



Scientist Professional Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, February 2, 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
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	X
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	excused
CAPT	Christine Benally	Visibility	X
LCDR	James Kenney	Visibility Co-Chair	
CDR	Danice Eaton	Website	X
LCDR	Judy Facey	Billets and Direct Access Liaison	X
CDR	Sara Newman	COA Liaison	X
CDR	Maleeka Glover		X
Dr.	Monique Mansoura	Civilian Service Liaison	

Non-voting Members

Non-voting Scientist Participants

Participant	Agency
CAPT Jon Daugherty	FDA
CAPT Gregory Murrey	IHS
CDR Laura Draski	FDA
CDR Raymond Droby	IHS
CDR David Laird	FDA
CDR Mark Methner	CDC
CDR Amy Park	DOD
CDR Nisha Robbins	CDC
CDR Ross Spears	CDC
LCDR Robert Belde	BOP
LCDR Marco Bennett	FDA
LCDR Renee Calanan	CDC
LCDR Mark Clayton	EPA
LCDR Chekesha S. Clingman	FDA
LCDR Bryan Davidson	DOD
LCDR Shane Davis	CDC
LCDR Deborah Dee	CDC
LCDR Dianna Densmore	CDC
LCDR Keisher Highsmith	HRSA
LCDR Victoria Ingram	DOD
LCDR Ryan Novak	CDC
LCDR Ingrid Pauli	DOD
LCDR Rick Schobitz	DOD
LCDR Andrea Sharma	CDC
LCDR Jackie Sram	FDA
LCDR John Stansberry	NIH
LCDR Scott Steffen	FDA
LCDR Robin Toblin	BOP
LCDR Fei Xu	FDA
LT Jennifer Adjemian	BOP
LT Danielle Barradas	CDC
LT James Colborn	CDC
LT Theodore Garnett	FDA
LT Aimee Geissler	CDC
LT Jeffery Goodie	USUHS
LT Vanessa Jarquin	CDC
LT Jaun Lacayo	FDA
LT Sara Lowther	CDC
LT Ashleigh May	CDC
LT Andrea McCollum	CDC
LT Heather Silvio	DOD
LT Charlene Sydnor	NIH
LT Matthew Steele	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**

- Thanks to all officers that have supported ongoing efforts in Haiti (ASH activated the Corps 1/13); much tragedy has occurred and is still ongoing; however, there are many hearts that have and continue to come to the rescue; some of our Scientist have been deployed to augment support to Haiti; please keep the people of Haiti and all those assisting them in your prayers.
- Surgeon General's swearing-in (1/11) was a very special occasion; former Surgeon General's Carmona and Satcher were in attendance; VADM Benjamin released her vision for a Healthy and Fit Nation last week (1/28).
- ASH survey in progress to determine management/operational efficiencies within the Corps; due May 1 to OMB; oversight committee includes Corps leadership.
- Basic Readiness - congratulations to our category! We were in the top five among the categories (@ 95.95%).
- Med ready training in Appalachia this spring (TN, WV, and KY); letter from RADM Rutstein forthcoming.
- 2010 USPHS AMSUS Planning committee is soliciting members for this year's conference, 10/31-11/5, Phoenix, AZ; 1) we need to identify a nominee from our category by 2/9 to LT Renee Pleasanton in ASPR (note: committee members are encouraged to attend the conference) and 2) each category needs to submit nominations for their respective AMSUS USPHS section leads to LT Pleasanton [AMSUS sections: Dental, Nurse, Physician, Pharmacy, MSC/HSO, Physician Assistant, Social Workers, Optometry].
- The CPO Board met with OCCO to get more information on recruitment; ARP (Associate Recruiter Program) is still undergoing development; we should expect an operational plan in about 2 months; CAMs (career and assignment manager) process applications, prepare applicant for professional board and advise and consult applicant and officers; currently there are 2 CAM teams (LT Powell, Scientist category CAM); I'm planning to meet with CAPT Prince, Director DCCA) to continue to build rapport; the e-CAD (electronic call to active duty) system is coming on-line soon; 2 CPOs (Pharmacy and Engineer) are involved in piloting the system; the remaining CPOs stand ready to provide input and categorical support.
- COF Symposium, San Diego, CA - the CPOs approved their categories having a room on Monday, 7:30-9:30, to use for career counseling or other categorical specific needs; CDR Abe will provide more details in her report.
- Anchor and Caduceus Dinner sponsored by Atlanta COA (1/23) - was great and a fun time was had by all in attendance; encourage officers to participate in these events when possible.

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

- a) All-Hands meeting for CDC PHS officers.
 - i) CDC unaware of problems with Direct Access. Agency liaison was able to help with few problems identified. If you have problems, check with your PHS agency liaison for help.
 - ii) Changes to benchmarks are being considered. SciPAC will let you know the changes when they are approved and ready for distribution.
 - iii) Transferability with the GI Bill.
- b) AMSUS meeting needs category representative for planning committee. AMSUS is open to all officers. We have identified a representative.

