

**Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group
U.S. Public Health Service
Thursday, April 29, 2010
2000 – 2142 EST**

Attendance	Rank	Last Name	First Name	OPDIV
Present	CDR	Cole	Gary	IHS
Excused	LCDR	Taylor	Shawn	NOAA
Present	LT	Amaya	Lisa	IHS
Present	LT	Ruiz	Melinda	DIHS
Present	CDR	Bonfiglio	Susan	NIH
Present	CDR	Wickard	Paul	BOP
Present	LT	Sluss	Rodney	DHS
Present	CDR	Buckser	Jeffrey	DIHS
Excused	LCDR	Fideli	Ulgen	AMEDD
Present	LT	Futch	Mike	DIHS
Present	LCDR	Russell	Karen	FDA
Present	LT	Bowens	Karla	BOP
Present	CDR	Walsh	Christopher	DOD
Present	LCDR	Cooper	William	DIHS
Present	LT	Witter	Lee	BOP
Present	LT	Van Horn	Pieter	DIHS
Guests:	Captain	Majus	George	IHS
	CDR	Carter	George	NIH
	LT	Klimp	Scott	DOD

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 2005. Roll call taken by LT Ruiz.

Approval of Minutes

March minutes Approved.

Chair Report /CDR Cole

It is time for a deep breath as the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act(HR 3590), aka Health Care Reform's dust settles down. This will directly affect PA's in the Commissioned Corps as well as the Agencies we work for. How this unfolds, is anyone's guess as Congress attaches funds to these mandates and this legislation rolls out incrementally over the ensuing years. There is certain to be pushback from the States, Opposition Party, and Judicial Challenges to follow and maybe from the Administration itself as we begin to realistically enact this initiative.

Idealistically, we stand to benefit from the additional PA staffing, reimbursement, and education components. The Commissioned Officers Association and AAPA has done a good job of recapping, and so I will not go into detail here. I do think we need to temper our enthusiasm regarding the positive aspects of this legislation and see what actually comes to us and our role in these expectations. We have all seen grand plans within our community that have never materialized (e.g HAMR) and so we will hope for the best and brace ourselves and soldier on if change does not actually materialize.

Speaking of change to come, but evidently delayed is the Billet Revision rollout that was to occur with Nursing first. Revision is most certain to happen but no word from sources as to when- most likely this summer instead of the advertised May 2010 unveiling. Board Certification Pay equalization is also currently on hold as are all Special and Assignment Incentive Pays now currently offered by our other

Uniformed Service brethren to include the US Coast Guard. Good and well-talented people are working on this and my sense is it will eventually happen. Patience is a virtue. Additionally, the OCCO restructuring Group is meeting regularly now and will announce their plans this fall for how they will be conducting business in Rockville.

Conference time is upon us with the COF Symposium in San Diego and AAPA in Atlanta. These two independent organizations flip-flopped their venues from last year to this year which is somewhat ironic. Both events are great opportunities to meet each other and our fellow Active, Reserve, and Retired Officers. I hope to see you there to personally discuss and here your ideas on moving forward as PA Commissioned Corps Officers. There is always the good company of old friends and new ones to meet along with the important CME offered. Hats off to the Bureau of Prisons for offering some six fully funded trips for their PA's in this age of shrinking CME funding amongst agencies. I am still soliciting for a few more Aide de Camps for RADM Elizondo, PA-C and RADM Michael Milner, PA-C for AAPA in Atlanta. A very fun opportunity which is less intimidating than you might think if you have never been an Aide.

Thanks for all your help this first half of 2010 in shaping our corner of the world as Physician Assistants in the US Public Health Service and in serving our populations here in the US and abroad. Keep up the good work in your Clinics and Offices, keep your integrity, and wear your Uniform proudly. You are the best !

Subcommittee Reports

Awards Subcommittee /CDR Wickard

Nothing new to report.

