



Scientist Professional Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

1100 – 1300 (Eastern Time)

Toll Free Numbers: USA 1-877-691-9937

Participant Passcode: 4549026

Participants

SciPAC Executive Sub-committee 2009/10 Voting Members

Rank	Name	Role	X, if present
CAPT	Sharon Williams-Fleetwood	CPO	X
CDR	Diana Bensyl	Chair	X
LCDR	Matthew Newland	Vice Chair/ Rules and Membership	X
CDR	Timothy Nelle	Secretary	X
LCDR	Sally Hu	Awards/COF Liaison	X
CDR	Rachel Avchen	Ex-Officio	X
CAPT	Martin Sanders	Awards Co-Chair	
CDR	Karon Abe	Career Development	X
LCDR	Tegan Boehmer	Category Day	X
CDR	Daphne Moffett	Historian	
CDR	Boris Aponte	Mentoring	X
LCDR	Wei Guo	Policy Review	X
CAPT	Michael Murry	Recruitment, Retention & Readiness/PSYPAG Liaison	X
LCDR	Paul Seo	Recruitment, Retention and Readiness Co-Chair	X
LCDR	Yi Zhang	Science	X
CAPT	Christine Benally	Visibility	X
LCDR	James Kenney	Visibility Co-Chair	X
CDR	Danice Eaton	Website	X
LCDR	Judy Facey	Billets and Direct Access Liaison	X
CDR	Sara Newman	COA Liaison	X
LCDR	Maleeka Glover		
Dr.	Monique Mansoura	Civilian Service Liaison	

Non-voting Members

Non-voting Scientist Participants

Participant	Agency
CAPT Jon Daugherty	FDA
CAPT Omar Hottenstein	DOD
CAPT Michael McLaughlin	FDA
CAPT Adekoya Nelson	CDC
CAPT Doug Thoroughman	CDC
CAPT Richard Troiano	NIH
CDR Amy Park	DOD
CDR John Golden	DOD
CDR David Laird	FDA
CDR Nisha Robbins	CDC
LCDR Marco Bennett	FDA
LCDR Renee Calanan	CDC
LCDR Mark Clayton	EPA
LCDR Chekeshia S. Clingman	FDA
LCDR Minglei, Cui	FDA
LCDR Shane Davis	CDC
LCDR Dianna Densmore	CDC
LCDR Anne Dobmeyer	DOD
LCDR Dominic Frasca	HHS
LCDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	HHS
LCDR Ryan Novak	CDC
LCDR Sharon Saydah	CDC
LCDR Michael Smith	FDA
LCDR Robin Toblin	CDC
LCDR Fei Xu	FDA
LT Jennifer Adjemian	BOP
LT Vanessa Jarquin	CDC
LT Andrea McCollum	CDC
LT Esra Toussaint	FDA

1) **Call to Order and Welcome**, CDR Diana Bensyl
 EMAIL: timothy.nelle@fda.hhs.gov for roll call

2) **Report from the CPO**, CAPT Williams-Fleetwood

- Commissioned Corps strength of 6,576 reported out at the 9/24/09 combined meeting.
- As of September 30, the unofficial readiness status from OFRD for the Scientist Category was 88.85% (as of 3/31 and 6/30 was 94.01% and 90.75%, respectively); need to continue to work to remain as high as possible (OFRD's goal is 90%).
- Dr. Koh (ASH) will be sworn in November 20.
- A meeting will be scheduled in the near future with Dr. Koh and the CPO Board. What are topics of interest that I need to consider submitting for our category that conveys our public health areas of interest.
- In response to requests coming to the Department, RADM Williams asked the CPOs to identify officers in remote areas to provide general communication on H1N1; please let me know if interested and I'll pass the names along to OSG.

- The phased roll out of the new billet system should start in November. Scientist billets will roll out in January 2010 and the multidisciplinary billets will roll out in March.

