



Scientist Professional Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 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	excused
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	X
CAPT	Christine Benally	Visibility	X
LCDR	James Kenney	Visibility Co-Chair	X
CDR	Danice Eaton	Website	excused
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
RADM Helena Mishoe	NIH
CAPT Nelson Adeyoka	CDC
CAPT Kate Brett	CDC
CAPT Jon Daugherty	FDA
CAPT John Golden	DOD
CAPT G. Bryan Jones	OS
CAPT C. Dexter (Bo) Kimsey	CDC
CAPT Mehran Massoudi	CDC
CAPT Kevin M. McGuinness	HRSA
CAPT Michael A. McLaughlin	FDA
CAPT Mark Seaton	FDA
CAPT Richard Troiano	NIH
CDR Laura Draski	FDA
CDR Mark Methner	CDC
CDR Amy Park	DOD
CDR Diana Schneider	OS
CDR Steven Sparenborg	NIH
CDR Ross Spears	CDC
CDR Joseph J. Temenak	FDA
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 Adrienne J. Goodrich-Doctor	OS
LCDR David Hess	DOD
LCDR Keisher Highsmith	HRSA
LCDR Matthew Murry	CDC
LCDR Ingrid Pauli	DOD
LCDR Margaret Riggs	CDC
LCDR Rick Schobitz	DOD
LCDR David Skanchy	FDA
LCDR Michael Smith	FDA
LCDR Jackie Sram	FDA
LCDR John Stansberry	NIH
LCDR Scott Steffen	FDA
LCDR Emily Streeter	DOD
LCDR Robin Toblin	BOP
LCDR Jon Eric Tongren	CDC
LCDR Sara Vagi	CDC
LCDR Fei Xu	FDA
LCDR Fuyen Yip	CDC
LT Jennifer Adjemian	BOP
LT Danielle Barradas	CDC

LT Jennifer Bodart	DOD
LT Renee Calanan	CDC
LT James Colborn	CDC
LT Jessica Cole	FDA
LT Theodore Garnett	FDA
LT Aimee Geissler	CDC
LT Vanessa Jarquin	CDC
LT Jaun Lacayo	FDA
LT Sara Lowther	CDC
LT Ashleigh L. May	CDC
LT Andrea McCollum	CDC
LT Rashid Njai	CDC
LT Cria Perrine	CDC
LT Loren Rodgers	FDA
LT Erin K. Sauber-Schatz	CDC
LT Donna Schuyler	BOP
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

- Reminder that the Public Health Reports editor position is currently posted; information regarding this job announcement which remains open for 3 more weeks was shared via our list serv
- The Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives is an annual opportunity for federal health care executives to examine current issues in health care policy and management and explore potential impact on the Federal health care systems. We are looking for candidates (CO 05/06) for 4 slots. The cost is \$1,900 plus lodging costs. If you are interested and your supervisor supports you going, please contact me by Wednesday (3/3). Unfortunately, there is a tight turnaround for me to submit a name to LCDR Davis
- OFRD deployments to Haiti are ending. Thanks to all the officers that supported this effort including the Scientists that provided on-the-ground support. As of last week, all officers deployed by OFRD to Haiti have returned home. The general strategy for support efforts in Haiti is now transitioning to non-governmental organizations.
- The next basic readiness run is scheduled for the end of March and is important for effecting promotion board results. The Medical Affairs Branch (MAB) has primary responsibility for immunizations. By June 2010, Direct Access and CCMIS will reflect MAB information which MAB will enter. At that point, officers will continue to submit their immunization information to MAB but will no longer have to or be able to enter their immunization information into the system.
- The Billet system is now scheduled for the first category-specific roll outs in March with Nurses and Therapists; Scientist category specific billets are currently scheduled for May with the multidisciplinary billets scheduled for July.
- Promotion boards have started; over 2,500 officers are up for promotion across all categories

- OFRD Field training is scheduled for this spring and it will serve as domestic model of medical readiness focusing on underserved populations; March 14-21 (Maryville, TN) and June 13-20 (Pikeville, KY); please see the email that went out via the OFRD listserv for more details
- An officer asked about Assimilation. We are still waiting for the directive increasing the strength in force of the Regular Corps to 4,000 to be signed at either the ASH or Secretary level.

