



Scientist Professional Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes
Tuesday, July 7th, 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	excused
LCDR	Wei Guo	COF Liaison	X
CDR	Sara Newman	Ex-Officio	X
CDR	Daphne Moffett	Historian COA Board	
CDR	Martin Sanders	Awards	X
LCDR	Karon Abe	Career Development	X
LCDR	Maleeka Glover	Category Day/ JOAG	X
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	X
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	X
CAPT	Christine Benally	Policy Review	X
Dr.	Monique Mansoura	Civil Service Liaison	excused

Non-voting Scientist Participants

Participant	Agency
CAPT David McIntyre	IHS
CAPT Richard Troiano	NIH
CAPT Nelson Adekoya	CDC
CAPT Kate Brett	CDC
CAPT Mehran S. Massoudi	CDC
CAPT Kevin McGuinness	HRSA
CAPT Bryan Jones	OSG
CDR Danisha Robbins	CDC
CDR William Albrecht	EPA
CDR John Golden	DOD
CDR Steven Sparenborg	NIH
LCDR Tegan Boehmer	CDC
LCDR Judy Facey	EPA
LCDR Anne Dobmeyer	DOD
LCR Mark Clayton	EPA
LCDR Jennifer Dolan	CDC
LCDR Jacqueline Sram	FDA
LCDR David Skanchy	FDA
LCDR John Stansberry	NIH
LCDR Henraya McGruder	CDC
LCDR Fei Xu	FDA
LCDR Matthew Murphy	CDC
LCDR Lauren Zapata	CDC
LCDR Mathew Murphy	CDC
LT Heather Silvio	DOD
LT James Kenney	FDA
LT Jeremy Wally	FDA
LT Deborah Dee	CDC
LT Loren Rodgers	FDA
LT Sara Lowther	CDC
LT Charlene Sydnor	NIH
LT Theodore Garnett	FDA

- 1) **Call to Order and Welcome** CDR Rachel Avchen
 EMAIL: boris.aponte@ahrq.hhs.gov for roll call
 Please state name before talking. Please put phones on mute.

- 2) **Report from the CPO** RADM Helena Mishoe
 - a) CAPT Sharon Williams-Fleetwood has been named the next CPO of the Scientist category.
 - b) There will be no SG/CPO combined meeting for a while due to COF and scheduling issues.
 - c) There has been no feedback on appointment standards yet.
 - d) OSG should consider letter of appreciation to agency heads and supervisors of CPOs.
 - e) There will be six new CPOs and there will be a CPO Board Retreat sometime in Sept/Oct. Please let CAPT Williams-Fleetwood know if you have things you want to have discussed.
 - f) May get request for info to discuss with new ASH.
 - g) The Assimilation Board will meet this summer.

- h) Regarding how are policies generated for the Corps, RADM Canton assigned CDR Elvira Hall-Robinson from OCCFM to work with our category. Would like to involve her on SciPAC calls.
- i) Assignment Incentive Pay. There will be a pilot to determine whether certain billets should qualify for incentive pay. Med, Den, Nurse received most billets.
- j) Special Pay question: requests for all categories to put forth requests for special pay. We did put forth a request. It must go through DOD. Requests go to board and DOD moves requests forward. Psychologists were put forward from our category and no one else because it was suggested we should not deviate from how DOD compensates.
- k) Long discussion on special pay and loan repayment.

3) Report from the Chair CDR Rachel Avchen

- a) CDR Avchen thanked CDR Bensyl for covering her duties as Chair during her recent leave.
- b) CDR Avchen also thanked all of the Scientist officers involved with the Category Day organization.
- c) The motion to buy more coins approved.
- d) Coins and t-shirts to be given to invited speakers as thank you.
- e) There will be a Meet and Greet activity with the new CPO on August 13, 11:30 AM at CDC Atlanta.
- f) At the SG run/walk event during the COF meeting the scientist category female team came in 1st; the men's team came in 2nd.

4) Report from Vice Chair CDR Diana Bensyl

- i) No update.

5) Subcommittee reports

- a) Awards CAPT Martin Sanders
 - i) No update.

- b) Career Development CDR Karon Abe

- i) CDR Abe made the following announcement:

There will be another career development session on September 1 from 12-1. The topic will be on retirement in the USPHS. The guest speaker will be Mr. Tom Berry, the PHS retirement coordinator. He will discuss eligibility for retirement, the different retirement plans, and how to maximize your retirement. There will be time for questions at the end of the session.

