



U.S. Public Health Service Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee (EHOPAC)



Meeting #228 Minutes, 10MAR20

I. Call to Order – CDR Elena Vaouli, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 1300 ET.

II. Roll Call – LCDR Corey Butler for CDR Jessica Havranek, Secretary/Treasurer

Roll call was performed; a quorum was confirmed.

Voting Member Attendance Status: Present, Absent, Excused

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Status	Name of Alternate in Attendance
Bales	David	CDR	Excused	Alternate unavailable
Bird	Bill	CDR	Excused	CDR Robert Gibbs
Bowser	Travis	CDR	Present	N/A
Darr	Charles	LCDR	Present	N/A
Deptola	Matthew	CDR	Present	N/A
Dittrich	Michelle	LCDR	Present	N/A
Erling	Doug	LT	Excused	LCDR Sarah Maynard
Frank	Samuel	LT	Present	N/A
Havranek	Jessica	CDR	Excused	CDR Leslie Jackanicz
Hunter	Candis	LCDR	Present	N/A
Kupper	Drew	CDR	Present	N/A
McLanahan	Eva	CDR	Present	CAPT Peter Kowalski
Merritt	Steven	LCDR	Present	N/A
Otto	Jessica	CDR	Present	N/A
Quinn	Mike	CDR	Excused	CDR John Blonk
Smith	Martin	CDR	Present	N/A
Valenti	Elizabeth	CDR	Present	N/A
Vaouli	Elena	CDR	Present	N/A
Williams	Racquel	CDR	Excused	LT Aubree Kelly

Voting Guests and Attendees Present

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Organization Represented
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

III. Chief Professional Officer Report – RADM Kelly Taylor

Pleased with attendance given the number of officers deployed. Over 500 PHS officers deployed as of 22 FEB 2020. EHOs are large part of the response.

USPHS Updates:

- At townhall, ASH recently shared vision for 21st century for PHS: always be ready, change the map, meet critical agency needs, and be innovation engines. Slides have been distributed and RADM Taylor strongly advises EHOs to familiarize themselves with information coming from OSG and OASH
- COF: Co-sponsorship agreement with COF has been signed. Please note, if presenting or performing (at ensemble) at COF, officers do need to be agency or COF sponsored
- SG has visited over 19 sites and met with Officers across the US. He noted there are concerns about promotions. If EHOs have concerns or questions about promotion that haven't been answered through the FAQs on website, please reach out to CDR Vaouli (vaouli.elena@epa.gov)
- Officers must still wear ODUs, with limited exceptions. For example, only officers participating in a ceremony (retirement or promotion) can request to wear SDB
- CPOs have evolving role. CPOs are advised to more strategic and less tactical (i.e. be less hands on). RADM Taylor has been advised to help, but also to direct EHOs to CCHQ and agency liaisons if need be.
- PACs are going to be evolving in the future. PACs will likely be taking on projects as directed by the OASH
- Community engagement activities related to SG's priorities should go through PACE Teams. Info on PACE programs and Teams can be found here: <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/pace/>
- Be advised, PHS is undergoing change. Expect more policies, procedures, approvals, and systems being revised. Please be patient and wait for things to settle down and settle out. Talk with PAC and CPO if questions/concerns

IV. Chair Report – CDR Elena Vaouli

PAC Chair's vision for 2020:

- To be the most visible and valued PAC that successfully empowers EH professionals to be the best PHS Officers they can be
- The PAC will actualize this vision through: strategic collaborations, targeted training, active and adaptive advertising, and fostering a knowledge sharing culture

Notable News:

- **Corps-wide**
- 2019-nCoV Deployments & UOD
- COF/CC Symposium co-sponsorship agreement signed
 - Dates: 15 – 18 JUN 2020 @ Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel
 - Category Day: 17 JUN 2020
- SG Report on Smoking Cessation released 23 JAN 2020
- Resources:
- VITA tax service available now through 30 NOV 2020
- FAQs on CCMIS for promotion, readiness and compliance, etc.

EHOPAC

- Implementing modified operations
- Sec/Treasurer CDR Havranek welcomes Baby Harrison!
- VM & SC volunteer deployments
- EHOPAC awards solicitation

- Nominations accepted through 20 MAR 2020
- JOAG VMs Call for nominations – EHO Vacancy
 - Due 23 MAR 2020
- EHOPAC call for SC volunteer nominations
 - Applications under review by SC Chairs
- Symposium events of interest
 - EHO Social: Tues, 16 JUN 2020
 - EHO Category Day: Wed, 17 JUN 2020

Recent Actions, Activities, Accomplishments

Strategic Collaborations

- Provided direct support to CPO on special projects
- Engaged closely with Combined PAC Chairs Group
- Developed plan for website updates (OSG, cross-SC support)

Targeted Training

- Readiness SC –
 - Presented Indoor Air Quality webinar on
 - Communicating with CPO and DSG on other topics

Active & Adaptive Advertising

- EHO vacancies emailed regularly, when available
- Readiness Reminders sent monthly
- EHOs in Action Book – Coming (back) soon!

