



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



Meeting #251 Minutes, 13DEC22

I. Call to Order –CAPT Jessica Havranek

The meeting was called to order at 1300 ET.

II. Roll Call –CDR Corey Butler, Executive Secretary

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.
Butler	Corey	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Darr	Charles	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Dittrich	Michelle	CDR	Excused	LCDR Kyle Moller
Erling	Doug	LCDR	Excused	LT Michael Gonzalez
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.
Hickey	Braden	LT	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Hunter	Candis	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Kupper	Drew	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
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.
Williams	Racquel	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.

Voting Guests and Attendees Present

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Organization Represented
Eastlake	Adrienne	LCDR	Admin

III. CPO Report – CAPT Timothy Jiggins

- Reminder for those up for promotion, do not submit packet at the last minute

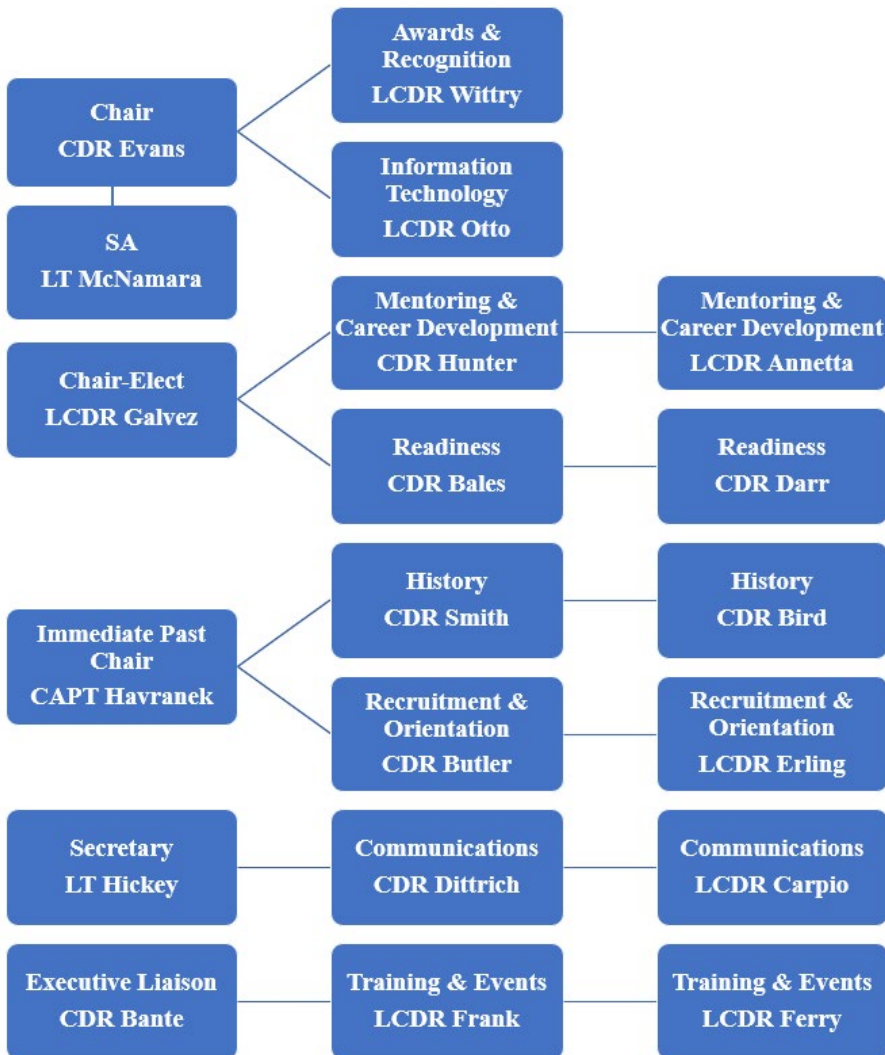
IV. Chair Report – CAPT Jessica Havranek

