



Scientist Professional Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, February 3rd, 2009.

1100 – 1300 (Eastern Time)

Toll Free Numbers: USA 1- 866-724-8991

Participant Passcode: 1081160 Leader: CDR Rachel Avchen

Participants

SciPAC Executive Sub-committee 2008/9 Voting Members

Rank	Name	Role	X, if present
RADM	Helena Mishoe	CPO	X
CDR	Rachel Avchen	Chair	X
CDR	Diana Bensyl	Vice Chair/ Rules and Membership	X
LCDR	Boris Aponte	Secretary/ Officer Health Program	X
LCDR	Wei Guo	COF Liaison	excused
CDR	Sara Newman	Ex-Officio	X
CDR	Daphne Moffett	Historian COA Board	X
CDR	Martin Sanders	Awards	X
LCDR	Karon Abe	Career Development	X
LCDR	Maleeka Glover	Category Day/ JOAG	excused
LCDR	Paul Seo	Category Day	X
CDR	Mark Methner	Mentoring	X
CDR	Timothy Nelle	Policy Review	excused
LCDR	Marco Bennett	Readiness and Response	X
CDR	Michael Murry	Recruitment and Retention/ PSYPAG	X
CAPT	David McIntyre	Recruitment and Retention	
LCDR	Yi Zhang	Science	X
LCDR	Sally Hu	Visibility	X
CDR	Danice Eaton	Website	X
LCDR	Mathew Newland	Billet Transformation	X
CDR	D. Ross Spears	Career Development	excused
CAPT	Christine Benally	Policy Review	excused

Non-voting Scientist Participants

Participant	Agency
CAPT Bryan Jones	OSG
CAPT Jon Daugherty	FDA
CAPT David A. Crago	BOP
CDR Lisa Pealer	CDC
CDR Stacey Williams	DOD
CDR James Osterhout	FDA
CDR Donna Schuyler	BOP
CDR Diana Schneider	DHS
CDR John Golden	DOD
LCDR Tegan Boehmer	CDC
LCDR Judy Facey	EPA
LCDR Tajah L. Blackburn	EPA
LCDR Nicole Frazer	DOD
LCDR Michael Smith	FDA
LCDR Lauren Zapata	CDC
LCDR John Stansberry	NIH
LCDR Chekesha Clingman	FDA
LCDR David Thompson	DOD
LCDR Keisher Highsmith	HRSA
LCDR Jacqueline Tate	CDC
LCDR Dianna Densmore	CDC
LCDR Fei Xu	FDA
LCDR Mathew Murphy	CDC
LCDR Jacqueline Sram	FDA
LCDR Henraya McGruder	CDC
LCDR John Stansberry	NIH
LT Robin Toblin	CDC
LT Vanessa Jarquin	CDC
LT Ashleigh May	CDC
LT Heather Silvio	DOD
LT Jennifer Adjemian	CDC
LT Loren Rodgers	FDA
LT James Kenney	FDA
LT Charlene Sydnor	NIH
LT Sara Vagi	CDC
LT Deborah Dee	CDC
LT Kanta Sircar	CDC

1) **Call to Order and Welcome** **CDR Rachel Avchen**
EMAIL LCDR Boris Aponte Boris.Aponte@ahrq.hhs.gov for roll call.

2) **Report from the CPO** **RADM Helena Mishoe**
a) RADM Mishoe stated that many changes are taking place as a new administration settles in.

- i) RADM Galson is serving as acting ASH in addition to acting SG.
- ii) RADM Furman will be serving as Health Attaché from six months to a year, in Iraq.
- b) RADM Mishoe encouraged the submission of nominations for both, the Derek Dunn Memorial Senior Scientist Officer of the Year Award and the Junior Scientist Officer of the Year Award.

