

**Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group
U.S. Public Health Service
Thursday, September 24, 2009
2030 – 2200 EST**

Attendance	Rank	Last Name	First Name	OPDIV
Present	CDR	Bonfiglio	Susan	NIH
Present	LT	Bowens	Karla	BOP
Present	CDR	Hager	Paul	IHS
Present	CDR	Cole	Gary	IHS
Present	LCDR	Branch	Tracy	OS
Present	LT	Amaya	Lisa	IHS
Present	CDR	Buckser	Jeffrey	DIHS
Present	LCDR	Fideli	Ulgen	AMEDD
Present	CDR	Hunter-Buskey	Robin	BOP
Present	LCDR	LaFleur	Phillip	FDA
Present	LCDR	Morris	Katherine	IHS
Present	CDR	Pelkey	Michelle	NOAA
Present	LT	Ruiz	Melinda	DIHS
Excused	LCDR	Russell	Karen	BOP
Present	LCDR	Taylor	Shawn	NOAA
Present	CDR	Wickard	Paul	BOP
Guests:	LCDR	Rivero	Josef	BOP
	LT	Van Horn	Pieter	DIHS
	LT	Sluss	Rodney	DHS
	LT	Witter	Lee	BOP

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 2030. Roll call taken by LT Ruiz.

Approval of Minutes

The July 2009 minutes were approved with some minor corrections and were sent to the HSO, CPO, HS PAC Chair, and HSO Webmaster.

Summary and Status of Action Items

Reviewed and updated

Chair Report /CDR Bonfiglio

- We had a PAG Chair meeting on 9/9/09 with LCDR Bunnell. The main topic of discussion was the new format for Category Day. They have eliminated the breakout sessions for each PAG and will be implementing a host of Round Table (RT) discussions for the afternoon. There will be a total of 24 topics with 10 of those specific to CC issues. The remaining 14 will be PAG

specific. The HS PAC COF Committee is asking each PAG to solicit topics of discussion from the field to be submitted for consideration for the RT discussions. The PAG COF Subcommittees will solicit topics from the field and then choose the three 'best' topics to be forwarded on to LT Shurina heading the 2010 COF HS PAC Committee. From those submitted this Committee will then choose the 14 'best' topics for RT discussion. Each topic will have 1-3 tables each, seating 8 individuals at each table.

The topics are to be presented to LT Shurina in an 'abstract' format consisting of a short concise paragraph summing up the topic. How well the abstract presents will go a long way in its selection.

They are giving the field a short turnaround time on this mandating that they be submitted no later than 9/25. So we must make this a priority.

Time is allotted during the September 24th PAPAG meeting to choose from the topics that LT Amaya and CDR Pelkey have received.

- The second topic of discussion at this meeting involved strategies for increasing Senior Officer participation in PAG/PAC activities and mentorship of junior and senior (05,06) officers. A survey is being drafted to go out to senior officers inquiring as to an approach/s for increased involvement. More to come on that later.
- Please refer to CDR Cole's minutes on the highlights of the HS PAC Meeting August 7, 2009. This report is included along with this report for review.
- VATS (the Commissioned Corps Jobs Vacancy Database) is now officially removed as of July 31st for job postings. All job postings are now available through Direct Access on the CMIS Website in the secure area. Note that there will not be many postings at this time as it is a new system. As agency liaisons and OCCO enter new job postings the list will grow. So keep networking with your current contacts for openings until the system is fully up and running.
- Please visit the CMIS website for current uniform regulations which are now in effect. You will be considered out of uniform if you are not in compliance.

Subcommittee Reports

Awards Subcommittee /CDR Wickard

Just a reminder that there is a list of awards at the bottom of the PAPAG home page and I encourage folks to apply and to let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Communications Subcommittee/ LT Amaya, LCDR Taylor

LCDR Taylor will manage the Newsletter; LT Amaya will manage the List-serve.