- Thank you to everyone that has made the EHOPAC successful this past year!
- Reviewed the EHOPAC mission, objectives, vision, and values
- 2022 EHOPAC accomplishment highlights:
 - Awards and Recognition Subcommittee created an Awards Corner in the EHO Assessment to acknowledge our great officers and accomplishments
 - History Subcommittee developed two new pages for the EHOPAC website: a history of the category and one for the PAC to tell the story of EHOs
 - OSG validated our EHO logo
 - Published EHOPAC CV guidance document – kudos to the Career Development Subcommittee
 - Updated the EHOPAC Bylaws – major changes included:
 - 1. Changed VM distribution for better equality
 - 2. Modified voting process
 - 3. Added an Executive Committee position - Special Assistant to the Chair
 - 4. Subcommittee modifications to improve efficiency and effectiveness: Mentoring and Career Development Subcommittees have been merged and Recruitment and Orientation Subcommittees have been merged
 - Hosted the 2nd annual Environmental Health month in September 2022
- Passed the EHOPAC gavel to the 2023 EHOPAC Chair, CDR Erin Evans

V. Chair-Elect – CDR Erin Evans

- 2023 Executive Committee
 - Chair – CDR Erin Evans
 - Chair Elect – LCDR Steve Galvez
 - Immediate Past Chair – CAPT Jessica Havranek
 - Executive Secretary – LT Braden Hickey
 - Special Assistant – LT Kathryn McNamara
 - Executive Committee Liaison – CDR Katie Bante

2023 EHOPAC Organization



VI. Ex-Officio – CDR Jessica Otto

- Thank you to all EHO volunteers!

VII. Executive Secretary Report –CDR Corey Butler

- Finalizing 2022 minutes. Will work through process with IT to get them posted to EHOPAC website.
- Volunteer solicitation coming soon. Process has changed and is more streamlined.
- Thank you to the admin team for their hard work and support over the past 2 years.

VIII. Executive Committee Liaison Report – LCDR Steven Merritt

- Thanks to CDR Eva McLanahan for all the support this year with the Survey Monkey and exploring the Max.gov Survey options (though it's not a viable option)
- To provide anonymous feedback to EHOPAC leadership for future responses at EHOPAC meetings or in the EHO Assessment, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDXMFWX>
- LCDR Merritt cycling off the EHOPAC at the conclusion of his first VM term
- CDR Katie Bante will be taking over in 2023 as the new EC Liaison. PAC and liaisons are in good hands.

- Thanks to all EHOPAC Liaisons. Handoff meeting scheduled for next week with CDR Bante and introductions with liaisons has been done.

Minority Officer Liaison Council – LT Adelaida Rosario and LCDR Jorge Muniz Ortiz

- Meeting was not held in November due to Thanksgiving Holiday break.
- MOLC is in the process of transitioning to the next operational year.
- Includes identifying new MOLC representatives from the 4 Chartered Minority Advisory Groups.
- MOLC LoAs have been distributed to representatives and volunteers.
- Q3 Awards have been routed to officers.

Junior Officer Advisory Group – LCDR Sandra Carpio

- Awards Committee soliciting volunteers to help redact and score nominations for the Carmona and Koop Awards
- Call to Junior Officers looking for leadership experience, please subscribe to JOAG listserv to receive notifications and call for volunteers. [Junior Officer Advisory Group \(psc.gov\)](https://psc.gov)
- Membership committee is still look for volunteers for regional leads for the Meet and Greet Subcommittee and Voting Membership Subcommittee
- Please contact colin.smith@ihs.gov and Laura.McCluney@ihs.gov with any questions
- Wellness Workgroup – MLK Jr. Day 5k run/walk on 16JAN2023
- Wreaths Across America (WAA) events – JOAG to help place wreaths at cemeteries across the country on National Wreaths Across America Day (17DCEC2022). There are 36 locations in 22 states with the participation of 41 JOAG event leads/co-leads
- JOAG is soliciting feedback from all Junior officers on any PHS-related questions, concerns, or input through Junior Officer “JO” Voice
 - We encourage you to access the form [here](#)
- Peer-to-Peer Network Program is seeking both mentors and mentees [Junior Officer Advisory Group \(psc.gov\)](https://psc.gov)
- JOAG Practicing Wellness for September was published: Lessons from the Field: Praise Yourself: You are Amazing

