



Scientist Professional Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 3rd, 2010
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
CDR	Matthew Newland	Vice Chair/ Rules and Membership	X
CDR	Timothy Nelle	Secretary	excused
CDR	Sally Hu	Awards/COF Liaison	X
CDR	Rachel Avchen	Ex-Officio	excused
CAPT	Martin Sanders	Awards Co-Chair	excused
CDR	Karon Abe	Career Development	X
LCDR	Tegan Boehmer	Category Day	X
CAPT	Daphne Moffett	Historian	excused
CDR	Boris Aponte	Mentoring	excused
CDR	Wei Guo	Policy Review	X
CAPT	Michael Murry	Recruitment, Retention & Readiness/PSYPAG Liaison	X
LCDR	Paul Seo	Recruitment, Retention and Readiness Co-Chair	X
CDR	Yi Zhang	Science	excused
CAPT	Christine Benally	Visibility	X
LCDR	James Kenney	Visibility Co-Chair	excused
CDR	Danice Eaton	Website	excused
LCDR	Judy Facey	Billets and Direct Access Liaison	X
CDR	Sara Newman	COA Liaison	excused
CDR	Maleeka Glover		excused
Dr.	Monique Mansoura	Civilian Service Liaison	Not present

Non-voting Members

Non-voting Scientist Participants

Participant	Agency
CAPT Nelson Adekoya	CDC
CAPT M. Thomas Hendricks	FDA
CAPT Richard Troiano	NIH
CDR Carma Ayala	CDC
CDR Dan-My Chu	FDA
CDR M. Victoria Ingram	DoD
CDR Mark Methner	CDC
CDR Ryan Novak	CDC
CDR Diana Schneider	OS
LCDR Jennifer Adjemian	NIH
LCDR Robert Belde	BoP
LCDR Chekeshia S. Clingman	FDA
LCDR Bryan Davidson	DoD
LCDR Shane Davis	CDC
LCDR Anne C. Dobmeyer	DoD
LCDR Nicole Frazer	DoD
LCDR Jeffrey L. Goodie	DoD
LCDR Keisher Highsmith	HRSA
LCDR Andrea McCollum	CDC
LCDR Anne Purfield	FDA
LCDR Sue L. Sloop	CDC
LCDR Michael Smith	FDA
LCDR Pilgrim Spikes	CDC
LCDR John Stansberry	NIH
LCDR Scott Steffen	FDA
LCDR Robin Toblin	DoD
LCDR Jeremy L. Wally	FDA
LCDR Lauren B. Zapata	CDC
LT Sharyn Parks Brown	CDC
LT Jessica Cole	FDA
LT Todd Myers	DoD
LT Ruiqing Pamboukian	FDA
LT Cria Gregory Perrine	CDC
LT Matthew Steele	FDA
LT Charlene Sydnor	NIH

1) **Call to Order and Welcome**, CDR Diana Bensyl

EMAIL: mnewland@hrsa.gov for roll call

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

- Congratulations again to all the Scientists that received their 2010 temporary grade promotions. Many agencies have been holding their promotion ceremonies over the past few weeks. I had the pleasure of attending the promotion ceremonies at CDC for the Atlanta area and at NIH in Bethesda. These events are a great time for family and friends to share in the career accomplishments of our officers.

- As many of you know RADM Robert C. Williams, Chief of Staff, OSG retired last Friday. The retirement ceremony was really nice and a true celebration of his exceptional career and the partnerships and friendships that were forged during that time.
- The schedule for rolling out the category-specific billets under the new Billet Collection System has been delayed due to additional changes needed to increase user friendliness and reliability of the standard billet template. The new timeline indicates that Scientist-specific billets are scheduled for October 2010 and Multidisciplinary billets are scheduled for December 2010.
- The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has established the United States Public Health Sciences Track through an amendment to the Public Health Service Act. Activities have been initiated to explore how this amendment will be implemented through the formation a workgroup headed by the Acting Deputy Surgeon General, RADM Rutstein. This Public Health Sciences Track will be established at academic centers selected by the Secretary which will grant appropriate advanced degrees that uniquely emphasize team-based service, public health, epidemiology, and emergency preparedness and response. More to come as progress is made on this training opportunity which will provide educational support for up to 850 students annually (including 100 public health students and 100 behavioral and mental health professional students).
- The “pause” for call-to-active-duty officers continues. Currently, orders have been issued for approximately 300 of the 457 priority CADs (457), as defined on a previous SciPAC call.
- The Officer’s Basic Course will be provided on-line. This is to allow the officers that were not able to attend the OBC an option to get the training. Information on the start date will be forthcoming.
- DOD now allows all PHS officers eligibility to be awarded military awards, retroactive to 1990. The eligibility guidelines were recently signed. Contact CDR Michael Lackey at TRICARE Management Activity with any questions at 703-681-6481 or via email Michael.lackey@tma.osd.mil

3) Report from the Chair, CDR Diana Bensyl

- This is my last call as SciPAC Chair. Thank you for your support over the last year plus. I will continue to help our PAC by volunteering for subcommittees and other activities. I hope all of you will also consider how you can help the PAC as a volunteer.
- Chair Report: I will be sending a request for subcommittee reports and members for the annual PAC Chair report. Please respond in a timely manner so we can get letters to OPFs before the next promotion cycle.
- If you are interested in reviewing or contributing to a document called, Best Kept Secret, that will be used for PHS recruitment, please let me know. dbensyl@cdc.gov
- We hope to announce the new PAC members soon. We are awaiting Surgeon General approval. Elections will be held soon for the new SciPAC Executive as soon as we can announce new members.
- We are looking into Loan Repayment policies and trying to ensure that Scientists and other PHS officers can participate in these programs. We will let you know as we find out more details.