Communications Subcommittee/ LT Rodney Sluss

http://usphs-hso.org/pags/papag/papag_main.shtml

Working on Captain Taylor Biography. Minutes added to Website. Lisa sent out newsletter

Membership Subcommittee/ CDR Buckser, LT Amaya, LT Futch

The Membership Committee is in the recruitment phase for new voting members. Please spread the word and get more candidates. Discuss the joys and benefits of being on the PAPAG with any PA's in your facilities or any PA's that you interact with. We get more members through personal interaction than through all the advertisements, so please help.

Policy and Procedure Subcommittee/ LT Bowens, LCDR Russell

I will contact Michelle Pelkey regarding information she has learned about the Financial Liaison position. The Committee will attempt to find out whether Ready Reservists may be on the PAPAG. Bylaws will need to be amended to state this if this is approved.

The proposed Membership SOP will be discussed with the PAPAG Chair and the Membership Committee. This will be incorporated into the bylaws.

Ideas for the PAPAG Operations Manual will be discussed with the PAPAG Chair and we will begin writing a draft.

Professional Development Subcommittee/ CDR Christopher Walsh

All officers need to be aware of the HSO initiative to develop a mentor-mentee data base for which to pair appropriate Senior and Junior HSO officers. The HSO website has a link to sign up for such pairing and the demand for senior officers at present far exceeds the supply.

Additionally, there is a new Mentor handbook that is available to help mentors and mentees navigate through such a relationship. There will be an official document placed in ones OPF designating him/her as a mentor. But more than that, senior officers have a moral/professional obligation to assist junior officers transition successfully into USPHS. I know how much I have been assisted over the years by those more experienced in the Corps than I was at the time. Some key individuals have helped me immeasurably in my career, though not in a formal mentor-mentee relationship. What goes around, comes around. We need volunteers to step up and assist these new BOTC graduated, fired up junior officers learn some ins and outs of a career in PHS.

Readiness Subcommittee /LCDR William Cooper

Nothing new to report.

Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee /LCDR Fideli, LT Van Horn

We continue to work on the preceptorship project. Should be ready for the next steps

Welcoming Subcommittee/ LT Lee Witter

Two new officers contacted and welcome packets sent this month. New officer accessions on hold, status awaiting resolution.

Ad Hoc COF Subcommittee/ LT Amaya, LCDR Fideli

All the volunteer positions have been filled for the HSO booth. Conference is scheduled for May 24-27th. Ad Hoc for next year's position will be open-Opportunity to meet and converse with many other HSO officers. Consider applying for the position

Ad Hoc AMSUS Subcommittee /CDR Bonfiglio, CDR Cole

- The SOP for PA CME Category I certification has been approved by AMSUS and will be in the Annual Program from this year forward. It will be the responsibility of the Lead PA for that year to forward the completed CME package to AMSUS who will then forward it on to AAPA with all required fees provided by AMSUS.
- The Joint PA Section is scheduled for Wed, November 3, 2010 Start time 0700 and will fill the morning. We will have 4 speakers, thus 4 Category I CME credits.
- This year's theme is **Federal Medicine: A Global Force for Health**
- Line up of topics for the PA Joint Section:
 - John Balsler on Afghanistan Locals and their Medical Care Challenges
 - CAPT Jonathan Krakoff on Global Diabetes/Obesity Issues
 - Col Cheryl Gregorio on Urgent Care Issues
 - CDR Bruno Himmler on Humanitarian Assistance
- The International speakers for the USPHS Plenary sessions are being voted on next week.
- There is no longer a 'PA only' award at AMSUS. The Awards committee realigned/eliminated some categories of awards. Result = more equity by providing a wider eligibility and making individuals potentially eligible for several different awards over the course of a career. Nominations opened 4/20 and will close June 30th.
- Please visit the AMSUS website for listings of current awards.
<http://www.amsus.org/index.php/awards-descriptions-list>;

- Nominations must include:
 1. Nominator information
 2. Nominee information
 3. Nominee list of Degrees and Professional Associations'
 4. 500-1000 words: explain why individual is deserving of the award – specifically addressing the award criteria
 5. Nominee CV
- Next meeting is May 18th

Liaison Reports

BOP/ LCDR John Gibbons

Anticipate major loss of Mid-level staff, from FMG mandatory retirement. Expected ~ 50% loss, over next 5 years = rough current staff 450 MLP.

