

THE FULCRUM 2022 Issue-III

DHPAG Newsletter December 2022 A Note from Your DHPAG Chair



It has truly been an honor to serve as your 2022 DHPAG Chair. I am so very thankful to all our DHPAG subgroup chairs, co-chairs, volunteer team members, and all our dental hygiene officers for making 2022 such a success! Thank you for your tireless work this year. Together, we have made significant progress confronting the pandemic and weathering the changes that have come about in the Corps—all while standing strong by serving our agencies and advancing and promoting the oral health and public health of our nation. While challenges remain, the progress we have made would not have been

possible without your support. Your capabilities and dedication are what make the Commissioned Corps strong and ensure that we continue to advance and protect the health of our nation.

As we look to the year ahead, we must build on the innovations that we put to work within our PAG, making our Corps more efficient, more resilient, and effective. Our PAG has made *HUGE* strides this year within *every* subgroup, and I could not be more proud of everyone's hard work. I want to take a moment to highlight some of the work our subgroups have been doing

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Note from Chair

Note from Chair-Elect

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DHPAG Executive Committee Chart

Subgroup Corner

Article Submissions:

<u>Dental Hygienists Volunteer Initiative</u> - *Multi Officers*

Dinner with a Captain

- LCDR Jennifer Curtis

Awards:

Joseph Garcia Jr. Award

- LCDR Keasha Myrick

Article Submission Forms

No updates this issue for: New Officer Spotlight

Save the Date

Co-Editors:

LCDR Tanya Sumner LCDR Melka Argaw LT Sascha Randolph

throughout the year. Our **Data and Evaluations** team took the reins by assessing the impact of new policies that were distributed from Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) and communicated survey results up the chain of command—which gave CCHQ a direct listening ear to the ground of challenges that dental hygienist officers are facing. Because of this feedback, CCHQ is currently in the process of making provisions for officers to obtain clinical hours in order to meet readiness requirements. Our **Awards** team promoted DHPAG awards across multiple listervs and created Q&A sessions alongside listening sessions for officers, so that they could better understand how to prepare and submit a competitive DHPAG Award application package. Because of these improvements, we had a record number of applications to review this year! Our **Stakeholder & Community Engagement** team collaborated with the DePAC category and our very own **Recruitment & Retention** team to develop a dental and dental hygiene clinical vacancy list—creating visibility of new job openings for dental hygiene officers! Our **Training, Education, & Mentorship** team implemented the 2022

CV Review Project and created opportunities for junior dental hygiene officers to match with senior dental hygiene officers for CV review and feedback, as well as meaningful mentorship opportunities. Our **Technical Readiness** team ensured that our officers received up-to-date information from CCHO regarding readiness checks, retention weight standards, and deployment preparation plans. They also successfully promoted the HSPAC's Advanced Readiness Program. Our Communications team solicited articles for our DHPAG Newsletter and successfully published 3 newsletters (including this one) throughout the 2022 year—helping to build relationships with our officers by providing high-value information—while also taking on the new responsibility of managing the DHPAG Directory. Our Policy team did a phenomenal job revising the DHPAG SOP manual by requesting feedback from all DHPAG subgroups and accurately reorganized and restructured responsibilities to match respective duties accordingly. Our Administrative Management team did a wonderful job soliciting nominations for the 2023 DHPAG Executive Committee and Subgroup Chair positions and ensured that applications were received in a timely manner. And finally last but not least, our Executive Secretary, did an outstanding job keeping me in check, while also preparing meeting agendas, and recording and distributing all of our PAG's meeting minutes. So as you can see, our PAG has been very hard at work for you and my mentions are only a *fraction* of all the amazing work of what that they are *actually* doing! So, thank you DHPAG Executive Committee Team Members, Chairs, Co-Chairs, and volunteer team members! None of this would be possible without you!