4) Report from Vice Chair, CDR Matthew Newland

- I wish to thank CDR Bensyl for her leadership and vision during her administration. It was an honor and a pleasure to serve and I look forward to her continued participation as Ex-Officio.
- Please stand by for the call for elections for Executive Board Members

5) **Subcommittee reports**

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

- Considering to propose to the voting members in 2010-2011 that the Awards Co-Chairs be Senior Scientist Officers.

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

- The 2011 Benchmarks are available. If you are up for promotion in 2011, please start getting your CVs ready. We will start accepting them after the September SciPAC call.

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

- Excellent work to everyone involved in Category Day, 2010! It was a smashing success in all respects: planning, the presentations, discussions, awards, evaluations and SciPAC dinner afterwards. Thank you for all of your hard work!
- Photos from Category Day have been posted on the SciPAC website. The group photo with Surgeon General Benjamin will be posted in the next few weeks.
- COA website has posted the presentations from the conference at: <http://www.phscofevents.org/agenda/2010presentations.cfm>. Only two of the Category Day presentations are available at this website, so we will post Category Day presentations on the website in addition to providing a link to the COA website.

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

- Nothing to report

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

- We have reviewed three documents in July, they are "Involuntary Separation", "Promotion", and "Force Management". There are some questions raised related to the new law that changes all reserve active status to active status.

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

- For the beginning of August 2010, our category had a total of 306 scientist officers on board
 - 40 Officers are listed as exempt
- 22 Officers listed as "not qualified" as follows:
 - O6=13, O5=6, O4=3
- Not including exempt officers our category is 91.7% qualified.
- RR&R has several volunteers ready to assist OCCO in answering Scientist specific questions posted to the PHS Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/USPHS>
- PHSChat site, <http://www.phschat.com/forums/content.php?1-PHSChat-Front-Page>. This site is for PHS officers and includes a Forum with a number of discussion threads. There are also links to related sites, "Chat Wiki" and "Chat Facebook."
- We've seen no announcement on the implementation of the new Associate Recruiter Program (ARP). We expect RR&R will see a flurry of activity when the implementation plans are announced.

g) **Rules and Membership**, CDR Matthew Newland

- Please stand by for the call for elections for Executive Board Members

h) **Science**, CDR Yi Zhang

- The Science subcommittee is working on an article for *Public Health Reports* documenting the role of Scientist Officers during their jobs in their OP/DIVs and during deployments.

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

- CAPT Benally extended an appreciation to the Visibility Subcommittee and others who contributed to the newsletter for the spotlight, awards and deployment sections. She will be forwarding a unit award nomination packet to CDR Bensyl for consideration. LCDR Kenney was not on the call but she thanked him for coordinating all the Scientist and Corps Visibility events including the Maryland Public Television drive, NBC4 health fair, OCCO/OCCFM Asian Pacific Heritage seminar, volunteer judges for Maryland Science fairs, AMSUS conference, and bowling for network and practice.

j) **Website**, CDR Danice Eaton

- Thank you to everyone who sent updates/corrections for the SciPAC website. Last month we posted new photos from the COA meeting, which can be viewed at http://usphs-scientist.org/symposium/sandiego2010/2010_symposium_category_day.htm. We continue to work on creating a new template for the SciPAC site using Wordpress.

6) **Liaison Reports**

a) **Billet Transformation Review**, LCDR Judy Facey

- An email was sent to the SciPAC Listserve on July 21st, that provided additional information on the Billet Collection System (BCS) Launch Update.
- For more information on Billets Transformation, please view the tutorials at http://dcp.psc.gov/Billets_Tutorial.aspx and the FAQs at <http://usphs.gov/transformation/billet.aspx>

b) **COF Liaison**, CDR Sally Hu

- Our current balance as of July 30, 2010 is \$2561.42. We have an inventory of 135 coins and 55 T-shirts. We processed three orders in July.

c) **COA**, CDR Sara Newman

- Nothing to report.

d) **JOAG**, LCDR Robin Toblin

- JOAG is the Junior Officer Advisory Group and is for O-1 to O-4 officers. For more information visit <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/joag/index.htm> or contact the Scientist Liaison, LCDR Robin Toblin, robin.l.toblin@us.army.mil.
- -There will be a general membership meeting on Friday, August 13 at 1300 Eastern. Call-in information will be provided via the JOAG listserv.
- -The new JOAG fiscal year will begin on October 1. The new Executive Committee is: Chair: LCDR Carlos Bell (HSO); Chair-Elect: LT Damon Smith (HSO); Vice Chair: LCDR Yvette Waples (Pharmacist); Secretary: LCDR Jamie Mutter (EHO); Financial Liaison: LCDR Robin Toblin (Scientist)

e) **PSYPAG**, CAPT Michael Murry

- PsyPAG had a meeting June 2nd. The focus of that meeting was to report on proposed changes to our bylaws, reflect on a few of our activities at COF, and to continue with our speaker series. LCDR Matt Breiding was our speaker in June and reported on his work in the Division of Violence Prevention at CDC. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 5th and will feature LCDR Frazer to discuss her role with the DOD.
- In July LCDR Nicole Frazer was elected the Chair-elect position and will become Chair in January.

7) Closing Remarks

- CDR Newland to lead the call next month as the incoming PAC Chair.

NOTE: Next meeting: Tuesday, September 7th, 2010; 1100-1300