3) Report from the PAC Chair CDR Rachel Avchen

- a) CDR Avchen introduced LCDR Thomas Pryor, Associate Recruiter Program (ARP) Coordinator, who provided an update on the reorganization of the current program by the Division of Commissioned Corps Recruitment (DCCR). LCDR Pryor made the following remarks:
 - i) The objective of this re-organization has been to improve its operational goals/objectives and overall effectiveness as a national program.
 - ii) Effective April/May 2009, any officer wishing to participate in the ARP will need to reapply.
 - iii) Participation in the revised program will be limited to a defined number of positions per professional category as outlined in a personal operations memorandum (POM) which will be forthcoming from DCCR.
 - iv) There will be 20 ARP positions available per Category, organized per HHS regions, with 2 lead positions overall.
 - v) The PACs, thru their recruiting and retention sub-committees, will be responsible for appointing officers as Associate Recruiters and for developing specific requirements for making appointments. The ARP category lead (CAPT Nelson Adekoya, nba7@cdc.gov) will be the official contact with the SciPAC recruitment and retention subcommittee (CAPT McIntyre & CDR Murry).
 - vi) Previous requirements of the ARP will still be in effect and guidance will be given to the PACs on how to facilitate the selection of officers to the program. Those members who have participated in the ARP since the policy was initiated in April 2006 will receive recognition commensurate with their level and years of participation. Those ARP participant's who have met eligibility criteria for the recruitment service ribbon (RSR), as outlined in the current ARP Policy, will be processed by OCCO/DCCR.
 - vii) LCDR Pryor cited that these changes will make the ARP more manageable and with more measurable outcomes. This new version of the ARP will not be category specific but will have a focus across all categories.
 - viii) LCDR Pryor concluded by stating that information as to how to apply will be made available to each PAC through DCCR in the next two months, and asked ant further question to be addressed to him at thomas.pryor@hhs.gov; 240-453-6057, or to CAPT Adekoya.

Q&A:

LCDR Bennett asked if category benchmarks will be altered as a result of these changes to which LCDR Pryor responded that this is an issue probably being discussed by CPOs and that revisions to the benchmark may follow.

CAPT Bryan Jones asked if the ARP will have any kind of coordination with the HHS regional offices and expressed his concern that the Scientist Category, different from other categories, has a density of officers in Atlanta and the National Capital Region, where much of its recruitment takes place, and asked if that would be taken into consideration by the ARP. LCDR Pryor responded that the program will count with the activities taking place in the regions, working with the regional health agencies. He added that the ARP may be able to have some flexibility in the appointment of officers to the HHS regions, as guided by the needs.

- b) Chair Updates:
 - i) HHS Transition
 - (1) Acting HHS Secretary, Charlie Johnson (former Assistant Secretary)

- (2) Acting Assistant Secretary for Health (OPHS), and Acting Surgeon General, RADM Galson.
- ii) Officer Basic Course (OBC). A call has been sent to scientist officers in the DC area requesting the representation of SciPAC at this year's monthly OBC closing ceremonies.
- iii) Flag Officer promotions announced, 55 Flag now (cap of 62).
 - From O-7 to O-8:
 - RADM Deborah Parham-Hopson, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA
 - RADM Thomas McGinnis, DoD
 - RADM Sam Shekar, OS
 - From O-6 to O-7
 - CAPT Theresa Cullen, IHS
 - CAPT Scott Deitchman, CDC
 - CAPT Peter Delany, SAMHSA
 - CAPT Stephen Redd, CDC
 - CAPT Ann Knebel, ASPR/OS
 - CAPT Isabel Garcia, NIH
- iv) New Pay BAH is out starting January 09. Some officers may have errors in payroll, but per the Manager of Compensation Branch, this problem should be corrected in next month's pay.
- v) Readiness/Presidential Inauguration 2009
- vi) Less than 10% of PHS officers are listed as not qualified for readiness. More details to be provided by LCDR Bennett.
- vii) Inauguration Deployment. Over 266 PHS officers deployed in various roles. More than 750 patients were seen and 697 treated (mostly cold related, 2 cardiac arrests; 64 patients transferred for alternate care).

4) Sub-committee reports.

a) Awards

CDR Avchen

- i) Call for applicants sent out for the Derek Dunn Memorial Senior Scientist Officer of the Year Award and the Junior Scientist Officer of the Year Award. Deadline: Monday, March 16, 2009. Applications can be submitted to CDR Sanders, eyo0@cdc.gov

b) Career Development

LCDR Karon Abe

- i) The Formation of a new group Officer Basic Training Course (OBC), integrated by DC-based scientist officers who are willing to attend the graduation ceremony to greet & welcome graduating scientist officers.
- ii) Career Development sessions (30 mins. each) are being implemented to take place after the SciPAC calls. The first session in March will be on the subject of OFRD Deployment Teams.

