



SPRING 2020, VOLUME XIII, ISSUE I

# SWPAG NEWSLETTER

## SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP



### USPHS SWPAG Coin

SWPAG functions in a resource and advisory capacity to assist in the development, coordination, training and evaluation of activities related to the social work professional discipline in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). Its purpose and mission is to provide sound information and recommendations through the PAC to the Chief Health Services Professional Officer on those discipline specific and related matters impacting social workers in the USPHS. For more information on the coin:

<https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/hso/pags-swpag-coin.aspx>



**It is our individual and corporate responsibility to be ready for COVID-19 Response.**

**The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation.**



**We have much more similarity than difference as USPHS Commissioned Corps Social Workers**

## Social Workers: Generations Strong

### Editors:

**LCDR Lorener Brayboy, DHSc, MSW, LICSW**  
**LCDR Mark H. Durham, D.S.W., LCSW**

It is for such a time as this that social workers are active duty within the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (CC). As the pandemic scourge of COVID-19 sweeps fear and destruction across our nation, PHS Social Work Officers are prepared for our nation's call to lead and serve others. As witnessed in the administration's COVID-19 Taskforce briefings, our nation is listening to USPHS CC leadership. In this April 2020 newsletter, our focus is *Generations Strong* within CC Social Work. As Social Work Officers, irrespective of our differences in age, wisdom, skill, and experience, we are unified; we are ready. ~MHD



**VADM Jerome Adams, MD, MPH**  
**U.S. Surgeon General**



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EXPERIENCED AND WISE SW GENERATION

# A CAPT Interviewed *Wisdom, Experience, Depth*

CAPT JEAN PLASCHKE

By LCDR Brayboy, DHSc, LICSW

### 1. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE A SOCIAL WORKER?

I always had an interest in psychology, after taking a class in high school. I majored in psychology and therapeutic recreation and after graduation worked in an inpatient psychiatric hospital in Baltimore. I was part of a treatment team and worked with some dedicated and inspiring social workers and they encouraged me to explore getting a Master's in Social Work. I liked the flexibility social work allowed, and studied both clinical and administration in graduate school, since I liked both aspects of the profession.

### 2. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN USPHS?

A family friend (CDR Gene Brayboy) heard that I was in graduate school pursuing social work and said that the CORPS needed social workers. He encouraged me to apply for a Junior COSTEP, which I did and completed another COSTEP the following summer. I worked at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

### 3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE CORPS?

COSTEP-1992  
Active Duty-1996

### 4. WHO WERE YOUR MENTORS AND HOW DID THEY INFLUENCE YOU?

CDR Gene A. Brayboy  
RADM Delany  
CAPT Ilze Ruditis  
CAPT Howard Kelley

### 5. WHAT WAS THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK LIKE, WHEN YOU JOINED THE CORPS?

I have always worked in an administrative job once in the Corps and things were very different when I joined. There were many administrative positions available. We were required to wear the uniform once a week and there were no required deployments.

### 6. What agency did you initially work for when you entered the Corps?



ADM Brett P. Giroir, MD (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)  
Assistant Secretary for Health



POTUS with COVID-19 Taskforce response



Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a member of the White House COVID-19 Task Force, and former PHS CC officer. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

NEW SW GENERATION

# A LT with less than 3 years in the CC interviewed

LT DIERDRA ORETADE-BRANCH, D.S.W., LCSW, BCD, CDCS

Comfort Care Program Coordinator  
FCC Social Work Internship Program  
Coordinator FMC BUTNER, NC  
Federal BOP, DOJ

Interviewer: LCDR Durham, D.S.W., LCSW

### 1. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE A SOCIAL WORKER?

Growing up in a home where the women of my family worked in human service fields influenced my decision to become a social worker. I had a strong desire to help people. My grandmother was a foster care parent. I watched the care that my grandmother consistently gave to them. I was always meeting new foster children. My family adopted three and we continue to see them when we all get together. My mother initially worked inpatient psychiatric care and went on to open a day care.

### 2. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN USPHS CC?

My father retired as a master sergeant from the army several years ago. He had worked in preventative medicine. Through my exposure to my father's service in a uniformed service, I developed an interest as well. I learned about USPHS during graduate school in my own search for ways to serve in a uniformed service. Once I learned more about the corps, I was sold!