- c) Category Day CDR Maleeka Glover, Co-Chair LCDR Paul Seo

- i) No update.

- d) Mentoring CDR Mark Methner

- i) No update.

- e) Policy Review CDR Tim Nelle

- i) No update.

- f) Readiness and Response LCDR Marco Bennett

- i) As of July 01, 2009 our category has a total of 281 scientist officers on board.

Thirty-three (33) officers are listed as "exempt," 16 officers (O-6: 10 officers; O-5: 2 officers; O-4: 4 officers) listed as "not qualified" leaving a total of 232 "basic qualified."

- ii) Not including exempt officers our category is 93.55% basic qualified!!

- g) Recruitment and Retention CAPT Michael Murry, Co-Chair CAPT David McIntyre

- i) The newly re-designed Associate Recruiter Program is undergoing review before presentation to the OSG. The review process will delay implementation. There is no projected date for implementation.
- ii) The R&R Subcommittee has been receiving inquiries from persons considering PHS careers. Since mid-May we have had inquiries from 2 psychologists, a microbiologist, a toxicologist, and a biochemist. When the prospective applicants have questions that are discipline specific, we have been referring them to Scientist officers in that scientific discipline. So far all of the officers we have contacted have been very responsive and helpful regarding these inquiries. We appreciate your support and want to encourage you to help if called upon.

h) Rules and Membership CDR Diana Bensyl

- i) Initial decisions have been made for new PAC members. Once the SG approves, announcements will be made.

ii) New CADs:

LT LAURA BETTENCOURT	CDC
LT NEIL BONZAGNI	FDA
LT JAMES COLBORN	CDC
LT AIMEE GEISLER	CDC
LT WADE IVY	CDC
LT WILLIAM JEFFRIES	CDC
LT ERIN KOERS	CDC
LT ANDREA MCCOLLUM	CDC
LT LARA MISEGADES	CDC
CAPT MARY NEWMAN	OS
LT BOBBY RASULNIA	CDC
LCDR ALFREDO SANCHO	DOD TMA
LT ERIN SAUBER-SCHATZ	CDC
LCDR SCOTT STEFFEN	FDA
LT ESRA TOUSSAINT	FDA
LT ELLEN YARD	CDC

i) Science LCDR LCDR Yi Zhang

- i) Subcommittee members are working on the paper on PHS Scientist Officers for Public Health Report.

j) Visibility LCDR Sally Hu

- i) We presented our SciPAC poster at the COF annual meeting in June and have received lots positive feedbacks on our poster.
- ii) We sold seven SciPAC T-shirts at the meeting and thanks for these seven officers for your contributions to SciPAC.
- iii) We appreciated six SciPAC members who promoted SciPAC and USPHS by representing SciPAC poster, distributed SciPAC/USPHS related materials, and answered the questions from the visitors at the NIH food fair on May 20th. The event was very successful because of the hard work of our volunteers.

k) Website CDR Danice Eaton

- i) No update.

6) Liaison Reports

- a) Billet Transformation Review LCDR Matthew Newland

- b) COF Liaison LCDR Wei Guo
 - i) The current balance is \$2,799.83.

- c) COA CDR Daphne Moffet
 - i) No update.

- d) JOAG LCDR Maleeka Glover
 - i) No update.

- e) PSYPAG CAPT Michael Murry
 - i) There was a PsyPAG conference call on May 13. The re-organization of Tier 2 Mental Health Teams was discussed.
 - ii) The selection of the Psychologist of the Year was discussed and was announced at the COF Symposium. It was HSO officer LCDR Michael Tilus. As one of the national leaders on psychologist prescription authority LCDR Tilus was extraordinarily well qualified for the honor.

- 7) Civilian Service Dr. Monique Mansoura
 - i) No update.

8) Other Business

- a) Newsletter Subcommittee is desired by CAPT Christine Bennally. Some of the other USPHS PACs publish 2-3 times annually, and is distributed electronically through their website, opdivs distribution lists, and the Directory. Anyone interested in participating in this new, cross-cutting effort, please contact CAPT Bennally: **Christine.Benally@hhs.gov**

- 9) Closing Remarks CDR Rachel Avchen

NOTE Next meeting: August 4th, 2009; 1100-13