I have full confidence that the strength of our PAG will continue as LCDR Jen Eng propels us into the new year. She has been an *extraordinary* Chair-Elect, officer, colleague, and friend. I am so grateful to have had her by my side this past year. I wish you all a *Very Merry Christmas* and *Happy Holiday Season*! Thank you for your service and sacrifices, and that of your family. I am forever grateful to have served as your Dental Hygiene PAG Chair, and with your continued dedication and leadership, I have never been more optimistic for the future of our PAG and the Corps.



P.S. As we enter this holiday season, please take time to pause and reflect on what your service means to our nation. The holiday season is a wonderful time to spend with family and friends, however it is not uncommon for to-do lists to suddenly triple in length—and if you don't take time to pause and reflect, these lists can become burdens and obligations instead of fun holiday events. Rushing around can activate your body's stress response, so take some time to slow down, reflect, and savor the wonder of the Christmas season. Let's not forget our officers that are deployed. Spending the holidays alone or without loved ones can be difficult for anyone. Please reach out to them—it could be the greatest gift you give this season \mathfrak{S}

Much Love, LCDR Cynthia Chennault 2022 DHPAG Chair





Health Services Category Dental Hygiene Professional Advisory Group

Multidisciplinary in Approach, Connected by Service, Advancing Public Health #WeAreCorpsSTRONG

Happy Holidays DHPAG Officers!



As we usher in to 2023 DHPAG operational year, I am truly honored to serve as your Chair for this upcoming year. Despite the numerous challenges that we faced in 2020-2022 and the uncertainty of what lies ahead, our officers have continued to lead and spearhead exemplary efforts across the United States Public Health Service and in our communities. Thank you for your sustained dedication and resilience. Please be assured that DHPAG will be there to support you.

We welcome all DHPAG officers to participate in our General Body Meetings to learn more about what our subgroups within our PAG does. Whether you are a new officer, an officer yet to become actively involved, or existing officer looking to be more engaged, there are various opportunities to get connected

through our PAG. It is with great hope and expectation that you will find a subgroup that fits your personal and professional interests. Please join us for our first General Body meeting this year on Tuesday, February 14th from 1100-1145 EST.

I would like to thank all the past DHPAG Chairs for their unwavering commitment to our PAG over the past years. I would also like to acknowledge and extend appreciation to the outgoing Voting Members as DHPAG could not have attained our remarkable accomplishments without you. Additionally, my sincere gratitude goes to LCDR Cynthia Chennault for serving as our amazing and fearless leader this past year. Thank you for your leadership, support, guidance, and friendship. We know you will stick around to continue supporting all of us.

I am excited to work together with our outstanding PAG subgroup leads as well as our newly appointed Chair-Elect LCDR Doretha Wilson. It is my privilege to serve alongside all of you this year.

I invite all members of DHPAG to reach out to me directly via email if you have any questions and/or feedback specific to the interests and concerns of our PAG.

At your Service,

W.

Jen Eng LCDR, United States Public Health Service 2023 Chair, Dental Hygiene Professional Advisory Group (DHPAG)