Membership Subcommittee /CDR Buckser, CDR Pelkey

Meeting was held to review all applicants; all 6 were recommended by the committee. However, due to matrix not being available for voting members to review (CDR Buckser was at sea and internet communication and phone communication was sketchy at best), a special meeting will be held October

15th to vote on new members. CDR Buckser is to get matrix out to all voting members by October 8th.

Policy and Procedure Subcommittee/ LT Bowens, LCDR Russell

Nothing new to report.

Professional Development Subcommittee/ CDR Hunter-Buskey, LT Ruiz

The PDC committee continues to encourage networking opportunities among PAs. Both programs are voluntary.

- The mentor program is formally conducted through the HSO Professional Advisory Committee. This program is being restructured.
- The Buddy system is conducted through the PA PAG. To date 31 officers have participated in networking among PA CC officers

Free CME Resources are available and information is update regularly.

Reminder: The 2009 COERS will be released soon. Please be sure to review your OPF, visit Direct Access and update your CV. Benchmark and Assimilation Q & A are pending.

Readiness Subcommittee /CDR Hager

The Final week before OFRD fourth quarter, review the Basic Qualified requirements. Each officer should review and update their profile.

Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee /LCDR Phillip LaFleur, LCDR Fideli

We are continuing to pursue the initiatives of inviting all PHS PA's to contact local PA programs for visits and preceptorships. Also, we feel there should be a dedicated web page for PA's who are interested in PHS.

Welcoming Subcommittee/ LCDR Morris

Three new Commissioned Corps PAs:

LT Miguel Pineiro, assigned to PSC (South Carolina)

LT Phil Jaquith, assigned to IHS (Nebraska)

LT Thomas Fuhrman, assigned to PSC (Maryland)

PAPAG Welcome Packet emailed to all and an invitation to our next teleconference on September 24, 2009.

Ad Hoc COF Subcommittee/ LT Amaya, CDR Pelkey

For those of you who may be interested in discussing a topic at the COF conference in San Diego, it will be conducted in a Round Table Discussion in 2010. Therefore, there will not be a breakout session specifically for physician assistants on category day.

Ad Hoc AMSUS Subcommittee /CDR Hunter-Buskey, CDR Pelkey, CDR Bonfiglio

115th Annual Meeting: November 14 – 19, 2009 St. Louis, MO

PHS program is Tuesday November 17, 2009- 0800 to 1300 (optional luncheon)
Hilton Ballpark, Gateway Ballroom 4

PA breakout is Wednesday November 18, 2009-1200 to 1600

Hyatt Regency, Sterling Studio 6

- Corps Chiefs Roundtable
- Challenges /Lessons Learned – Rehabilitation & Reintegration in Today’s Wartime Situation
- The Proponency Office for Rehabilitation and Reintegration
- Networking

- 12:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.
Corps Chiefs Roundtable

Michael R. Milner, DHSc, PA -C PHS
LCDR James D. Cannon USCG
Col John L. Chitwood, USAF, BSC
CDR Patricia A Miller, USN
COL Mike Robertson, PA-C SP USA
Denni J. Woodmansee, PA-C SP VA
Frances P. Placide, MMS, PA-C IHS

- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Challenges /Lessons Learned – Rehabilitation & Reintegration in Today’s Wartime Situation

LTC Lynne M. Lowe, PT, DPT, OCS
COL Mary W. Erickson, SP, USAR
LTC Kevin Galloway, ANC, USA

- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
The Proponency Office for Rehabilitation and Reintegration

LTC Lynne M. Lowe, PT, DPT, OCS
COL Mary W. Erickson, SP, USAR
LTC Kevin Galloway, ANC, USA

- 4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Networking

Please visit: <http://www.amsus.org/convention/attendees/> for the annual conference program, housing and other details. This is a great opportunity to network with officers from all branches of service and obtain CME.

Liaison Reports

BOP/ CDR Wickard

Information now available for repayment of student loans eligibility includes Physician Assistants.

DIHS / CDR Buckser

Currently, working on processing six PAPAG voting member nominations. Working on developing a Matrix in preparation for voting session.

IHS/ LCDR Baughman

-IHS PA of year selected and will be announced first part of October. There were no PHS nominees.