Push to create more inclusive database for all MLP staff w/ anticipated date of separation.

Updates:

NEW! NHSC Loan Repayment: known, 10 MLP recipients

Billet reconstruction: advanced clinical billets: psych, ID, Hospitalist fellowships.

NEW! Scholarship: Additional to regular CME, 24 awardees

NEW! MLP CME program: peer driven, one hour AMA, monthly

DIHS / LCDR William Cooper

The BDU uniform has historically been worn at DIHS facilities on Fridays. This practice has been ended and the BDU will only be worn by direction of the Surgeon General or in harsh environments. We are waiting to hear if Local Uniform Authority can determine harsh environments.

DIHS is seeking to expand it's staff. Private contract medical staff will be expected to grow faster than PHS staff.

DOD/ LCDR Ulgen Fideli

Nothing new to report.

FDA/ LCDR Stephen Smith

Nothing new to report.

IHS/ LCDR Todd Baughman

1. CAPT Frances Placide is working actively with HQ on upgrade for CS PA pay and grading.
2. Clinical consultants met in March. The presentation to IHS director included discussion on PA pay issues.
3. CAPT Placide will be presenting at the Advances in Indian Health conference in Albuquerque which takes place April 27-30. Her topic will be Joint Injections and OA of the Knee.
4. LCDR Todd Baughman plans to attend the AAPA conference in Atlanta. CAPT Francis Placide will attend the conference on Tuesday and Wednesday. LT Tim McCreary will be at the IHS PA recruitment booth.
5. Current number of PAs in Indian Health Service, Corps and Civil Service: 25 CC and 62 CS PAs (over 60 tribal PAs).
6. Current number of IHS PA vacancies: 72.
7. Status of PA webpage at his.gov: In the queue, maybe August.
8. Status of PAs on the MORE system: In the queue, maybe August.

JOAG/ LT Pieter Van Horn

Nothing new to report.

NOAA/ CDR Michelle Pelkey

LCDR Hung Tran, PA-C who is assigned to the NOAA Ship OSCAR ELTON SETTE will be TDY to the first Pacific Partnership mission on the USNS Mercy.

PHSAPA/ LCDR Stephen Smith

PHSAPA, we are in preparation for the AAPA conference in Atlanta GA.

Let's Vote It is time to vote in our next Board of Directors. I am pleased to introduce to you the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. President Elect | LCDR Mark Dib |
| 2. Vice President | CDR Michelle Pelkey and LT Pieter Van Horn (one position) |
| 3. Secretary | LCDR Robert Swanson |
| 4. Treasurer | LCDR Philip Lafleur |

Their Bios are now posted on our website!

The first Email will be sent on or about May 21st to deliver the Survey Monkey link and announcement that it is time to vote. A second email will be delivered on or about May 27th to announce the closure of the event. Results will be announced noted at our annual meeting the following week on June 1st and on our www.PHSAPA.com website within a week. It is fast and can be done in two minutes or less depending on your connectivity rate.

AAPA CONFERENCE IN MAY/JUNE Our Annual PHSAPA Meeting will be held Tuesday June 1, 2010 at 3 pm at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Room M304. [RADM Milner and RADM Elizondo will be in attendance](#) and will share some words from the top two PA positions in Public Health Service. Light refreshments will be served. All members who are going to the Conference are encouraged to attend.

Summary and Status of Action Items:

New Business:

- PAPAG Coin drawings or suggestions Deadline of May 31, 2010 by LCDR Cooper. Discuss possible utilization of survey monkey for official vote.
- Retirement plaque for LCDR James Zink.

Meeting was adjourned at 2142 hours EST.

Next teleconference: Thursday, May 20, 2010 @ 2000 hrs EST.

Call-in number: 888-790-1025 and the passcode is 97710

Minutes drafted by LT Ruiz, Secretary
Finalized and checked by CDR Cole, Chair