2022 DHPAG Executive Committee

Chair	LCDR Cynthia Chennault	301-443-6691	CChennault@hrsa.gov									
Chair Elect	LCDR Jen Eng	206-817-5801	jennie.eng@fda.hhs.gov									
Secretary	LT Erin Heap	570-547-7950 ext 5623	eheap@bop.gov									
Operations												
Communications Chair	LCDR Tanya Sumner	817-658-4841	tsumner@southcentralfoundation.com									
Co-Chair	LCDR Melka Argaw	973-849-9235	Melka.Argaw@fda.hhs.gov									
Member/Co-Editor	LT Sascha Randolph	301-796-8546	Sascha.Randolph@fda.hhs.gov									
Awards Chair	LCDR Theresa Chennault	580-354-5143	Theresa.Chennault@ihs.gov									
Co-Chair	LTJG Courtney Jackson		c10jackson@bop.gov									
Stakeholder & Community Engagement Chair	LCDR Tiffany Smith	520-464-3591	Tiffany.H.Smith@ice.dhs.gov									
Co-Chair	LT Valerie Favela	512-508-2638	Valerie.Favela@cms.hhs.gov									
	Officer	Support										
Recruitment & Retention Chair	LT Darion Smith	404-718-8454	qzq4@cdc.gov									
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Co-Chair	LT Sylvester Smith		s17smith@bop.gov									
Co-Chair Training, Education & Mentorship Chair	LT Sylvester Smith LCDR Olivia Barrow	907-463-4047	s17smith@bop.gov oliviab@searhc.org									
Training, Education &		907-463-4047 218-983-6441	. 0									
Training, Education & Mentorship Chair	LCDR Olivia Barrow		oliviab@searhc.org									
Training, Education & Mentorship Chair Co-Chair	LCDR Olivia Barrow LT Alyssa Rowe	218-983-6441	oliviab@searhc.org Alyssa.Rowe@ihs.gov									
Training, Education & Mentorship Chair Co-Chair Technical Readiness Chair	LCDR Olivia Barrow LT Alyssa Rowe LCDR Keasha Myrick	218-983-6441 405-951-3826	oliviab@searhc.org Alyssa.Rowe@ihs.gov Keasha.Myrick@ihs.gov									
Training, Education & Mentorship Chair Co-Chair Technical Readiness Chair Co-Chair	LCDR Olivia Barrow LT Alyssa Rowe LCDR Keasha Myrick LT Cindy Pallack	218-983-6441 405-951-3826 202-304-8327	oliviab@searhc.org Alyssa.Rowe@ihs.gov Keasha.Myrick@ihs.gov Cindy.Pallack@hhs.gov									
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SUBGROUP CORNER

COMMUNICATIONS SUBGROUP

WANTED ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTERS:

DHPAG New Officer Spotlight

DHPAG Officer Highlights - Clinical or Administrative positions

Volunteer Opportunities and Engagement

Community or Athletic Events

Tips for Successful PCS

Deployment Experience

Kudos for promotions and awards

Attended a CE? Tell us how it went!

What do you want to see in the Newsletter?

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

Newsletter I – Spring: 4/14/2023 Newsletter II – Summer: 8/15/2023 Newsletter III – Fall: 11/17/2023

All: Ensure to utilize the "**2022** DHPAG Newsletter Submission Request Form" going forward for articles, award notifications, notification of new officers etc.

FORM: can be found on the DHPAG website under the Newsletter Section, which can be accessed below: https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/hso/pags-dhpag-newsletters.aspx

AWARDS SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

STAKEHOLDER & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

TRAINING, EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

DENTAL RESOURCES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

CE Credits: Available CE Credits

https://www.colgateoralhealthnetwork.com/webinar/?cwF=1&fr=all-formats

http://www.adha.org/continuing-education

https://www.dentalcare.com/en-us/professional- education/ce-course/

https://dentalacademyofce.com/dace/courses.aspx?s=Dental%2520Hygienist&c=Hygiene

https://dimensionsofdentalhygiene.com/ce/

https://www.hu-friedy.com/education/continuing-education-classes

Center for Disease Control and Prevention http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/

Health Resources and Services Administration https://www.hrsa.gov/oral-health/index.html

Indian Health Service Early Childhood Caries Initiative https://www.ihs.gov/doh/index.cfm?fuseaction=ecc.materials

National Board of Public Health Examiners https://www.nbphe.org/CPH

National Commission on Correctional Health Care https://www.ncchc.org/CCHP-exam

TECHNICAL READINESS SUBGROUP

The Health Services Professional Advisory Committee (HSPAC) Advanced Readiness Program (ARP) goal is to provide a framework under which Health Services Officers (HSO) can increase their deployment and technical readiness as defined by their respective Professional Advisory Groups (PAGs). It is a voluntary two-year program to increase readiness and deployment knowledge beyond the required level of USPHS Basic Readiness. The ARP will accept new officers on a semi-annual enrollment period using the calendar year January 1st & July 1st cohorts.

