize, react, recommend
- Treatment Options
- Relationships between IUOE and employers
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