National Environmental Health Association – Heather Folker

- New Mission: To build, sustain, and empower an effective environmental health workforce.
- New Vision: Healthy Environments. Protected Communities. Empowered Professionals.
- New Brand: The NEHA brand is a hero and sage. We overcome obstacles on behalf of our workforce and have a strong moral compass. We are wise and knowledgeable and often act as a mentor.
- We are described as:
 - Approachable, yet fresh
 - Conversational, but not aloof
 - Accessible, yet unique
 - Sophisticated and practical
 - Witty and optimistic
 - Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS™)
 - Wide range of EH issues
 - Certified Professional – Food Safety (CP-FS™)
 - Retail food safety
 - Certified in Comprehensive Food Safety (CCFS)
 - Manufacturing food safety
 - Certified Foodborne Outbreak Investigator (CFOI)
 - Outbreak responses
 - Certified Food Safety Supplier Auditor (CFSSA™)

- Conducts 1st and 2nd party audits
 - Registered Food Safety Supplier Auditor (RFSA)
 - Conducts 3rd party audits
- Annual Educational Conference, 31JUL-3AUG New Orleans LA

Commissioned Officers Association – LCDR James Gooch

- Applications open with Family Membership Scholarships for high school seniors, undergrads, and grads – Due 17MAR2023
- Symposium:
 - Abstracts now open (extended) – Due 16DEC2022
 - Pre-Conference Abstracts now open – Due 31DEC2022
 - Poster abstract submissions open soon – Due 9MAR2023
 - Check and renew your membership today

American Industrial Hygiene Association – CAPT Bradley King

- The 2023 American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Expo (AIHce EXP) heads to Phoenix, AZ on 23-24MAY2023. Registration is now open: [AIHceEXP | Register](#)
 - Registration can be done for the in-person experience or the virtual conference.
 - Advance registration rates are available through 19MAR2023
- The [AIHA Named Awards and Honors](#) recognizes and celebrates 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 and communities around the world. Current members of AIHA should consider nominating a deserving PHS EHO at the [Nomination Portal](#)
 - Deadline for nominations is 30DEC2023
- AIHA's new video podcast, [Healthier Workplaces Show](#), is a program dedicated to highlighting the efforts of industry professionals who protect our workers and their communities from occupational and environmental hazards. Each episode covers various timely and informative topics about industrial hygiene and environmental health and safety issues. Check it out
- AIHA has open calls for members and non-members to serve in various volunteer leadership capacities throughout the year. Check out the latest AIHA [open calls](#) for volunteer opportunities, updated regularly

American Academy of Sanitarians – CDR Jessica Otto

- Representative: CAPT Wendy Fanaselle (Retired) will be rolling off as AAS representative. CDR Jessica Otto will be coming on in 2023
- The American Academy of Sanitarians is dedicated to improving the practice, elevating the standards, and advancing the profession of Environmental Health. Diplomate status represents the highest certification available in the field of environmental health
 - Who Can Become a Diplomate?
Membership covers the breadth of the environmental health profession. Certification by the Academy is a peer-reviewed process and is open to persons who have attained high professional stature through leadership and environmental health accomplishments.
For more info: Download this brochure on the AAS:
 - <http://www.sanitarians.org/resources/Documents/JEH%20Columns/AAS%20brochure%20October%202021.pdf>
- Current Academy members should be on the lookout for a call for volunteers for 2023 to staff the various committees. This is a great opportunity to engage and network
- If you have any questions on AAS membership or on the AAS business meeting, please contact Diplomate CDR Jessica Otto for more information at jessica.lynn.otto@gmail.com.