January CohortJuly CohortOpen Enrollment to PHS Officers:October 1st - 31stApril 1 - 30thNotification of Eligible PHS Officers:December 8th - 22ndJune 8th - 22nd

ARP Starts for Eligible PHS Officers: January 1st July 1st

Technical Readiness Quarterly Meetings:

Fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, & October @ 1530 ET/1430 CT/1330 MT/1230PT January 24, 2023

SUBGROUP CORNER

April 25, 2023 July 25, 2023 October 31, 2023

Advanced Readiness Program (ARP) Participants:

RDH Completed ARP: 5

RDH Currently in ARP Cohort January 2022: 5 RDH Currently in ARP Cohort July 2022: 3 RDH currently in ARP Cohort January 2023: 2

ADMINISTRATION SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time.

DATA & EVALUATION SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

POLICY SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time.

October al Hygienists Month Hygienists Care About More Than Just Oral Health

October is National Dental Hygienist Month, where dental hygienists are celebrated and also help raise awareness of the importance of good oral health, but as Dental Hygienists we also care about more than just good oral health; We care about families, Children, Communities, Animals and so much more.

To help demonstrate how much Commissioned Corps Dental Hygienists help out in more ways than just oral health, the Stakeholder & Community Engagement subgroup sponsored the first DHPAG-Wide Dental Hygiene Volunteer initiative for the month of October and the participation was outstanding! 30 Officers participated and received COAs!



Officer LCDR Jen Eng represented FDA and USPHS at the Chinese Culture and Community service Center during their annual career fair in Gaithersburg, Maryland.#ccacc#commissionedcorps#usphs









LT Alyssa Rowe volunteered 2 weekends in October at her local Humane Society. Humane Society of the Lakes is in need of volunteers to help make the shelter a less stressful, scary place for the dogs or cats who has never been in a kennel before. Some activities she did with the dogs and cats were: brushing, walking, socializing, and playing with the animals.

"It was such a fun and rewarding experience, I will make this a monthly activity. I can even include my kids, as they have Book Buddies, is a program designed to help the shelter animals become more adoptable through social interaction with children." - LT Alyssa Rowe



USPHS Officers volunteered at the American heart association heart walk today held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds lead by CDR Hubbard. Thank you all for coming out and serving the community.

Photo: CDR John Hubbard, LCDR Jen Eng, LCDR Richard Johnson and CDR Michael Gwathmey #amricanheartassociation #BCOA #heartwalk #MDstatefairground



CDR Valerie Favela and her group volunteered 3.5 hours at A Precious Child in Broomfield, CO.

"We spent our time unpacking donated items, stocking the shopping area, and checking out clients. Saturdays are currently for serving victims of the Marshall Fires which occurred only a few miles away."

Photo: Civilian, Civilian, CDR Tawanda Martin, LCDR Valerie Favela, and LCDR Heather Rhodes



LCDR Theresa Chennault coordinated the Oklahoma Blood Institutes Blood mobile on 10/18/22. There were 22 total donors which was 2 over the goal of 18, 5 new donors, and 66 lives were saved due to the donation.



"As the old adage says, "Those who can do, do and those who can do more, volunteer." Inspired by seeing your volunteer initiative, I volunteered by doing more to build that sense of achievement." - LT Woldeamanual



On Saturday, October 29th, LCDR Chennault and LT Holli Reed volunteerd at the 1st Annual Boots & Biscuits Boot Walk to End Cancer, at Fewell Park, in Rock Hill, South Carolina. MD Anderson's Boot Walk to End Cancer raises awareness to end cancer across the nation and around the world. They are focused on supporting patients and their loved ones throughout their cancer journey and advacne research discoveries to slow, stop, or prevent cancer. LCDR Chennault and LT Reed volunteered their time by baking breakfast, decorting tables, distributing t-shirts, and coordinating activities. They also joined in with community members by walking 1.2 miles, demonstrating that together, we can give cancer the boot



On October 22nd, LCDR Melka Argaw and his children volunteered 6 hours at Dr. Peterson Health fair Camden, NJ collaborating with the Kinder-Smile Foundation for non-profit community oral health center.