3) **Guest Speaker, CAPT Jerry Farrell, Executive Director COA/COF**

- Transferability of Post-911 G.I. Bill: Bill introduced in the US House of Representatives to include PHS and NOAA in transferability provisions. Companion bill is being prepared in the US Senate. COA is working to get HHS Secretary Sebelius on board, as some representatives are hesitant to support this measure without her support.
- Moving Dr. Benjamin's nomination as Surgeon General to the full Senate for confirmation.
- Other Issues:
 - Supreme Court to Hear Corps Officers' Appeal: The issue in the case is whether or not PHS Commissioned Corps officers are protected under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) from civil suits for actions performed in the line of duty, as provided for in Title 42 of the U.S. Code. The original case is "Castaneda versus the United States, et. al." and arises from death of a person (Castaneda) shortly after being released from a Department of Homeland Security detention facility, where he is alleged to have received inadequate health care leading to his death. The Castaneda estate seeks to hold liable the officers, who held varying levels of supervisory authority in DHS Immigration Health Services at the time. Because of the broad and serious potential impact on the Corps if the FTCA protections are overturned, the Commissioned Officers Association filed an "amicus curiae" or "friend of the court" brief supporting the Supreme Court review. Oral arguments have not yet been scheduled, but are expected early next year.
 - Call for abstracts: 2010 COA Symposium: The Road Ahead.
 - COF will be selling their third book, *Caring & Curing: A History of the Indian Health Service*. Receive a 15% discount if ordered by November 1, 2009.
 - New COA Strategic 5 year Plan available on COA website.
 - COA is receiving calls for PHS officers to serve on governing boards of other military associations.
 - Policy making PHS officer's eligible for DoD awards.
- Ways of becoming involved in COA
 - Join COA, recruit others to join;
 - be active in the association and in your local COA branch;
 - submit content for COA's Frontline newsletter;
 - attend COA's national conference;
 - write to your representative and senator on legislative issues effecting commissioned officers.

4) **Report from the Chair, CDR Diana Bensyl**

- COER available 10/7
- due to rater 10/21
- due to reviewing official 11/4
- due to OCCO 11/18
- Officer Statement due to OPF by 12/31. Be safe and send it by 12/15. Check OPF to be sure it's there.
- ROS--agency -specific deadlines. Do not fax to OPF. Must go through agency CC liaison.

5) **Report from Vice Chair, LCDR Matthew Newland**

- Nothing new to report.

6) **Subcommittee reports**

a) **Awards**, CDR Sally Hu, Co-chair: CAPT Martin Sanders

- We have fifteen committee members who are eight senior officers and seven junior officers. Thanks for these officers for your commitment to SciPAC Awards Subcommittee.
- We released the announcement of call for Scientist Responder of the Year 2009 with deadlines and criteria.
- The purpose of this award is to recognize a scientist's impact on emergency preparedness, disaster response, and contributions to local, national or international public health threats, during the previous fiscal year. In this case, from October 1st, 2008 to September 30th, 2009.
- We encourage officers to take time, prepare nomination, and submit the nomination package to us by the last day of this month.

b) **Career Development**, CDR Karon Abe

- To those in the 2010 promotion cycle, this year the ROS is not attached to the COERS
- CV reviews ended Oct 1. I received over 30 CVs this year. I just want to thank all the officers who agreed to review CVs.
- CAPT Byron Bailey, Billet Transformation Officer with the DHHS Office of Public Health and Science will be presenting on Billet Transformation after the SciPAC call this afternoon. An email was sent out by CDR Ross Spears on Monday, Oct 5 with his presentation.

c) **Category Day**, LCDR Tegan Boehmer, Co-Chair: LCDR Matt Murphy

- Overwhelming response to our call for subcommittee members. Thank you to everyone who volunteered!
- The Category Day subcommittee membership includes:
 - 10 junior officers: LCDR Mark Clayton (EPA), LCDR Deborah Dee (CDC), LCDR Rashida Dorsey (HHS), LCDR Ryan Novak (CDC), LCDR Paul Seo (FDA), LT Jennifer Adjemian (BOP), LT Tracie Gardner (CDC), LT Danielle Iuliano (CDC), LT Kanta Sircar (CDC), and LT Charlene Sydnor (NIH)
 - 2 senior officer advisors: CAPT Mehran Massoudi and CDR Diana Bensyl
- I attended the first COF call with all of the Category Day chairs
 - Theme of this year's conference is "Public Health 2010: The Road Ahead"
 - Very short deadline for finalizing our agenda. Draft due Nov 6; Final due Dec. 1.
- Subcommittee will be having a conference call later this week
- Call for Scientist Category Day abstracts will be sent out very shortly with a deadline the last week of Oct. [Don't get this confused with the overall conference "Scientific Program" call for abstracts which will be due Nov 13.]
- If anyone on the call has an idea for a keynote speaker or category day theme, please send an email to LCDR Tegan Boehmer (tboehmer@cdc.gov)

d) **Mentoring**, CDR Boris Aponte; Co-Chair: Mark Methner

- The Mentoring Sub-committee received three requests for the assignment of mentors this last month and those have been made.

e) **Policy Review**, LCDR Wei Guo, Co-Chair: LCDR Ryan Novak

- Policy review subcommittee is formed with 23 members and a few back-ups. We are currently reviewing the Substance Abuse and Dependency policy.
- Policy review subcommittee is also ready to participate in the billet transformation task.

