



U.S. Public Health Service Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee (EHOPAC) Meeting #246 Minutes 12142021



I. Call to Order –CDR Jessica Otto, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 1300 ET.

II. Roll Call –LCDR Corey Butler, 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	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Bird	Bill	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Bowser	Travis	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Butler	Corey	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Darr	Charles	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Dittrich	Michelle	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Erling	Doug	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Evans	Erin	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Frank	Samuel	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Ferry	Krista	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Galvez	Steven	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Havranek	Jessica	CAPT	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Hunter	Candis	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Kupper	Drew	CDR	Alternate	CDR Scott Daley
McLanahan	Eva	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
McNamara	Kathryn	LT	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Merritt	Steven	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Otto	Jessica	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Quinn	Mike	CAPT	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Smith	Martin	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Vaouli	Elena	CDR	Excused	Click or tap here to enter text.
Williams	Racquel	CDR	Absent	Click or tap here to enter text.

III. Chief Professional Officer Report – CAPT Timothy Jiggins

- Thank you to RADM Taylor for all her work as the CPO. He is in listen and learn mode and is getting acquainted with agencies and setting up meet and greets.
- Met with National Park Service (NPS) and has an event with DSG and CPOs of the categories with NPS

IV. Chair Report – Jessica Otto

- Last meeting as Chair.
- Hail –
 - LT Braden Hickey – selected for vacancy 2022 – IHS in Albuquerque
 - CAPT Timothy Jiggins – CPO
- Farewell –
 - CDR Elena Vaouli – served for 7 years – Created EHOPAC vision statement, forward thinking, inclusive, and kind. Her work with the ad-hoc with Env. Justice Workgroup created a new space to have important conversations this year. She will be missed.
 - CDR Travis Bowser – served for 6 years – Career Development SC Chair – linking mentors and mentees in counselling. We wish him the best in his next adventure.
 - RADM Kelly Taylor – Served for 4 years as CPO – strived to ensure EHOs are represented. Thank you for her service. Gift presentation – shadow box – hand crafted by CAPT Parham – RADM Taylor – honor to represent EHOs. Have enjoyed her time getting to know everyone. Thank you to the PAC for all they do.
- EHOPAC Awards –
 - CAPT Kenny Hicks – John G. Todd Award
 - LT Kathryn McNamara – John C. Eason Award
 - LCDR Krista Ferry – Edward (Ted) Moran Award
 - CAPT Jill Shugart – Thomas E. Crow Award
 - EHO Responder of the Year Award - stay tuned, will be announced shortly
- Individual Awards – UC Medal for the Career Development Subcommittee
- Thank you to all volunteers – There will be a call in January for volunteers as well
- End of Year Accomplishments –
 - Vision Statement – see slide
 - PAC serves as a hub for resources that impact EHOs – slide shows list of resources/events
 - Work continues to push up concerns to changes of the Cover and CV – recommending to use old format due to issues with the new format
 - Networking and Moral – presentation on resilience, networking event tomorrow evening on zoom (see listserv announcement for info)
- Thank you to voting members and pro tems. Good luck to new voting members and pro tems.
- Passing of the gavel – Gavel adventure – every chair since CAPT Cramer has taken the EHOPAC gavel on an adventure. With the pandemic, and the 100th anniversary of PHS in the NPS, I took the gavel on a virtual trip. I took the gavel on rides across 7 national parks on my Peloton.
- Focus was how to navigate obstacles of the year. Challenges of over 40 policy changes in the last year. I hope through the turmoil you've seen the PAC as a resource, a place to seek information, and an advocate for your career. It has been an honor and a pleasure serving as your Chair and you are in excellent hands with CAPT Havranek in 2022.

