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RoAnn Destito, OGS Commissioner
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Karen Tyler, Executive Deputy Commissioner
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairwoman
Madelon I. Berger

Re: Proposed Preferred Sources Definitions: Laundry Service

Vice-Chairman
Daniel Salmon

Dear Ms. Destito and Ms. Tyler,

Vice-Chairman
Michael Algranati

Jawonio is a not for profit, preferred source provider in a corporate partnership with Unitex, a Health Care Laundry Service. Through this corporate partnership we hold 28 contracts through NYSID and the Preferred Source program. Which provides employment to 20 people with significant disabilities. Unitex has hired these people with disabilities directly into their workforce as part-time workers. They are fully integrated into the Unitex plant in Mt Vernon (with one employee in Newburgh). Jawonio provides one full-time job coach (and relief) at the Unitex plant in Mt. Vernon for which we receive no alternative funding, to support the individuals on two shifts in the completion of their job duties. We are also providing job coaching to the individual at the Newburgh plant.

Secretary
James E. Johansen

Jawonio is strongly advocating that the modified definition by NYSID for laundry services be accepted by OGS and adopted by the procurement council. The modified definition by NYSID reflects "form, function and utility" as a 21st century definition of the laundry industry with their state of the art equipment and line processes. Without the production floor attendant positions, which are a regular and integral position for the operation of the plants, the equipment would not function, be a safety/fire hazard, and the laundry processed would be contaminated once it was processed through the folding, and packaging. The plant would not meet its certification for infection control and equipment maintenance. Health care customers prioritize compliance in this area due to patient safety in the areas of cleanliness and infection control.

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NYSID has requested that the definition be expanded to include the supporting tasks that allow the physical laundry plant to "function with utility". Supporting tasks may include other functions required to insure the hygienic integrity of the processed textiles, such as minimizing potential environmental contaminations,

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disinfecting of the linen transport carts, and decontamination of any surfaces/equipment that may be contaminated. To do these supporting tasks and maintain the equipment in a safe, fire hazard free state, and to decontaminate throughout the day and each load from the washer requires the production floor attendant positions. These production floor attendants have significantly different job tasks from a "regular cleaner". And, they are an integral component of the contracts which are paid on a per piece basis. Paying on a per piece basis does not allow the cost analyses to show that this position is part of the total operation as it is blended in the hours.

We have enclosed the documentation from the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation council (HLAC) that supports that the "Laundry Services cleaner" position is integral to the operations. We have also enclosed several pictures of the Laundry service cleaner in actual job tasks with the equipment that we feel differentiate this position from a "regular" cleaner (who is usually charged with floor care, trash and bathroom tasks).

If the OGS definition of Laundry Services is not modified 18-20 disabled individuals would lose their positions at Unitex. The union at Unitex made a special accommodation to allow the modified work schedules for only these laundry service cleaner positions. Most of the disabled individuals employed cannot sustain 10 hours work days with high production standards that are required by the union contract. Other NYSI corporate partners in the laundry services are not unionized and do not have these same restrictions.

We hope that based upon the above and attached information you will consider the additional language in the definitions.

Sincerely,



Jill A. Warner, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

cc: Ron Romano, CEO NYSID

2.2. Physical Plant and Equipment Maintenance 2.2.1. Maintenance of equipment and spaces in a laundry facility processing healthcare textiles shall follow documented provider's policies and procedures. 2.2.2. Cleaning, Decontamination, and Disinfection 2.2.2.1. The physical environment (e.g., floors, walls, ceilings, vents, working surfaces, and installed equipment) must receive scheduled cleaning appropriate for the surface, the frequency dependent upon the level of contamination, and the operation performed in the area according to facility policy. (ANSI/AAMI ST65:2013; Std. 3.3.3; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010 Std. 3.3.6, 3.4; AHE Practice GL 2nd ed. Sec 1.2) 2.2.2.1.1. The cleaning schedule must be maintained on a current basis and available for inspection. 2.2.2.2. Environmental surfaces (e.g., walls, ceilings, vents, and equipment) must be subjected to periodic and as needed blow down processes from ceiling downward to minimize the build-up of dust and lint. - 7 - 2.2.2.2.1. Blow down must be performed when no other processing of textiles is occurring in that area and must not be performed in pack rooms. (ANSI/AAMI ST65:2013; Std. 3.3.3) 2.2.2.3. Clean textile working surfaces (e.g., counters, benches, tables, etc.) must be kept clean of visible soil, dust, and lint. [OSHA: 29.CFR 1910.1030 (d)(4)(ii); CDC HICPAC GL EIC, 2003: II.E.I.E.2; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010 Std. 3.4; CDC HICPAC GL EIC, 2003:II.E.I.A; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010 Std. 6.2] 2.2.2.4. Working surfaces that become contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) must be decontaminated, cleaned, and disinfected with EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectants labeled tuberculocidal or registered disinfectants on the EPA Lists D and/or E (i.e., products with specific label claims for human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] or hepatitis B virus [HBV]) according to label instructions after completion of soiled textile handling activities; immediately or as soon as feasible when surfaces are visibly contaminated; and at the end of the work shift. [OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.1030 (d)(4)(ii, iiA) memorandum 2/2/97; CDC HICPAC GL EIC, 2003: E.I.A, II.A-D; EPA Lists of Registered Pesticides; CDC HICPAC GL EIC, 2003:II.E.I.A; II. E.1.; II.H.; II. A-D; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010 Std. 6.2]

Pictures of actual employees cleaning and sanitizing the equipment as per the HLAC Standards



Pictures of actual employees cleaning and sanitizing the equipment as per the HLAC Standards



Pictures of actual employees cleaning and sanitizing the equipment as per the HLAC Standards



Pictures of actual employees cleaning and sanitizing the equipment as per the HLAC Standards

Picture demonstrating the need for the cleaning process as an integral part of the laundry business to clean and disinfect for blood borne pathogens, vermin, etc.