f) **Recruitment, Retention, and Readiness**, CAPT Michael Murry, Co-Chair LCDR Paul Seo

- No new developments to report for recruitment and retention. We are still waiting on OCCO to hear developments and future direction of recruiting program(s).
- For the beginning of Sept 2009, our category had a total of 286 scientist officers on board
34 Officers are listed as exempt
21 Officers listed as “not qualified” as follows:
O6=7, O5=1, O4=8, O3=5
Not including exempt officers our category is 91.7% qualified
- For the beginning of Oct 2009, our category had a total of 288 scientist officers on board
37 Officers are listed as exempt
21 Officers listed as “not qualified” as follows:
O6=8, O5=1, O4=7, O3=5
Not including exempt officers our category is 91.6% qualified

g) Rules and Membership, LCDR Matthew Newland

- The Rules and Membership subcommittee is presently reviewing the SciPAC Charter and SOP to make sure that they compliment each other. The current SOP still retains some language that had been changed in 2008 and the Charter was last revised in 2005. The subcommittee members will meet again later this month to share and recommend revisions to both documents.

h) Science, LCDR Yi Zhang

- Call was made for subcommittee members
- Currently working on a PHS report article

i) Visibility, CAPT Christine Benally, Co-Chair LCDR James Kenney

- Currently have 15 members
- First issue of the SciPAC newsletter will be issued this month.
- Important note: The newsletter will include a link to a list of officers and their contact information. If any officer has a concern with their information being posted on the newsletter website, please contact CAPT Benally.

j) Website, CDR Danice Eaton

- Nothing new to report

7) Liaison Reports

a) Billet Transformation Review, LCDR Judy Facey

- CAPT Byron Bailey, from the Office of Public Health and Science, will also be a guest speaker and will be presenting on “Billet Transformation” during the career development session from 12-1 pm after the SciPAC call.

b) COF Liaison, LCDR Sally Hu

- Our current balance as of September 31, 2009 is \$2179.17. We have an inventory of 280 coins and 68 T-shirts.

c) COA, CDR Sara Newman

- Plans to coordinate with the Visibility Subcommittee to identify articles that could be published the COA newsletter.

d) JOAG, LCDR Robin Toblin

- The JOAG operational year began on October 1.

- The call for volunteers was announced and junior Scientist officers were invited to join a committee.
- LCDR Toblin will be contributing to the SciPAC newsletter each month about relevant happenings in JOAG.
- One of Robin's personal goals is to increase the number of junior officers that are active in JOAG, so don't be surprised if you hear from her encouraging you to get involved!
- If you want to learn more about JOAG or how to get involved, please feel free to contact her at rtoblin@bop.gov.

e) **PSYPAG**, CAPT Michael Murry

- The Army is working to develop a post doctoral residency program for PHS psychologists. The first PHS candidate has been identified.
- The DOD-HHS Behavioral Health/Traumatic Brain Injury Initiative Force Strength Report on 26 August 2009 showed there were 67 PHS officers in DOD assignments. There are still many vacancies to be filled.
- Plans are being made to have DOD mental health presentations at COA next year which will qualify for continuing education credits.
- The first attempt to make a list of all PHS psychologists has been completed.
- A welcome letter for new PHS psychologists has been developed and will be sent to all new accessions to active duty.

8) Other:

a) OCCO Representative: CDR Elvira Hall-Robinson:

OCCFM Policies Recently Signed by The Secretary

- 29 September - CCD, "Uniform Regulations."

Recently Submitted.

- Dated 24 September – Proposed CCI, “General Appointment Standards.”
- Dated 30 September – Proposed CCI, “Category Specific Appointment Standards”
- Dated 30 September – Proposed PPM, “Revision to Limited Tours of Active Duty”
- Re-dated 30 September (from 30 April) - Proposed CCI, "Substance Abuse *Services*."

Awaiting Review and Signature from Office of the Secretary (OS).

- Re-dated 20 August (originally dated 30 March) Proposed CCD, "Health Professions Special Pays." *The proposed CCD was resubmitted to OS on 17 September.*
- Re-dated 11 September (from 7 July and 18 June) - Proposed CCD, "Force Management."
- Re-dated 8 June – Proposed CCD, “Deployment Readiness

Blanket Memorandums of Agreement (BMAs) - Details

Recently signed BMA

- Signed by ASH and WRAMC BMA - Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
- Signed by ASH and AFHSC BMA – U.S. Army - Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center

9) **Closing Remarks**, CDR Diana Bensyl

NOTE: Next meeting: November 3, 2009; 1100-1300