### 3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE COMMISSIONED CORPS?

About 2.5 years, it will be 3 years in august 2020.

### 4. WHAT LEADERSHIP ROLES HAVE YOU BEEN IN WHILE IN THE CORPS?

Through my collateral duty I have been able to fulfill a leadership role as the social work internship program coordinator. I've also been able to fulfill the role of acting supervisory social worker at my duty station as needed. I am the FCC social work internship program coordinator where I train graduate students in their MSW practicums from several universities. My goal is to mirror a VA program in the bop, where LMSWs seeking their clinical license compete for GS 9-11-12 positions whereby they grow from GS 9 to eventually GS 12, when independently licensed. This way we hopefully can keep our interns when they become fully licensed.

### 5. WHERE DO YOU WORK NOW? / WHAT DO YOU DO?

A. I'm currently stationed at the federal bureau of prisons, federal correctional complex in Butner, NC.



Office of the Secretary/Office of Minority Health (OMH)-Division of Information and Education. This was a great first job. The position provided a wonderful overview of HHS, worked with all agencies, and attended some high-level meetings with the Surgeon General (SG) and Assistant Secretary of Health (ASH). I developed a wealth of skills in writing in which I wrote speeches for the OMH Director and at times the SG. I was also responsible for writing articles for the OMH newsletter, *Closing the Gap* in which I interviewed leaders in their fields and engaged in outreach at professional meetings and conferences. In this initial position, I really learned how to better articulate myself, engage people, and assist in coordinating resources.

**7. WHAT OTHER ROLES/ AGENCIES HAVE YOU HAD? WHERE ARE YOU NOW?**

A. Office of Minority Health (OMH)-government project officer on grants and cooperative agreements with national minority organizations.

B. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)-government project officer for a child traumatic stress program.

C. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)-Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse and Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy. This was one of my favorite positions, as it was important to align, leverage, and coordinate the federal response to alcohol/substance use among American Indian/Alaska Natives. I was responsible for helping tribes to develop Tribal Action Plans. I truly felt the work was important and purposeful, as I myself am an American Indian, an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

D. Indian Health Service (IHS)-currently detailed within the Division of Behavioral Health working on an opioid grant, COVID-19 response, and other projects. IHS was awarded \$10 million to respond to the opioid crisis within Indian Communities.

**8. HOW HAVE YOU SEEN THE USPHS SOCIAL WORK EVOLVE DURING YOUR CORPS CAREER?**

Social Work Practice seems to be highly respected and valued in the Corps for our knowledge and ability to wear many hats. There are many positions open in other departments using the skills of social works and maybe more so in the future. For



CAPT Jean Plaschke



LT Oretade-Branch, D.S.W., LCSW, BCD, CDCS

B. My role as a senior clinical social worker involves providing clinical social work services to inmate population with chronic medical and behavioral health issues.

C. I recently provided a lecture on hospice care in the correctional setting at UNC chapel hill MSW program of a mixed field cohort of graduate nursing, social work, medical school students.

**6. WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK?**

A. I graduated with my Doctor of Social Work degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in May 2017.

B. I am presenting a section of my dissertation to the national organization of forensic social work in New Orleans. It is titled “Effective discharge planning approaches for incarcerated individuals with comorbid disorders.”

**7. YOU ARE PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED LT (03) SOCIAL WORKERS, WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO BE IN 3 YEARS?**

Wow, I’m honored to be viewed this way. Fingers crossed that I’m promoted to LCDR in 2020! So, in three years I hope to be working toward achieving the benchmarks for (O5 commander). I’d like to obtain a position of increased responsibility within DHHS or a non-DHHS agency, continue involvement with the SWPAG and other HSPAC sub-groups, increase my conference presentations at national conferences, publish meaningful literature, and continue to increase my demonstration of officership.

**8. WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE JOINING USPHS?**

I was a civil social worker for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

**9. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION IN USPHS CC?**

A. I would love for social work to continue to rise to the forefront of the missions and initiatives of the corps. Specifically the sg has recommended a focus on maternal mental health – how can LCSWS contribute to this discussion and public affairs. USPHS LCSWs need to be at the forefront of this topic.

B. I would love for social work to be recognized in a national way for our contributions to the Corps. A book of how mission and accomplishments of LCSWs in the Corps would be highly beneficial to not only the Corps but to the exposure of what we do as social workers. Many LCSWs outside the Corps are unaware of these various missions and accomplishments, not only in the BOP, but in all the agencies.

