COMMUNITY BASED FINANCING MODEL: A PILOT STUDY TO PROMOTE TOTAL WORKER HEALTH AMONGST DRIVERS IN LAGOS STATE

Cj Okala*, B Irons, C Nwankwo. Occupation Health and Hygiene Service Limited

Introduction The paper will discuss a community financing based wellness model, piloted amongst drivers in Lagos State. The model builds on the hub and spoke investment model and utilises ‘usu’ a traditional micro-finance mechanism as an entry point. The model integrates protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness prevention efforts to advance worker well-being.

Based on a needs assessment, the primary initiative was to establish a wellness intervention targeting a cross section of drivers involved in organised and unorganised micro and small enterprises in Lagos State.

Methods A cross-sectional survey was conducted on the first cohort (45) of 3 based on a convenience sample. A self-administered, close-ended questionnaire recorded the participant’s personal characteristics, health status, and health interests. Blood pressure and blood sugar levels were taken by trained volunteers. A repeat evaluation after the 6 month deployment of the program is planned. Key informant interviews and a satisfaction survey is planned.

Results Preliminary baseline results amongst others indicate that a significant percentage of the drivers smoked cigarettes (22%) while 2% admitted to the use of marijuana, were overweight (84%), and/or were not aware they had high blood pressure (10%). Also, 42% of surveyed drivers experienced headaches more than 3 times in a week. Other findings *% had defective and 32% had low back which has lasted for more than 3 times in a week.

Conclusion Wellness measures targeting identified occupational health risks, emotional, spiritual and environmental aspects of health were developed. The paper will share the model, best practices, lessons learned and programme future plans.

This model can be replicated by other organised and unorganised micro and small enterprises to promote productivity and manage disease within the workforce while still promoting wellness.