

**Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group
U.S. Public Health Service
Thursday, March 25, 2010
2000 – 2142 EST**

Attendance	Rank	Last Name	First Name	OPDIV
Present	CDR	Cole	Gary	IHS
Present	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
Present	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:	RADM	Majus Feinberg	George Robert	IHS PHS Inactive Reser

Call to order

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

Approval of Minutes

February minutes approved.

Chair Report /CDR Cole

1. Continued planning for the AMSUS has been an ongoing challenge over the past two months. A committed and resolved effort by RADM Milner, CAPT George Majus, CDR Bonfiglio, LCDR David Lau and myself has resulted in CME for this coming year for the PA Section day. Essentially, PA's were not getting credit for four hours of valuable CME being delivered at this conference which was marginalizing the importance of the profession at this conference. The resolution now includes AMSUS paying for the credits that will be certified by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and the acceptance of a Standard Operating Procedure for future conference planning.
2. Revised wording for a PAPAG website revision featuring Physician Assistants is being worked on with the HSO webmaster.
3. We continue to discuss the billet revisions coming upon us in the next few months and provide guidance to our PA's on how to best navigate their career development as we receive guidance from the HSPAC and others. This has become a very hot topic for PA's as we are principally

Clinicians and are eager to find ways that we can provide value to the Corps in this capacity as well as in Administration and Research areas.

4. We have established a DOD Liaison within the PAPAG to discuss issues relevant to the PA's within and interested in the Army MOU/ TBI program.
5. We have initiated the development of a PAPAG Coin which LCDR Will Cooper has sketched . The drawing is being circulated for comment and review by our members. It will not be available before the COF Symposium but might make our AAPA Conference if we step on it.
6. Consideration of a Financial Liaison position that mirrors what HSPAC is doing is a topic of our discussion at our last PAPAG meeting that was held on March 25, 2010. We await guidance from HSPAC on how best to proceed and feel that above-board accountability with an SOP is paramount. This has come more to the forefront with the development of the PAPAG Coin and future handling of funds related to sales.
7. We continue to push out information with our PAPAG Newsletter via the listserv and thank and want to recognize LT Lisa Amaya for her ongoing and diligent effort with this tasking.

The PAPAG Chair Award Nomination has closed on 3/26/10 and is being reviewed by the Awards Committee for final selection

Subcommittee Reports

Awards Subcommittee /CDR Wickard

Nothing new to report.

Communications Subcommittee/ LT Rodney Sluss

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

Currently working on Captain Taylor's Biography on the PAPAG HSO website under a new tab. I believe IHS at some locations blocks our listserv as spam. Minutes added to Website. Newsletters are sent out in a timely manner.

Membership Subcommittee/ CDR Buckser, LT Amaya, LT Futch

The Membership Committee is still advertising for new members. Will all the members of the PAG please recruit at their institutions? We get most of the applicants from the members recruiting as opposed to PA's responding to the Calls for Nomination. Thanks for your help.

Policy and Procedure Subcommittee/ LT Bowens, LCDR Russell

Nothing new to report.

Professional Development Subcommittee/ CDR Christopher Walsh

Nothing new to report.

Readiness Subcommittee /LCDR William Cooper

Nothing new to report.

Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee /LCDR Fideli, LT Van Horn

We at the Recruitment and Retention are arduously working on completing an Excel Spreadsheet that continues the work of Philip Lafleur. This spreadsheet, when completed will provide a resource of contacts in the PHS profession that are interesting in recruiting future officers, specifically

in the PA profession. We have also contacted Dr. Cleveland in Florida and received some input as to what he would like to see on the spreadsheet.

Cont': Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee/LCDR Shawn Taylor

-Recruitment efforts- I briefed 102 (48 local, 54 video conference) Barry University PA students at the Pinellas Park, FL campus on PHS and opportunities within for PA's. I handed out brochures and PHS logo dental floss/bandaide dispensers sent to me from recruiting. I was going to distribute the request form (attached) for use by others that didn't know about it.

- PA Preceptorship opportunities- Barry and South University PA programs (Tampa Bay area) are interested in PHS sites. Received some info from CAPT Placide at IHS. Anyone else know of any sites?

Welcoming Subcommittee/ LT Lee Witter

Three new officers contacted and welcome packets sent this month. I continue to work with HS PAC Recruitment and Retention committee and OCCO to improve PAPAG notification of new physician assistant Commissioned Corps officers.

Ad Hoc COF Subcommittee/ LT Amaya, LCDR Fideli

We are still in need of volunteers for the HSO booth. If anyone is interested, have them contact me at: lisa.amaya@ihs.gov.

Ad Hoc AMSUS Subcommittee /CDR Bonfiglio, CDR Cole

We have made progress on acquiring Category I CME for the PA Joint Session this year. We have drafted a SOP for gaining accreditation every year with AMSUS through AAPA. AMSUS has agreed to include the SOP in their Annual Program Planning Guide. This has been a sore spot for us with AMSUS and hopefully this is a logistical fix for every future meeting as well. The PA Joint Section will be one half day on Wed in the AM this year. There will be 4 individual speakers, one from each service. Next Monthly planning meeting is 4/20. AMSUS Meeting dates are 10/31 – 11/4. Historically AMSUS has never offered one day registration. This year we are hoping to convince them to offer a one day fee to attract more participants as it is difficult for many in a Primary Care setting to take off the entire week with staffing shortages.

Liaison Reports

BOP/ LCDR John Gibbons

Nothing new to report.

DIHS / LCDR William Cooper

Nothing new to report.

DOD/ LCDR Ulgen Fideli

Nothing new to report.

FDA/ LCDR Stephen Smith

The FDA has slowed down for hiring... most offices received their new numbers for how many they could hire in December and most have been hiring through JAN and Feb... we have just finished our last person last month and for our district 13 more are starting in two weeks. There are a few positions out there but for the north east it is slowing down.

IHS/ LCDR Todd Baughman

IHS Chief PA CAPT Frances Placide and I attended National Council of Chief Clinical Consultants conference earlier this week in Phoenix. IHS Director Yvette Roubideaux advised that along with passage of health care reform, Congress permanently reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. We enjoyed meeting with the PAs/officers at PIMC on Tuesday evening, March 23rd.

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.**

I will be representing CAPT Placide at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, San Diego, May 24-27. I also plan to attend the AAPA conference in Atlanta, May 31-June 4. Current number of PAs in Indian Health Service, Corps and Civil Service: **28 CC and 75 CS**. Status of PA webpage at his.gov: ***In the queue. maybe August.*** Status of PAs on the MORE system: ***In the queue. maybe August.*** Current number of IHS PA vacancies: **72**.

JOAG/ LT Pieter Van Horn

Nothing new to report.

NOAA/ CDR Michelle Pelkey

Nothing new to report.

PHSAPA/ LCDR Stephen Smith

PHS is in the middle of our vote to change the Constitution and Bylaws.

Summary and Status of Action Items:

New Business:

Meeting was adjourned at 2142 hours EST.

Next teleconference: Thursday, April 29, 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