c) Category Day

LCDR Paul Seo

- i) The agenda for Category Day is almost completed. The sub-committee is currently working to finalize the speaker titles.
- ii) Reminder for Late Breaker speaker opportunities. For those officers that were not selected or have changed their mind for the opportunity to present, a Late Breaker Presentation section has been announced.
 - (1) If selected, officers would be expected to deliver a 15-minute Late Breaker presentation, delivered on the opening day of the conference.
 - (2) Abstracts should be submitted to the symposium organizers by 5:00 PM, ET, February 25, 2009.
 - (3) Officers can refer to the email that was sent out to the SCIPAC listserv for further details.

d) Mentoring

CDR Mark Methner

- i) The Mentoring sub-committee is looking for senior officers to serve as mentors, and junior officers who wish to receive guidance from a mentor. Those interested in the program can contact CDR Methner (mm5@CDC.GOV).

e) Policy Review

LCDR Tim Nelle

No new information to report.

f) Readiness and Response

LCDR Marco Bennett

- i) As of Feb 2, 2009 we have a total of 267 officers in our Category. Nineteen officers were listed as exempt of readiness requirements, 23 officers were listed as not qualified (13 CAPTs, 5 CDRs, 5 LCDRs), and 225 officers were listed as qualified, which represents a 91% of the category (not including the 19 exempt officers).
- ii) The sub-committee is encouraging all officers who are listed as not qualified to check their profiles and act accordingly to improve their status. Lcdr Bennett (marco.bennett@fda.hhs.gov) encouraged officers to contact him if they have any question.

g) Recruitment and Retention

CDR Michael Murry

- i) CDR Michael Murry made reference to the ARP changes described by Lcdr Pryor on his presentation and concurred that the recruitment and retention subcommittee needs to emphasize the disproportionate numbers of scientist officers per HHS regions.

h) Rules and Membership

CDR Bensyl

- i) The sub-committee is discussing the question of how are inactive officers handled regarding whether they can be voting members or subcommittee participants only.
- ii) Four new CAD:
 - (1) LTCDR William Satterfield
 - (2) LT Theodore Garnett
 - (3) LT Arlin Hatch
 - (4) LT Charlene Sydnor

i) Science

LCDR Yi Zhang

No report.

j) Visibility

LCDR Sally Hu

- i) The NBC4 event during the second weekend of January was very successful. This event allowed SciPAC to reach out to the public and raise awareness of the critical role of science in public health and the mission of USPHS in general. SciPAC was the only uniform exhibitor at this two-day event.
- ii) Lcdr Sally Hu thanked the 25 volunteers who participated in the booth.
- iii) Based on the result of the After Action Review completed by 80% volunteers, the SciPAC boots received over 400 visitors while handing out over 500 brochures and flyers.
- iv) The visibility sub-committee received an overwhelming positive feedback on this event including a complimentary email from the OSG.
- v) The subcommittee is in the process of writing an article about SciPAC's participation on this event, to be published at the COA Frontline newsletter possibly in March. In addition, the subcommittee is preparing a SciPAC poster for the COF annual meeting in June. LT Deborah L Dee is heading this task. A request for action pictures will be sent out through out listserve in the near future.

k) Website

CDR Danice Eaton

- i) OCCFM has inherited the PAC Web sites migration project. Unfortunately, OCCFM has not been able to push the migration forward due to a lack of available qualified technical resources. OCCFM needs assistance to bring the PAC sites into production and would like to solicit help from a highly qualified individual with the following skills:
 - (1) IIS setup and administration experience;
 - (2) NET programming experience;
 - (3) DotNetNuke installation and administration experience.
- ii) Officers with these skills and interested in volunteering, please contact CDR Danice Eaton (DEaton@cdc.gov).

5) Liaison Reports

a) Billet Transformation Review

No report.

LCDR Mathew Newland

b) COF Liaison

No report.

LCDR Wei Guo

c) COA

No report.

CDR Daphne Moffett

d) JOAG

No report.

LCDR Maleeka Glover

e) PSYPAG

- i) The subcommittee is working with the PSYPAG to support the DOD initiative. A written plan for such support has been submitted for approval.
- ii) The sub-committee is waiting for approval to get started.

CDR Michael Murry

e) Civilian Service

No report.

Dr. Monique Mansoura

6) Closing Remarks

CDR Avchen concluded by reminding the participants of the next meeting to take place:

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009; 1100-1300 EST

Call in number is: 1-866-724-8991. Passcode for participants is: 1081160.

CDR Rachel Avchen