C. I would love for greater participation in SWPAG of social workers across the Corps.

**10. IF YOU HAD USPHS CC HQ IN FRONT OF YOU, WHAT WOULD LIKE THEM TO KNOW OR WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?**

A. I would like to showcase some issues that social workers face who provide services to marginalized populations. For example, the importance of creating an avenue for incarcerated inmates getting released with



example, the need for behavioral health services and treatment is recognized. We are seeing this within initiatives around suicide prevention, and the current opioid crisis.

### 9. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE AN INCOMING USPHS SOCIAL WORKER?

I would say clinical work is extremely helpful in understanding administrative/policy work down the line. You will have more to contribute to the conversation. I think also it is important for USPHS social workers to get a good overview of HHS and other departments/agencies where officers are placed so you know your options. Join workgroups, meet other officers, go to meetings (high level if possible), and deploy.

### 10. WHAT TOOL/TOOLS SHOULD A NEW SOCIAL WORKER HAVE IN THEIR TOOLBOX?

Be flexible, know the most pressing health issues and try to learn them, and really be good at your job. It is important to be persistent and do not give up. Really, advocate for yourself and patients.

### 11. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE MID-LEVEL (O4/O5) OFFICERS TO CONTINUE TO BE INSPIRED/REJUVENATE THEIR DIRECTION?

Do something new and different. Try to work for someone where you are always learning. Leadership trainings, meetings/conferences, deployments, and meeting new people are always helpful. You want to stay focus and power through. Give yourself rewards and try not to spread yourself too thin.

### 12. WHEN DO YOU PLAN TO RETIRE? WHAT ARE YOUR OCCUPATIONAL PLANS AFTER RETIREMENT?

Hope to make it to 30 years, but will see how things go. I would like to do something completely different--- maybe live at a beach and walk dogs. Be somewhere peaceful and calm.

### 13. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL WORK IS IN THE CORPS?

It is going to be important to keep up with your clinical skills. Social workers are going to be adaptable and be able to mobilize quickly.

### 14. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION IN USPHS?

Grow. Would like to see the social work profession gain high visibility and possibly have social workers in leadership positions within their agencies and within USPHS leadership.



## SUBGROUP REPORTS

### Stakeholder and Community Engagement

CDR HOLLY BERILLA, MSW

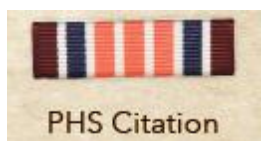
Public Health Analyst

HRSA, HIV/AIDS Bureau

The Social Work Professional Advisory Group (SWPAG) Stakeholder and Community Engagement Subgroup is laying the groundwork for collaborative activities across the federal sector and private industry to benefit all USPHS Social Work Officers. The focus of this operational year is to partner with stakeholders and community partners to bring professional development, education, self-care, and networking/information sharing opportunities to social workers within the USPHS Corps, with civilian counterparts, and others. We have included officers across the Health Services Professional Advisory Group (HSPAC) by sharing training opportunities. The Subcommittee is collaborating with the SWPAG Training, Education and Mentoring Subgroup and welcomes partnerships across the USPHS PACs and PAGs.

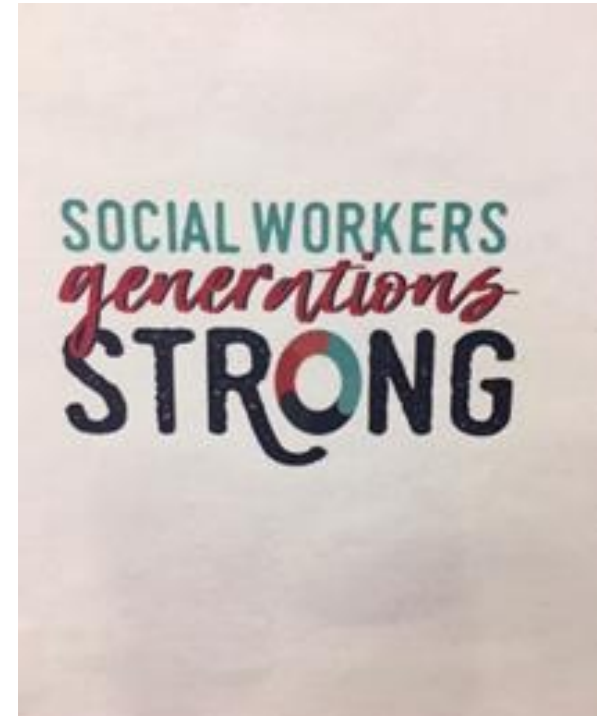
#### Proposed deliverables include:

- 1) Self-care/wellness webinar discussions including topics such as acclimating from clinical to non-clinical billets and preparing for and coping through deployment and reintegration.
- 2) A minimum of two no-cost, virtual CEU presentations (March & Sept.) in collaboration with DOD and VA.
- 3) Social Work Month networking and educational event (incl. March presentation – no. 2, above) on 3/11/2020 for all HHS Agency social workers at location 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD, in collaboration with SAMHSA, IHS, and HRSA.
- 4) National Capitol USPHS meet-up event for Social Work Month in MAR 2020, “Brunch w/a Social Work CAPT.”
- 5) George Mason Social Work Month: Trauma: A Cross Generational Public Health Issue
- 6) Professional Development Webinar: University Presentation (Tulane University)
- 7) Ethics Professional Development Webinar
- 8) SWPAG COA Symposium Mixer ~



access to benefits such as Social Security and Medicaid/Medicare, at least 15-30 days prior to release. This has great implications for a successful reentry.

B. I would also showcase the incredible work being done by social workers in these under resourced areas. I mean we are SUPER-HEROES on a daily basis! ~



We are continuing to market vacancies for Officers to join us as we lay the foundation for a fruitful and meaningful year of work that will benefit PHS social workers and civilian counterparts across the federal sector. Please email LCDR Monique Worrell-Oriola (Chair) at [Monique.Worrell-Oriola@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:Monique.Worrell-Oriola@ice.dhs.gov) at CDR Holly Berilla (Co-Chair) at [hberilla@hrsa.gov](mailto:hberilla@hrsa.gov) and to express interest in membership or to ask questions.

From the cross-agency March 2020 Social Work Month event in Rockville, MD. ~





### 15. IF YOU HAD USPHS HQ IN FRONT OF YOU, WHAT WOULD LIKE THEM TO KNOW OR WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?

To make USPHS an attractive career option for social workers. Be supportive of Officers. I am very grateful for this career and thankful for every aspect of it

### 16. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE PEOPLE TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOU?

That I focused most of my career working with underserved populations. I am proud I was able to work with very smart people and bring them together. I was able to pull on their strengths. ~

## SUBGROUP REPORTS

### Readiness

*Ready Set Go!*

*By LT Desirrae Harris, LCSW, BCD  
Deputy Chief, Intensive Outpatient  
Program DOD - Fort Bragg, NC*

Let's continue the path to basic readiness. This year has been an especially busy year for the Commission Corps with continued support of COVID-19. The Commission Corp has deployed over three hundred officers in response to COVID-19. In addition to COVID-19 response, PHS officers have deployed in response to Fort Belknap suicide cluster, and earthquake response in Puerto Rico, and numerous other Public Health emergencies. To continue support of the Public Health response, Basic Readiness is essential. Let's take a look at some pertinent items to ensure basic readiness:

#### Basic Readiness Requirements

COVID-19 Training. Please ensure all officers login and complete the required course. This course should be completed by April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020. Please visit this site to complete (<https://usphstraining.hhs.gov/totara/program/view.php?id=4>)

#### 1. Annual Physical Fitness Test (APFT)

**Renew: Every 12-months and before expiration of previous APFT**

Update APFT results via CCMIS [Officer Secure Area \(OSA\) Readiness Self-Service](#) (SS).

- Please note that officers are no longer required to submit the APFT form

- If a medical condition prohibits an officer from completing the APFT, the officer should contact Medical

Affairs to obtain a condition specific waiver.

#### 2. Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification

**Renew: Every 24-months and before expiration of previous certification**

Your BLS certification must be uploaded through eDOC-U in the [OSA SS](#).

Officers must complete and maintain currency in one of the following approved certifications.

1. American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) for health care providers;
2. American Heart Association (AHA) Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS); or
3. American Red Cross (ARC) CPR/AED for the professional rescuer.