Environmental Health Accreditation Council – CAPT Michael Quinn

- EHAC is the only non-profit organization in the United States that accredits stand-alone Environmental Health Academic Programs.

- EHAC accredits programs providing applied, STEM based professional degree programs.
- Benefits of Attending an EHAC Accredited School:
 - Eligibility to participate in the [US Public Health Service \(USPHS\) sponsored JRCOSTEP internship program](#).
 - Exclusive access to the [National Environmental Health Association's \(NEHA\) National Environmental Public Health Internship Program \(NEPHIP\)](#)
 - Eligibility to compete for scholarships and internships provided by EHAC's sister organization, the [Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs \(AEHAP\) and NSF International](#).

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

- Incoming 2023-2025: LCDR Sarah Maynard
- Website: <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/ccwiab/>
- To identify & analyze key issues impacting women in the USPHS
- To develop action plans to address these issues
- Questions or concerns relating to EHOs and CCWIAB: Sarah.Maynard@nps.gov
- CCWIAB year in review
 - Anti-Harassment:
 - Submitted white paper on Medical Accession Standards and provided feedback to MAB
 - Established relationships within multiple branches of CCHQ to address Harassment within the ranks of PHS to include COTA and Corps Care
 - Working with a newly-formed Officer Advocacy/ Employee Relations Office: LCDR Jerome Anderson Jerome.Anderson@hhs.gov (301) 348-3563
- Health and Wellness:
 - Updating/reviewing Breast Cancer Survivor Guide
 - Developed 1 page Career Intermission Program summary overviewing how DoD allows members to take 1–3-year sabbatical and then return to AD – can this apply to PHS?
- Outreach and Membership:
 - Creating listening and webinars for quarterly sessions in 2023 (JAN, APR, JUL, OCT)
 - ID issues for female officers and address policy gaps, brainstorm ideas to address concerns
- Reproductive Health:
 - Working with MAB on addressing breastfeeding waivers, accommodations while deployed and policy updates. Documents with updated language have been loaded to CCMIS, but concerns still exist and team is working with RDB.
- Thank you for allowing me to be your CCWIAB representative 2020-2023

IX. Squad Reports

- **History – CDR Smith and CDR Bird**
 - Updated EHOPAC website to help distinguish the PAC from the Category
 - History of the EHO Category: <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/eho/abouteho.aspx>
 - About the EHOPAC: <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/eho/abouttheehopac.aspx>
 - If you are retiring or know a EHO who has retired, please inform the EHOPAC History Subcommittee of your retirement for an official acknowledgement from the EHOPAC on your successful career!
- **Information Technology – CDR McLanahan**
 - Updates were made to the EHOPAC website. We want to ensure you know where to find things, most importantly, the navigation on the left side of the page was updated.
 - On the homepage, you will find items reordered with information about the CPO and the new history of the EHO category at the top, followed by *About the EHOPAC*

- In *About the EHOPAC*, you can now find the updated history of the PAC, EHOPAC News, Voting Members, and EHOPAC Meeting minutes
 - From the homepage, you can also access the Listserv page with information on subscribing to or changing your subscription to the main EHOPAC Listserv and the EHOPAC's new Training Listserv
 - The EHOPAC's Subcommittees and Resources are still linked on the homepage, too. For instance, Career Development (CV, OS, and ROS Guidance) can be found by clicking on Resources on the left side of the homepage.
 - We appreciate hearing from you about the website and what we can do to make it more useful to you. If you notice anything, please use the anonymous feedback survey to provide us comments.
- **Training and Events – LCDR Frank and LCDR Galvez**
 - Virtual Winter Social & Networking Event
 - Held 12DEC2022
 - 23 participants in total
 - Lessons learned are in-progress

X. Open Discussion

- No Discussion

XI. Adjournment –CAPT Jessica Havranek

The meeting was adjourned at 1425 ET