

Health & Safety of Vulnerable Populations in Boston, MA



TLAW and OHIP intern Sophie at Raise Up Rally



SEIU 615 Airport Workers at Lynn Meeting

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Teens Lead @ Work,

*Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
and SEIU Local 615, Airport Justice Campaign*

MassCOSH & TLAW

- Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
 - Unites workers, unions, and community groups with environmental and health activists
 - Focus on underrepresented workers



Peer leaders Bryan Le and Lilibeth Pimentel at Raise Up Rally



Peer leader Justin Caballero giving workshop

- **Teens Lead at Work**

- Youth-led program where teens educate their peers about health and safety rights in the workplace

Objectives

Peer leaders in action



"Disaster Blaster" workshop



Peer leaders Tiana, Manolo, and Justin

- Support our peer leaders
- Facilitate conversations about social justice
- Bring in experts to educate teens about OSH and immigration
- Lay groundwork for survey of immigrant and undocumented youth workers

Working with TLAW

- 4 days per week with staff of 16 teens, who educated ~300 peers
- Met with representatives from ~10 community organizations
- Give back of sweatpants to our teens
- Had an incredible summer working with and learning from our peer leaders!



Teens Lead at Work giveback

Recommendations

- Follow through with the survey of immigrant youth workers
- Conduct survey at immigrant community centers:
 - community organizations
 - churches
 - schools
 - ESOL and citizenship courses
 - restaurants and supermarkets



Peer leaders and OHIP intern Sophie at Raise Up Rally

Airport Justice Campaign at SEIU 615

- **SEIU 615**
 - property services union of New England
- **Airport Justice Campaign**
 - organizing subcontracted passenger service workers at Logan Airport in Boston, MA



SEIU Local 615 logo



Airport workers protesting for better wages

Objectives

- Interviewed five airport workers using health and safety surveys developed by SEIU 615
- Compiled our results with the results of SEIU's interviews of 37 airport workers
- Attended bilingual organizing meetings in East Boston and Lynn, MA



Organizing airport workers in Lynn, MA

Survey Results

- **Pay:**
 - Average wage: \$8.29/hour
 - 17% reported difficulty receiving correct pay
- **Health Insurance:**
 - 1 employee has health insurance provided by employer
- **Discrimination:**
 - 40% reported discrimination or harassment at work
- **Breaks:**
 - 33% said their supervisor interrupts their breaks
- **Hours:**
 - 28% have had hours cut frequently or without notice

Survey Results: Occupational Hazards

Lifting and pushing



Exposure to bodily fluids

Working too fast



Repetitive motion

Discrimination &
Harassment



Recommendations

Implementation of health and safety standards:

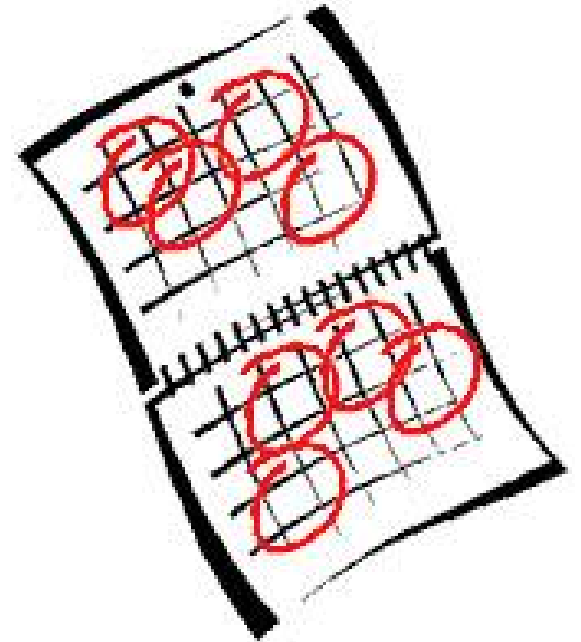
- Improved health and safety **training**
- Increase and maintain **full time work**
- **More staff** on duty each shift
- Safer and more affordable **transportation options**
- **Anti-discrimination** training for supervisors



**AIRPORT
WORKERS
UNITED**

Challenges

- Working around airport workers' schedules
- Arranging meetings with local community organizations
- Fear of speaking to union organizers
- Sharing our time between two organizations



Successes

- Interviews
- Meetings with community organizations
- Strong relationships with TL@W Peer Leaders



DREAMers Santiago, Luis, and Jesus with OHIP intern Sophie



OHIP intern Rae with Americorps fellow Melissa Hector

Personal Reflections



OHIP interns with the TLAW staff, day 2 of programming

Thank You!

- **NIOSH**
- **AOEC**
- **OHIP** - Craig Slatin, Sarah Jacobs, Ingrid Denis, and more
- **MassCOSH** - Marcy Goldstein-Gelb, Mirna Montano, Al Vega, Tolle Graham, and the rest of the staff
- **TLAW** - Nancy Luc, Melissa Hector, Jessica Tavares, Lilibeth Pimentel, the teens of TL@W
- **SEIU 615** - Sarah Bayer, Dan Nicolai, Rose Levy, all of the organizers, and the workers we interviewed
- **Collaborators** - Chelsea Collaborative, Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, Interfaith Worker Justice, Student Immigration Movement, Somerville Parent Information Center, Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center, Youth Jobs Coalition, Luis Yzusqui, Santiago Cardenas, and Jesus Vio