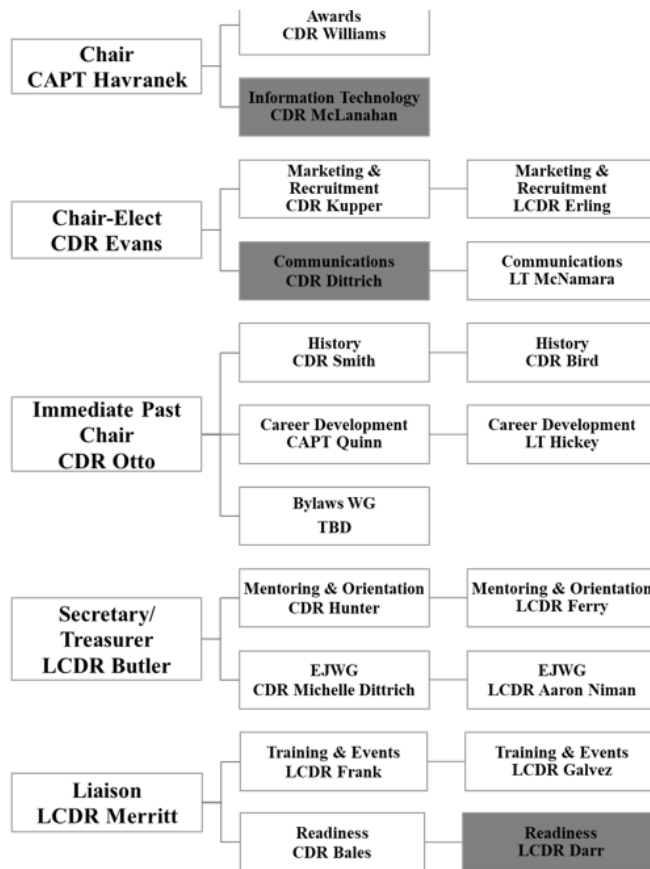
Resiliency Presentation – LCDR Jennifer M. Nelson – Self-Care for Mental Well-being

- See slides

V. Chair-Elect – CAPT Jessica Havranek

- Honored to serve and continue to use vision statement as a guide.
- 2022 EHOPAC Org Chart

**2022
EHOPAC
Organizational
Chart**



VI. Ex-Officio – CDR Elena Vaouli

- Purposely fostered a knowledge sharing culture, especially in support of the EC and as the EC Point of Contact for History & Career Development SCs.
- The effort I am most proud of, and that I genuinely thank RADM Taylor and CDR Otto for helping me champion on behalf of the category and PAC, is creating the Environmental Justice Working Group.
- Led by volunteers CDR Michelle Dittrich and LCDR Aaron Niman, the EJWG were our PAC’s visionaries and leaders in helping us (1) advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion considerations in the (2) review of our practices, policies and procedures, while simultaneously (3) spotlighting EHOs as true advocates in priority areas of our profession and the whole of government.
- What higher visibility might we enjoy than having ASH ADM Levine acknowledge our category’s efforts in climate change, equity and environmental justice during her address to EHOs at this year’s VTS. This is just one example of what a small but mighty group of passionate and competent EHOs can do to ensure we remain visible, relevant and most importantly, environmental health change agents and proponents for the communities we serve!
- **Purpose**
 - Raise awareness of environmental justice across EHO category
 - Spotlight EHO work that advances environmental justice and health equity

VII. Secretary/Treasurer Report – LCDR Corey Butler

- Secretary Updates Volunteer solicitation process coming soon. Be on the lookout for an email from CDR Jeffery Conner.

- As a reminder, the EHOPAC minutes are posted on website.

Treasurer Updates

- Account Balance – closed

VIII. Executive Committee Liaison Report – CDR Eva McLanahan

- CCHQ Liaison: CDR Robert Horsch has left CCHQ. EC decided not to replace this liaison. Our CPO and PAC Chair will serve as the conduit between CCHQ and the EHOPAC.
- NEHA Liaison: Ms. Jonna Ashley has left NEHA. Replacement to be named in 2022.
- Accomplishments: Anonymous feedback re-established and received over 50 comments from officers; compiled comments in preparation for two town halls from over 60 officers; provided SurveyMonkey platform for use for M&O, T&E, Awards, and selection of new voting members.
- Looking ahead – LCDR Steven Merritt will be the EC Liaison as CDR McLanahan transitions to the Chair of the IT Subcommittee.