3) Report from the Chair, CDR Diana Bensyl

- Sent email update about tuition forgiveness for PHS Officers
- Sent out 2nd reminder for awards for Jr. and Sr. Scientists of the Year Report
- Roommate Match for USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in San Diego. If you need a roommate to help defray costs (or you are willing to share your paid room), please use the following link to share your information, Roommate Sharing Link:
<http://www.evite.com/app/publicUrl/XPQBMLJZBOLUACXMQGRD/Roommatematching>
- LCDR Newland will lead the next SciPAC call on April 6, 2010.

4) Report from Vice Chair, LCDR Matthew Newland

- Please send notes to LCDR Newland for inclusion in the minutes for today's meeting
- See Rules and Membership Committee report

5) Subcommittee reports

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

- We sent out the second reminder for the nominations for Jr. and Sr. 2010 Scientist of the Year Award. Again, the deadline for submitting is March 15th. Please consider submitting a nomination if you know any outstanding scientist officers or yourself deserving the recognition of these awards.
- We have formed two reviewing committees: one for Jr. awards and another for Sr. awards.
- We plan to complete the selection process in the middle of April.
- Our current balance as of March 2, 2010 is \$2384.28. We have an inventory of 164 coins and 61 T-shirts. LCDR Sally Hu asked officers who plan to attend the meeting to email her the orders so that she can bring the items to them at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium at San Diego in May.

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

- There will be Career Development Session on Awards after the SciPAC call in April. CDR Ross Spears will be presenting on Awards.
- Yesterday, a survey went out on the Scientist listserv titled—Scientist COF Career Counseling Breakfast Survey. This survey will help us determine attendance and interest in the career counseling session, so please fill it out. Please go to the link and fill out the survey even if you are not planning on attending the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in San Diego

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

- Everything is on schedule. The draft agenda will be finalized will be sent out to SciPAC listserv next week.

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

- Received one request for a mentor last month. All officers are strongly encouraged to have a mentor or to serve as a mentor. Please see the Scientist website for information about mentoring.

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

- Nothing to report.

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

- As of the beginning of March 2010, our category had a total of 300 officers on board
 - 36 Officers are listed as exempt
 - 12 Officers listed as “not qualified” as follows: O6=5, O5=4, O4=2 O3=0!
 - Congratulations all O3s!
 - Not including exempt officers our, category is 95.5% qualified!
- With regards to retention, we are proceeding with our plan to do some exit interviews with officers who have separated to identify issues that are obstacles to retention. We just got the information we need to proceed and we expect to start making contact with those officers soon.
- The other issue we are working on is to identify any student loan repayment or forgiveness programs that Scientist officers might be able to benefit from. We have recently sent a message to the listserv asking for information from anyone who has benefited from such a program.

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

- The revised SOP with the new language regarding the Awards sub-committee has been approved by a majority vote from the voting SciPAC members. It will be forwarded and submitted for final approval this month.
- Three new CAD
 - LT Xiaowu Lu
 - LT Ruiqing Pamboukian
 - LT Michael Franks

h) **Science**, LCDR Yi Zhang

- Nothing to report

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

a. NBC-4 Visibility Event

SciPAC coordinated in collaboration with the DC-COA a USPHS booth at the 17th annual NBC-4 Health and Fitness Expo held in Washington DC on January 16th & 17th 2010. The NBC-4 event is the largest free health event in the country and this year the USPHS set a new standard with it organizational effort and the number of volunteer Officers involved. Sixty-five Public Health Service Officers volunteers were very successful in educating the general public on the mission of the U.S. Public Health Service and its many career opportunities. Over 85,000 people attend this event annually to take part in free health screenings and receive information on products and services related to healthy living. Once again the USPHS booth attracted lots of attention since we were the only uniform exhibitor at the event. Volunteers represented eight categories (the scientist category had 15 volunteers), 11 HHS agencies, the Office of the Surgeon General, Office of Commission Corps Operations (OCCO), and two DoD MOAs; and answered questions regarding the USPHS mission, professional categories, deployments, recruitment requirements, student opportunities, work assignments, pay and benefits, and differences between uniformed and military services. In addition, this year we were honored to have RADM Williams participate in this event. Photos are on the DCCOA website:

<http://albums.phanfare.com/6999475/4537411>

b. AMSUS (Association of Military Surgeons – United States)

LCDR James L. Kenney is the SciPAC representative for the 2010 AMSUS Conference Planning Committee and he is in charge of getting to junior officer volunteers to present at AMSUS 116th Annual Meeting in Phoenix Arizona on 31 Oct through 5 Nov 2010. There are five presentation slots open; two for Jr. Officers, two for Sr. Officers, and one international slot. Interested officers contact LCDR Kenney at James.Kenney@FDA.hhs.gov

c. Science Fair Judges

LCDR James L. Kenney is also on the 2010 DC-COA Science Fair Planning Committee. A call for science fair judge volunteers was posted on the DC-COA list-serve for High School and Jr. High School judges in the DC, Virginia, and Maryland area. There are 11 science fairs scheduled in March, and Officer who is interested in volunteering for this event please contact LCDR Kenney for a list of science fairs and registration information. James.Kenney@FDA.hhs.gov

d. Poster Presentation at USPHS Symposium

LT Erin Koers and LCDR Deborah Dee submitted a Poster Presentation Abstract entitled “Scientist Officers Helping the USPHS Ensure a Healthy Nation and World” and had it approved by the CDC in a timely manner. If you have a photo depicting scientists in action – on domestic or international deployments, doing “typical” day-to-day work, etc. – please send them by April 10 to LCDR Deborah Dee at ddee@cdc.gov

e. Newsletter

Items in the newsletter will include the CPO, spotlights, PsyPAG, JOAG, awards, corners, list of meetings, historian, deployments and others that maybe suggested. It will also include activities from the COF symposium. The third issue will be release at the end of June 2010. If anyone has suggestions, comments, or news to share, email them to Christine.Benally@hhs.gov

j) **Website**, CDR Danice Eaton

- Nothing 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 March 2, 2010 is \$2384.28. We have an inventory of 164 coins and 61 T-shirts. Planning to bring some inventory to USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in San Diego. Please let LCDR Hu know if you are interested.

c) **COA**, CDR Sara Newman

- Nothing to report.

d) **JOAG**, LCDR Robin Toblin

- JOAG’s next meeting is Friday, March 12. Next Journeyman Speaker, Michael Milner will discuss “Billet Creep.”

e) **PSYPAG**, CAPT Michael Murry

- PsyPAG met February 3, 2010. It was announced that the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in May would have 6 hours of approved continuing education for psychologists

available. This is a significant accomplishment, as there is a long history of the COF Symposium not being able to offer approved CEU's for psychologists.

- For the new year PsyPAG will retain two committees, Membership and Recruitment and Retention, and add three new committees, Professional Development, Advocacy, and Policies and Procedures.
- The program included two guest speakers who described their experiences moving into career positions that did not involve traditional clinical services. CAPT Formanski and CAPT Jones both served as Regional Emergency Coordinator positions with HHS.

7) Other

- CAPT Daugherty mentioned "Shades of Green," a feature at Disney World that provides discounted tickets for PHS officers for attractions.

8) **Closing Remarks**

- LCDR Newland to lead the call next month.
- We would also like to welcome the following new Scientist officers to the USPHS:
 - LT Xiaowu Lu
 - LT Ruiqing Pamboukian
 - LT Michael Franks

NOTE: Next meeting: Tuesday, April 6, 2010; 1100-1300