- End of year report completed and will be sent to HQ
- LRP site scoring in process
- LT McCreary is the lead PA recruiter for IHS and can be reached at tim.mccreary@IHS.gov.
- CAPT Placide will be attending AMSUS in Nov 2009.
- New recruitment site requested.
- Discussion for dedicated IHS PA website in process.

JOAG/ LCDR LaFleur

Nothing new to report.

NOAA/ CDR Pelkey

NOAA is almost fully staffed. NOAA's Marine Operations Center - Pacific currently located in Seattle, WA will be moving to Newport, OR in June of 2011.

PHSAPA/ LCDR Stephen Smith

- **National PA Week:** October 6th – 12th, I hope most of you can find a way to promote public awareness of the Physician Assistant profession.
- **The First 100 Days:** Our team is off to a good start. We have officially placed our new officers in their new positions thanks to your input. Over 65% of our members participated in the Survey Monkey, to review and officially vote in our new staff. This is the first time in several years that all positions have been filled and we are ready to roll up our sleeves and make things happen. CAPT Harry Taylor (ret.) was officially voted in as our 2009 Honorary Member. CAPT Taylor has provided years of support to PHSAPA and we are grateful for his past actions. Recruitment efforts paid off by maintaining our numbers through an economically depressed time. We thank each and every one of you for your support. At our staff meeting on August 20th, we identified our first order of business: To review our Bylaws. As times change so does the need for us to revisit our way of doing business that is best for our organization. We will be identifying areas for potential change and then requesting your support as we vote on them. The Board also has a few small projects to complete including the work initiated by LCDR Grove, our Historian. The Board will be at work on November 20th, 2009.
- **Fallen PA Soldier:** As PHS continues to work with our Brother Armed Services, we take note of the ultimate sacrifice made by a PA serving overseas. Captain Cory Justin Jenkins was killed in Afghanistan serving in the U.S. Army as a Physician Assistant on August 25th, 2009. Some of our PHS Officers knew Capt Jenkins and requested to keep his family in our prayers. See the link for additional information. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/azcentral/obituary.aspx?n=cory-justin-jenkins&pid=132255903#>
- **We are always recruiting!** The Public Health Service Academy of Physician Assistants (PHSAPA) invites you to start or renew your membership for our fiscal year of July 1st 2009 – June 30th, 2010. We are only a couple months into our new fiscal year, so it is not too late go to our website www.PHSAPA.com and follow the directions to submit your annual dues of \$45.00. If this is your first time, the cost is only \$25.00 for your first year. If you are a PA in good standing with AAPA as a fellow member, please select **Fellow Membership** and provide your AAPA membership #. If you are a PA who is not a member of AAPA please select **Affiliate Membership**.

FDA/ LCDR Stephen Smith

As of (Feb 2009) there were 14 PA's who were in FDA. I am sure that this number has increased by at least two and possibly more as FDA continued to hire robustly though 2009.

- Expectations for increased positions for FDA will continue through 2010, but the number of positions available will be reduced compared to 2007, 2008 and 2009 for many Districts have filled their quota.

- FDA will continue to look for officers of the 0-2 and 0-3 grade and consider first year 0-4 officers for the Consumer Safety Officer/investigator position. This is due to an introductory CSO needs to attend a years worth of FDA education at an 0-2 and 0-3 Billet position, attaining a level 3 or 4 billet after completing Level I certification (based upon training and experience).
- The Regional Emergency Coordinator positions are filling up and offer a higher Billet if you have the experience. Read the descriptions closely as these new positions are still being defined.

New Business:

Special closed session scheduled for election of new members for 10/15/2009.

Call-in number: 866-619-7571; Pass code number 42742081

Meeting was adjourned at 2215 hours EST.

Next teleconference: Thursday, November 19, 2009 @ 2030 hrs EST.

Call-in number: 866-619-7571; Pass code number 4274208.

Minutes drafted by LT Ruiz, Secretary

Finalized and checked by CDR Bonfiglio, Chair