– Commissioned Officers Association – LCDR James Gooch

- Deadline for to [submit symposium abstracts](#) is 15DEC2021, to present 23-27MAY2022 in Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel.
- Recently hosted a four-part Retirement Seminar ([check the web](#)).
- Look out for revisions to bylaws, member vote scheduled this winter.
- Continue to focus on [legislative priorities](#) for 2021-2022, recent wins:
 - Extension of leave – Unlike other services and the federal civilian workforce, CC- USPHS has been unable to extend “use or lose” accrued leave. In 2020, a temporary extension was provided to us via the continuing resolution. Again in 2021, the same language was provided in this year’s continuing resolution. Efforts are now underway to make this change permanent so that CC-USPHS can accrue more than 60 days of leave as the other services.
 - DD214/215 - Now available for Public Health Service (PHS) officers retiring or separating after October 1. Serves as the discharge certificate or certificate of release from active duty. This has been a barrier for CC-PHS officers in the past when it comes to officially documenting our veteran status. This modernization effort aligns us closer with our sister uniformed services. All Public Health Service officers are highly encouraged to explore and familiarize themselves with the new DD Form 214 platform and instructions. Please refer to the DD Form 214 webinar found on the Learning Management System and the Frequently Asked Questions found on the CCMIS website for additional information. If you have any DD Form 214 specific questions and concerns, please contact your Agency Liaison.

– American Academy of Sanitarians – CAPT Wendy Fanaselle

- Academy Strategic Planning Committee has been working to update the definition of Sanitarian. It’s been 30 years since it has been updated. There’s an updated draft definition on the website for anyone to review. Looking for comments from Committee members by 20DEC2022. [American Academy of Sanitarians, Inc – Home](#)

– Environmental Health Accreditation Council – CAPT Michael Quinn

- In beginning phases of annual accreditation review cycle. Five programs undergoing review – three are reaccreditation (undergrad programs at Baylor, Colorado State, and Ohio University) and two are initial accreditation (Western Kentucky undergrad, Baylor MPH concentration in EH).
- Trying to transition back to on-site or hybrid on-site/virtual visits.
- Working with NEHA to reboot National Environmental Public Health Internship program and how this is marketed to accredited programs. Look for more on this in 2022.
- Reviewing standing of EH programs around the country and institutions planning to seek accreditation. This represented growth in programs and potential widening of pool of candidates.
- EHAC is looking for some practitioners to complete some committee work. Reach out if you are interested.

– **American Industrial Hygiene Association – CAPT Bradley King**

- The AIHA Named Awards and Honors recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) professionals of all career stages, who have demonstrated a commitment to preserving, advancing, and ensuring OEHS in the workplace. Deadline for nomination is 15JAN2022. <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/open-calls/aiha-named-award-nominations>.
- Registration for the 2022 American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Expo (AIHce) is now open. The conference, scheduled for May 23–25, 2022, will be held in-person in Nashville, TN, but all General Sessions, education sessions, poster sessions, and the Exhibit Hall will also be offered virtually. <https://www.aihceexp.org/2022/register-2022>
- AIHA encourages and seeks members to become to participate in the association’s volunteer groups and technical committees. Committees looking for members include:
- Thermal Stress Working Group, Continuing Education Committee, Local Sections Advisory Group, Conference Program Committee.
- More information can be found on AIHA’s [Open Calls webpage](#) for additional volunteer opportunities.