#### 3. Immunizations

**Renew: As required and before expiration of previous immunization**

Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, MMR, Tetanus/Diphtheria, Varicella, Tuberculosis, Influenza) Submit immunization documents to Medical Affairs via the [eOPF Document Upload](#) (eDOC-U) function in CCMIS. NOTE: DO NOT mail immunization documents unless directed by Medical Affairs. Most Immunization-related questions can be answered by viewing the [Immunizations webpage](#).



#### 4. Licensure/Certification

**Renew: As required and before expiration of previous Licensure/certification**

Officers who are required to have a valid license/certification should review the information listed on the Officer Secure Area (OSA) dashboard in CCMIS and ensure that:

- A copy of the most recent license/certification is in the eOPF, and
- That the Promotion Information Report (PIR) correctly reflects a compliant status.



USPHS Field Medical Readiness Badge

~ Copies of current, valid licenses/certifications should be uploaded through [eDOC-U](#) prior to the expiration of the previous licenses.

#### 5. Periodic Health Update

**Renew: Every year, officers can check the officer secure area for details on when their PHU is due.**

Required medical documents (DD-2807-1, DD2808 - Report of Medical Examination/History and DD 2813 - Report of Dental Exam) are available on [CCMIS](#). Instructions for completing Medical Examination can be found at [https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/documents/PO M\\_871\\_71.pdf](https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/documents/PO M_871_71.pdf)

Upload required documents to EOPF for review by Medical Affairs.

#### 6. Readiness Course Completion

**Completion Frequency: One time**

To qualify at the Basic Readiness level, you must successfully complete 12 online training modules. Courses include: RedDOG Courses 110, 140, 141, 142, 180, 182, 183, and 217 and FEMA course FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, or IS-800 can be [found here](#).

#### 7. Deployment Role

**Renew: Select once, and then update as needed.**

Update/select your deployment/response role(s) via self-service menu in [the Officer Secure Area of CCMIS](#).

Please send your Readiness questions to the HSPAC Readiness Subcommittee at [Readiness.HSPAC@gmail.com](mailto:Readiness.HSPAC@gmail.com). ~



## WINTERHAVEN 2020



### *Taking a Walk in their Footsteps*

**AUTHORED BY: LT CANDICE KARBER, CDR STEPHANIE FELDER, LCDR YEN ANH BUI, LT SURESH JAYASEKARA, AND LT HIWOT KESI**



*(from L to R: LT Candice Karber, LT Suresh Jayasekara, Mr. Walter Elmore, LT Hiwot Kesi, CDR Stephanie Felder, LCDR Yen Anh Bui)*

The annual Winterhaven Homeless Veteran Stand Down was held on 25 January 2020 at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Washington, DC. During this event, the VAMC provided medical, dental, and psychosocial services, including substance abuse support, utility bill assistance, HIV screening, and education opportunities to veterans. Additionally, employment support and housing services were also offered.

The Veterans received haircuts, boots, socks, t-shirts, winter blankets, coats, and personal hygiene items.

Previous Winterhaven Stand Down volunteers leading the way were two Social Workers. LT Candice Karber served as Team Lead for the afternoon shift, along with CDR Stephanie Felder, who served as Co-Lead. LCDR Yolawnda McKinney was the Team Lead for the morning shift and



*LCDR Yen Anh Bui & LT Suresh Jayasekara*

allowed for a smooth transition of duties.

This was the fourth year that PHS was invited to serve at this event, largely due to CDR Felder and Mr. Walter Elmore's (pictured) collaborative efforts. As the largest employer of Social Workers, the VA has always felt like home to LT Karber and CDR Felder. The plan will always be to remain connected to the VA and also welcome new invitations to serve Veterans.

hundreds of volunteers, staff, and community partners contributed and provided unique services. Amongst those volunteers were a total of nine eager and dedicated PHS Officers from different categories.

In addition to LT Karber and CDR Felder, the afternoon shift consisted of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Officers, all from the National Capital Region (NCR). LT Suresh Jayasekara is a Scientist and this was his second-year volunteering, demonstrating his passion to serve. LT Hiwot Kesi is a Pharmacist who recently returned to the NCR after being stationed at Nebraska's FDA. This was her first PHS volunteer event since returning to the area and she jumped right in showing remarkable initiative.

LCDR Yen Anh Bui also participated for the first time as a Winterhaven Stand Down volunteer. She noted on several occasions during the event what a rewarding experience it was for her and noted her plans to volunteer again next year.