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

- See Membership and Rules Committee report

5) **Subcommittee reports**

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

- Calls for nominations for Junior and Senior 2010 Scientist of the Year Award were announced last month. Please consider submitting a nomination if you know outstanding scientist officers (including yourself) who deserve these awards. The application deadline is March 15th.

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

- Career Development Session on Awards after the SciPAC call in April. CDR Ross Spears will be presenting on Awards. Currently, you can view his PowerPoint presentation on our Scientist webpage—but if you have questions—please tune-in in April.
- We have been given the opportunity to have a career counseling event at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in San Diego on the first day, Monday, May 24, from 7:30 – 9:30 am. A survey will be going out to assess attendance and interest before coordinating the event. Please be on the look-out for this survey from the Scientist list-serv. We need your feedback.

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

- Regarding last months discussion on APA CEU credit at the USPHS Symposium, CAPT Arnold Farley indicated that the planning committee is applying for 6 APA CEU hours for all of Track 5 Mental Health during the main conference and possibly another panel presentation which could add another hour or two. Approval will not be known for a few more months. APA CEU will not be available for Category Day.
- Save the Date: 2010 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium; May 24-27, 2010, San Diego, CA
 - Hotel reservations can be made now at the conference website (<http://www.phscofevents.org/>) under the “Locations” tab. Note: you will be responsible for a one night deposit (\$147), which is refundable if reservation is cancelled within 72 hours.
 - Registration will be available in early 2010, but officers must postpone registration until the HHS memo is approved.

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

- Two additional officers have volunteered to serve as Mentors.

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

- No new policies were reviewed last month.

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

- The subcommittee has been examining options for specific retention activities. They surveyed the websites and meeting minutes of the other PACs to see what specific retention activities they conduct. Based on that review, the subcommittee is considering surveying the Scientist category to identify obstacles to retention that might be specific to our category. They are also exploring the possibility of doing exit interviews with Scientists who have resigned to learn about the key retention issues they identify.
- As of the beginning of February 2010, our category had a total of 300 officers on board
 - 35 Officers are listed as exempt
 - 12 Officers listed as “not qualified” as follows: O6=5, O5=4, O4=2, O3=1
 - Not including exempt officers our, category is 95.5% qualified!

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

- Currently reviewing revised SOPs for the processing of Awards.

h) **Science**, LCDR Yi Zhang

- The subcommittee is drafting an article for Public Health Reports on PHS Scientists Officer roles and contributions.

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

- The second Scientist Officer Newsletter was released in January 2010.
- Scientist officers were will represented at the Corps booth during the 4NBC Health Expo in DC January 16 and 17, 2010. The photos are posted on the DCCOA website.
- We had the SciPAC bowling event January 28, 2010 and another one to be scheduled during a weekend in March.
- LCDR James Kenney was nominated as the SciPAC representative for the AMSUS planning committee.
- The next issue will be released in June after the COA/COF conference. We are always looking for news and photos.
- The SciPAC poster abstract for the COA/COF conference was drafted and to be submitted.
- DCCOA will be calling for Science Fair Judges at 11 local high schools in Maryland, Virginia, and the DC area.

j) **Website**, CDR Danice Eaton

- Nothing new to report

6) **Liaison Reports**

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

- Nothing new to report

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

- Our current balance as of February 2, 2010 is \$2384.28. We have an inventory of 164 coins and 61 T-shirts. We processed two orders by FedEx in January.

c) **COA**, CDR Sara Newman

- GI Bill Transferability was discussed. In the updated GI Bill, PHS officers were not give the transferability option that other uniformed service members received. The CPO is your point of contact for voicing any concerns about this, not the SG or ASH. If you want to write your political representative, do so on your own time. Use you own computer and not a government owned computer that you use for work. COA is another avenue to voice your opinion.

d) **JOAG**, LCDR Robin Toblin

- JOAG's next meeting is Friday, February 12.

e) **PSYPAG**, CAPT Michael Murry

- The PsyPAG will have our first meeting of the new year tomorrow, Feb. 3. The PsyPAG leadership is proposing to update the website and add a couple of committees in the near future.

7) **Other**

a) Special Report from Haiti (Leslie McDonald, Daphne Moffett, and others)

b) OCCO Representative: CDR Elvira Hall-Robinson:

- Policies under development – See <http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/>

- With ASH:
 - Commissioned Corps Instructions:
 - Award of Military Decorations
 - Professional Licensure and Certification
 - Category Specific Appointment Standards
 - General Appointment Standards
 - Substance Abuse
 - Uniforms and Appearance
 - Uniforms for Female Officers
 - Uniforms for Male Officers
 - Commissioned Corps Directives:
 - Allotments
 - Health Professions Special Pays.
 - With Office of the Secretary:
 - Commissioned Corps Directives:
 - Force Management: Distributions of the Regular Corps based on 4000 officers
 - Deployment Readiness
 - Promotions
- With OCCFM:
 - Commissioned Corps Instructions:
 - Special Uniform Situations.

8) Closing Remarks, CDR Diana Bensyl

NOTE: Next meeting: March 2, 2010; 1100-1300