Knowledge Sharing

- Internally within EHOPAC
 - VM Orientation held: 14 JAN 2020
 - Updating templates, SOPs, workplans, policies
 - EC members conducted one-on-one meetings with SCs
- Externally:
 - Updating website

V. Chair-Elect Report – CDR Jessica Otto

- 4th year VM on EHOPAC as an FDA representative. Always happy to answer to questions and can be reached at Jessica.Otto@fda.hhs.gov
- Preparing for EHOPAC Chair position next year. Will continue to work with EC and leadership to understand EHOPAC business practices to move EHOPAC forward
- Thank you for your service. EHOs have unique skills and are utilized often in response activities. Appreciate your support. As a reminder, the EHOPAC realizes and understands work and deployment come before PAC activities
- EHOPAC LinkedIn account will be closed due to changes in LinkedIn users' terms. Stay tuned
- There are efforts by USPHS to overhaul IT infrastructure. To be proactive and strategic during this effort, the EHOPAC EC will reach out to VMs asking for support in cleaning up website to ensure it has useful, up-to-date, and accurate information

VI. Ex-Officio – CDR Elena Vaouli for CDR Michael Quinn

- Continues his work with his primary subcommittees
- Combined PAC Chairs group cancelled b/c of the COVID response

VII. Secretary/Treasurer Report – LCDR Corey Butler/LCDR Dittrich for CDR Jessica Havranek

- Secretary Updates: EHOPAC FEB minutes vote ends 17 MAR 2020. Reminder for VMs on deployment to review the minutes and vote or have alternate vote
- Treasurer Updates: Coin sales are currently suspended until further notice from CCHQ. Working to balance account with COA and CDR Cook

VIII. Liaison Reports – CDR Elena Vaouli for CDR Eva McLanahan

Commissioned Corps Headquarters – CDR Robert Horsch

Spoke with eight branch chiefs at CCHQ

- Readiness: February overall EHO readiness was: 97% (7th place); March is 96% (9th place); April is projected to be 91% (9th place)
 - >600 PHS officers deployed. Many EHOs supporting efforts
 - Important EHOs understand respiratory protection programs, and isolation and quarantine if deployed
 - CCHQ is very focused on maintaining on call schedule. However, there is a chance people will be called outside of on-call month based on the mission
 - Fit testing expected performed before on-site before officer is deployed
- Training
 - OBC starting this weekend. 2 EHOs (OBC 116 has 11 recruits total). Social will be 26 MAR 2020
- Career Management
 - Promotion boards are currently meeting
- Recruitment branch
 - 11 categories are open. Interested applicants are advised to submit applications online
- Policy
 - Focused on policies impacting officers themselves
- Medical Affairs
 - Periodic Health Update (PHU) is required annually. Be mindful of dates for PHU submission. Info about individual officer's PHU submission date is in the officer secure area. NOTE: It is due by end of the month the individual officer is born in
 - If 5-year physical completed recently, PHU may not be needed. Check officer secure area for more information

American Academy of Sanitarians – CAPT (Ret.) Gary Noonan

- Since last years, interest in AAS from PHS officers. Received applications for and accepted 5 EHOs as members of the AAS. Hope more applications will be continue
- The American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS) is an organization that elevates the standards, improves the practice, advances the professional proficiency and promotes the highest levels of ethical conduct among professional sanitarians in every field of environmental health
 - Academy meets these goals through professional and scholarly activities, mentoring of future EH health leaders, providing scholarships to students in EHAC schools, and continuing to promote leaders in the diverse field of EH
- Bestows the prestigious Calvin Wagner Sanitarian Award. The Award is conferred for exceptional leadership ability, professional commitment, outstanding resourcefulness, dedication and accomplishments in advancing the Sanitarian profession and public health programs
- To be considered for membership:

- Must be a legally registered sanitarian or environmental health specialist in a state or registered by the National Environmental Health Association
- Must possess a master's or higher degree in public health, the environmental health sciences, or in an area of scientific or administrative specialization bearing upon environmental management
- Shall certify profession dedication to protecting and promoting the health and quality of the life of mankind
- At the time of the application, must have at least seven years of acceptable experience in one or more of the various fields of environmental health. Acceptable experience shall include at least five years of full-time work in which the scope of duties was on a professional level with the additional two years (of the total of seven) in a capacity with responsibility for work above the staff level, and
- Must author a paper that is publishable in a national journal publishable in Environmental Health
- More information at: <http://www.sanitaricians.org/>

Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board – CAPT Carolyn Oyster

- The CCWIAB met in March
 - Several members were not in attendance due to COVID-19 response
 - The CCWIAB has an upcoming quarterly meeting with the Deputy Surgeon General, and several items to be discussed at that meeting were finalized during our March meeting
 - We hope to have more to share soon about these projects we have in the works. More to come.
- From the recent Commissions Corps Town Hall: The SG announced a Call to Action -- on Maternal Mortality
 - This is a CCWIAB initiative and we are excited to see this is also one of the Surgeon General's priorities
 - Our Maternal Mortality Initiative Workgroup will be putting an outline together for PACE leadership and the DSG, to verify we are on the right path and begin implementation

American Industrial Hygiene Association - CAPT Bradley King

- AIHA is a nonprofit organization serving professionals dedicated to the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, control, and confirmation of environmental stressors in the workplace that may result in injury, illness, impairment, or affect the well-being of workers and members of the community
- The American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Expo (AIHce EXP) is being held in Atlanta June 1-3, 2020. AIHce is the premier conference for industrial hygienists and other occupational health and safety professionals, with 500 Speakers and 210 sessions. It's a great opportunity to network, learn new content, and present. At this time, there are no plans to postpone or cancel AIHce because of the current coronavirus situation. If travel restrictions prohibit you from attending the conference in Atlanta, consider registering for Virtual AIHce
- Call for Student Presentations and Posters at AIHce EXP 2020: It's not too late to put yourself out there and speak or display a poster at AIHce EXP. It's a fantastic way to gain visibility for your research and ideas. It demonstrates your expertise in the subject and brings notice to you, your mentor and your institution. Deadline: 16 MAR 2020
- AIHA Local Sections are regional chapters of individuals who participate in activities that enhance your professional growth, while promoting the occupational health and safety field.
 - There are over 60 local sections throughout the United States, 6 international sections, and even a virtual section in the online community; a lot of great opportunities to participate!
- For members of AIHA, we are constantly looking for volunteers to participate on our technical and advisory groups. Current opportunities include positions on our Content Priorities Advisory Group and Continuing Education Committee

National Environmental Health Association – Jonna Ashley

- NEHA is potentially delaying, cancelling, or rescheduling conferences due to COVID-19
- Annual Educational Conference still planned for 13–16 JUL in New York City, NY. For more information: <https://www.neha.org/neha-2020-annual-educational-conference-aec-exhibition>

- 2020 Legionella Conference is still planned for 19–21 AUG in Chicago, IL. For more information: <https://www.neha.org/news-events/legionella-conference-2020>
- Co-sponsoring annual International Society for Environmental Epidemiology Conference (ISEE) is planned for August 23–27 AUG in Washington DC. For more information: <https://isee2020dc.org/home>
- For more information, please visit NEHA’s news and events website: <https://www.neha.org/news-events>
- Advocacy effort
 - Mostly focused on COVID-19
 - Have also been advocating for funding for different branches of government that NEHA works with
- Membership campaign
 - 2nd year of membership campaign. If you are not a member, please join. If you are a member, please reach out to others. If you successfully recruit members you will get a gift and enter to win a drawing
- NEHA awards submission period ends between 11-15 MAR
- Check listserv message for info on NEHA scholarship opportunity

IX. Open Discussion – CDR Elena Vaouli

Training and Events – CDR Raquel Williams and LT Samuel Frank

- FDA ER310 Food Safety Issues in the Event of Disasters preconference to NEHA AEC in NYC, NY 12–13 JUL 2020)
- Course is free, but registration is required (10 EHO slots)
- Announcement

Readiness – LCDR Steven Merritt

Recap IAQ Webinar – LCDR Malashock and LCDR Beaucham:

- Total of 79 attendees – largest attendance yet and the first time non-EHOs participated
- Participant feedback completed by 25 officers, with 20 CEU certificates issued
- LCDR Malashock submitted the abstract for this presentation to the [28th Annual Joint Safety and Environmental Professional Development Symposium](#), a virtual EHS professional development conference run by the Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center and it was accepted

Upcoming Healthy Housing Webinar:

- 26 MAR 2020 at 1400 ET on Adobe Connect
- Flyer and Meeting Invitation to be sent out via EHOPAC LISTSERV this week
- CDR Deptola, CDR Ritter, and LCDR Gooch to present with recent healthy housing case studies in Puerto Rico and USVI

Deployment Skills Webinar

- Working to finalize Summary Sheets and get them up on the EHOPAC website ASAP

X. Adjournment – CDR Elena Vaouli

The meeting was adjourned at 1425ET.