The team was tasked with distributing boots, socks, and t-shirts, as well as supporting inventory efforts of other civilian volunteers. A total of 645 pairs of both men's and women's boots, and over 1,200 pairs of socks were distributed. Homeless Veterans consist of varying age groups and ethnicities, some with noticeable injuries, and others with invisible daily challenges, like chronic mental illness. This event is a yearly reminder that there is still

so much more to do, and it starts with coming together as a community to show the commitment to serve and support our Veterans. ~



*LT Hiwot Kesi*



## SUBGROUP REPORTS

### *Administrative Management*

CDR Cole Weeks

The Administrative Management Subgroup (AMS) serves a vital role in initiating and maintaining coordination and collaboration within the Social Work Professional Advisory Group (SWPAG). The AMS maintains and updates the roster of SWPAG members, attempts to identify social workers who are not yet SWPAG members and encourages membership. The AMS also coordinates with Health Services Professional Advisory Committee (HSPAC) to identify and send welcome emails to new social work call to active duty officers. The SWPAG Administrative Management Subgroup 2020 strategic goals include:

- 1) initiating a process to coordinate new member introductions on the SWPAG conference calls,
- 2) enhancing the SWPAG roster update process/content, and
- 3) increasing collaboration with other SWPAG subgroups. ~



#### SWPAG Administrative Management Subgroup

**Members:** **Chair:** CDR Cole Weeks

**Co-Chair:** CDR Christine Nementi,

**Members:** CDR Teresa Baptiste, CDR LaMar Henderson, LCDR Sheila Houghton-Antonucci

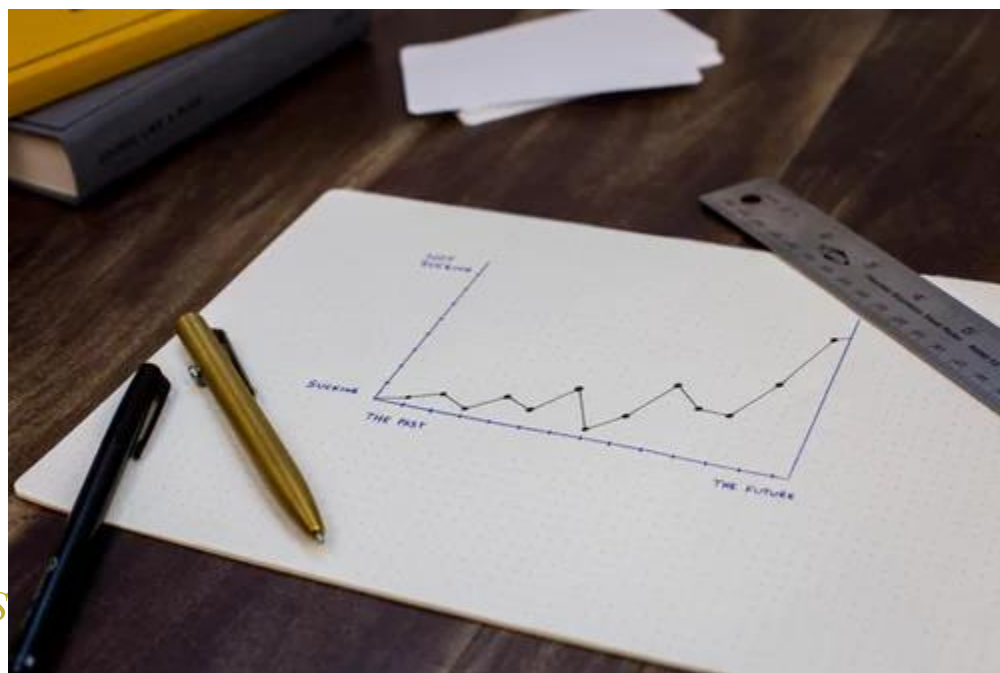


Recruitment Service Medal



## SUBGROUP REPORTS

### *Data & Evaluation*



Data and Evaluation Subgroup created and provided the Social Work Skills Assessment Tool (Survey).

*Survey*

*Survey*

**CDR Alysa (Jackson) Ward, LCSW, BCD**

*Palliative and Comfort Care Program Coordinator, BOP, FMC Carswell*

Greetings from the Data and Evaluation Subgroup! We are excited about 2020 and look forward to working with the SWPAG to serve all of our Social Work colleagues through helpful initiatives.