– **Commissioned Corps Women’s Issues Advisory Board – CAPT Carolyn Oyster**

- Purpose: To identify & analyze key issues impacting women in the Commissioned Corps. To develop action plans to address these issues.
- Founded in 2011 under former Surgeon General VADM Regina Benjamin
 - Flag officer as Executive Chairperson
 - 1 Co-Chair & 1 Executive Assistant
 - Twelve voting members – Term is 3 years
- To ensure multiple viewpoints, an officer from each category sits on the board to represent all category interests.
- Members meet on key subcommittees: Pregnancy, Health & Wellness, Outreach, Anti-Harassment, Recruitment & Membership.
- Current Issues include: Deployment challenges, Pregnancy/Infertility & Maternal health related issues, Anti-Harassment & Discrimination, Uniforms and Appearance.
- [Resource Guide for USPHS Officers Getting Married or Getting Divorced, and for Dependents Surviving the Death of a USPHS Officer](#)
 - Un-official guide assist in navigating & understanding various policies & resources
 - Topics include: changing your name, enrolling spouse/dependent(s) in benefits, updating Direct Access (Coast Guard), tax considerations, transferring educational benefits/survivor benefits,
 - Prepared by JOAG in collaboration with CCWIAB
- [Resource Guide for Expectant Parents](#)
 - Unofficial guide designed to assist expectant parents in navigating/understanding relevant policies & resources related to pregnancy, postpartum & parenthood.
 - Topics include: Pregnancy Checklist; Maternity Leave; Postpartum Care & Information; Postpartum Depression Resources; Breastfeeding Information; Paternity Leave; Medical Waivers; Adoptive Parents; Infertility.
- Uniform & Appearance
 - 2021 Uniform Updates Include: Allowance of ponytail or braid, locs/dreads & a wider bun, allowance for a nursing T-shirt to be worn in lieu of the ODU T-shirt, allowance of flats with service & service dress uniforms
 - Documents created in partnership with JOAG
- Other areas of CCWIAB Action include
 - White papers: Deployment challenges feedback to CorpsCare, Anti-Harassment and Discrimination, Parental Leave, Post-Partum Weight Readiness Standards, Breastfeeding Policy
 - Resource guides: Officers diagnosed with breast cancer, pregnancy loss and stillbirth

- Collaboration: Revise Joint Travel Regulation for officer reimbursement for breast milk transport for TDYs, collaboration with PACE on maternal mortality/health initiative

IX. Special Presentation

- **Surgeon General's Education Team (SGET) – CDC Rebecca Cohen**
See slides

X. Squad Reports

– IT –CDR Erin Evans

- Website: Site-wide updates are needed. Each Subcommittee should review their respective webpages and notify IT of needed changes. IT cannot edit content without guidance/instruction from the SCs. The template for submitting web updates can be found on APAN under templates.
- The Needs Assessment is complete. IT is developing a plan of action to address outstanding needs.

– M&O– CDR Candis Hunter

- M&O Subcommittee extends a warm welcome to all newly commissioned Environmental Health Officers who graduated OBC in 2021. Congratulations on becoming part of our professional category and our service. We look forward to working with you as you become one of tomorrow's public health leaders.
- **OBC 125:**
 - LT Joseph Sarisky (IHS)
 - LT Sung Jik Park (IHS)
 - LTJG Katherine Miller (IHS)
 - LT Beau Carter (IHS)
- **OBC 126:**
 - LTJG Natalie Cataldo (OS)
- **OBC 129:**
 - LT Claire Tipton (FDA)
 - LTJG Sydney Taylor (FDA)
 - LT Johnny Nwankwo (OS/PHERST)
 - LTJG Kiwanda McLemore (USCG)
- **OBC 130:**
 - LT Katelyn Watts (USCG)
 - LT Nikia Jones Shaw (OS/PHERST)

– Training and Events – LCDR Frank and LCDR Galvez

- 2022 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium (23-27MAY2022)
 - Location: Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel, Glendale, AZ
 - EHO Category Day: Wednesday, 25MAY2022
 - Registration and Agenda: Coming soon: <https://www.phscof.org/symposium/>
- Virtual Training Series
 - Professional Development Hour (PDH) Certificates have been sent
 - Highlights from VTS: 100+ EHOs attended, 156 PDHs awarded, delivered 8 training presentations, 25 EHOs attended Networking Event, live address from Assistant Secretary for Health ADM Rachel Levine
 - Presentations have been uploaded to [CCLMS](#) and will be available for viewing soon! Announcement forthcoming with details.

- Training ListServ
 - SOP/Guidance Webpage - coming soon
 - Officers will be able to subscribe to Training ListServ w/in the NIH Directory
 - Training Calendar and Course Catalog will be available on [Max.gov](#)
 - Announcement(s) coming via EHOPAC Listserv & Facebook Page
- EHO Winter Social
 - Date: Wednesday, 15DEC2020 at 1800 Eastern
 - Please join us via [Zoom](#) to network with your fellow EHOs one final time prior to the new year and celebrate all our accomplishments during 2021

XI. Open Discussion

XII. Adjournment – CDR Jessica Otto

The meeting was adjourned at 1434 ET