Our Purpose Statement: Provide data analytic capabilities in such a way as to inform the targeted audience as to the nature of the Social Work PAG; providing timely access of data analytics to support the leadership decision aking process.

Our subgroups responsibilities are to: Design, validate, implement and deliver training and information to HS officers across the category to enhance social work’s effectiveness and utilization to the Corps. This includes surveys, updated deployment data and analytics, training information updates, etc. We also liaise with representatives from both the HSPAC and PAGs to ensure the sharing of vital data.

In calendar year 2019, the Data and Evaluation Subgroup created and provided the Social Work Skills Assessment Tool (Survey). This survey focused on collecting data specific to supporting the deployment of social workers where their special skill sets are most needed. (i.e. Case managers, Medical Social Work, Pediatric, etc.) We conducted a pilot and launched the survey among our PHS social work colleagues. For 2020 we are launching another survey focused on the Social Work Clinical Hours Requirement. We are hoping for maximum participation in this survey as it impacts Corps readiness. Be on the lookout!

For questions concerning the Data and Evaluations Subgroup or about our upcoming survey, please contact CDR Allah Fard-Sharrieff at Allah-Fard.M.Sharrieff@ice.dhs.gov or CDR Alysa Ward at ax4jackson@bop.gov. ~



Recruiter Badge



**SUBGROUP REPORTS**

# Training, Education, and Mentoring

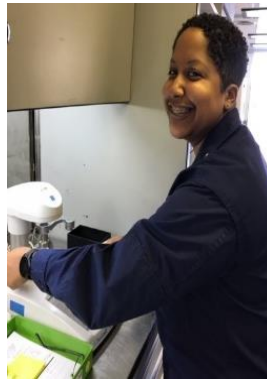
**LCDR MONIQUE RICHARDS**



LCDR Monique Richards is currently a Senior Public Health Analyst within the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services at the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau. There LCDR Richards oversees a grant portfolio which aims to improve the

health of high-risk mothers and infants and reduce health disparities among vulnerable populations. LCDR Richards is very excited to Chair SWPAG's Training, Education and Mentoring Subgroup again this year, with the support of CDR Kimberley Jones and LT Candice T. Karber serving as Co-Chairs! Together, we all look forward to continuing to provide SWPAG members with engaging training and professional development activities that will inform and support all social work officers!

**LT CANDICE T. KARBER**



LT Candice T. Karber is stationed at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in Maryland as a Staff Program Management Officer in the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention on the Data and Systems Development Team. At SAMHSA, LT Karber provides subject matter expertise to states, territories, and tribal grantees that include indigenous, urban, and rural communities about the protection of human subjects involving data collection procedures. LT Karber most recently served as the initial Behavioral Health Team Lead for the COVID-19 deployment at Travis Air

Force Base. She is also a Leader in the DC Metro Chapter of the Association of Black Social Workers, where she has committed to Social Work volunteer efforts for over seventeen years. She is excited to join the Training and Education Team under LCDR Richard's Leadership.



**SG Adams (VADM) and Commissioned Corps Social Workers**

**CDR Booker left of the SG**



## Chair's Last Call

CDR TRICIA BOOKER, LCSW, BCD

SWPAG CHAIR

SWPAG,

2020 is really shaping into an interesting and busy year. We had hoped to fill the newsletter with lots of exciting activities celebrating Social Work Month, but the world had other plans. As always, social workers adjust and adapt. Appropriately, all events have been canceled in response of COVID-19. Even though we are not together, we still need to celebrate us and all our accomplishments; it is good we do each day. The theme for Social Work Month is "Generations Strong" and we cannot forget the rich legacy of those who paved the way, not only in our profession, but also in the Corps.

We have already accomplished much in this year from meeting with the US Surgeon General, executing and planning future training and mentoring events, nailing down clinical hours guidance, increasing our social workers in the Advanced readiness program, picking and awarding our Social workers of the year, and deployments. We are truly a wonderful team, filled with many talents and skills! This is just the tip of the iceberg of things to come.

As a reminder, take care of yourself during this difficult time. Practice self-care, take time to exercise, sleep, and relax. We need you healthy and ready.

CDR Tricia Booker, LCSW, BCD ~



SG Adams & CDR Booker