LCDR Tiffany H. Smith was the United Food Bank team lead for both the East Valley and Phoenix COA branches and recruited 8 PHS officers and their families. A total of 1,200 emergency food bags valued at \$18,000 with each bag helping to supplement a family of four during a time of need for three to four days.

Photo: LT Patricia Wrona, LCDR Shaunte Tucker, LCDR Marcus Felter, CDR Karen Beauvais, LT Regena Hardy, LCDR Vinita Puri, LT Mike Buck Elk, and LCDR Tiffany H. Smith



On October 1st, USP Lewisburg (federal prison) provided a Trunk or Treat event for all staff and their families. 5 USPHS Officers from the Susquehanna Valley COA of Central PA dressed up and participated in creating a decorated trunk. Officers passed out treats, had games with prizes and of course some dental health education too, reminding kids the importance of brushing after enjoying all their candy. Photo: CDR Stacey Barkauskas, LCDR Erin Heap, LCDR Cindy Smith, LT Maria Doran & LT Andrew Mattocks



On Saturday mornings in Muncy, PA, the YMCA comes alive with music, drumming and dancing for those with diverse abilities. LCDR Erin Heap has been volunteering for this work-out program for over 10 years with regular attendance between 20-40 "Superstars". The program promotes physical fitness, everyone being an important part of the community and giving all individuals, despite their disability, a voice.



LCDR Tanya Sumner and her son volunteered 3 hours at the local food bank in Anchorage Alaska. "Volunteering with my son was a wonderful opporutnity to spend time with my son and show love to our local community"







LCDR Olivia Barrow had the opportunity to volunteer as a "Wetsuit Peeler" in Ironman Alaska 2022!

"It was held in Juneau, AK which is where I've had the pleasure of living and working for the past 12 years as a PHS officer. There was a 70+ female athlete who did not make the cut off swim time. As you can imagine this is devastating for athletes who have dedicated countless hours and months to training. She stated, "I don't mind, I will get out there and finish my own race"! The athletes were truly inspirational, which gave me the motivation to sign up for next year's race!"



On October 29th, CDR Ann
Truong-Huffines and LT Kinman volunteered at the Bella SPCA Rescue Center, a non-profit that aids low-income, elderly, or terminally ill pet owners with veterinary costs for their pets and assists with finding permanent homes for rescued pets.

"CDR Truong-Huffines and I have had a wonderful time volunteering this time and previously at Bella SPCA, where we have assisted with bathing and walking the dogs, as well as general area cleanup for the dogs and cats to roam around mess-free. We have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the animals and volunteering our efforts at Bella SPCA for pets in need."



Written By: LCDR Jennifer Curtis

Immigration Health Service Corps (IHSC) Chief Nurse and Central Regional Nurse Manager attend Dinner with a Captain on September 26, 2022 with local COA.

While on an institutional visit to Lasalle ICE Processing Center and Alexandria Staging Facility in Louisiana, CAPT Tiffany Moore, IHSC Chief Nurse was able to meet with several members of the local Central Louisiana (Cenla) COA chapter for a dinner with a Captain.



Pictured front row left to right:

LT Oluwaseun Foluke Infection Prevention Nurse, LCDR Jennifer Curtis Assistant Health Services Administrator, CDR Amanda Ramsburg Central Regional Nurse Manger, CAPT Tiffany Moore IHSC Chief Nurse, LTJG Jarryd Mayeaux Clinical Nurse, LT Andrea Essig Senior Clinical Nurse.

Back row left to right:

LT Joshua Mjolsness Facility Healthcare Program Manager, LCDR Willis Steortz Flight Nurse, LCDR Shane Pennison Acting Nurse Manager.

HISPAC 2022 JOSEPH GARCIA JR. AWARD



LCDR Keasha Myrick is the recipient of the HSPAC 2022 Joseph Garcia Jr. Award. This award is presented to an "outstanding junior health services professional" in honor of advancing the public health for the nation. LCDR Myrick is a registered dental hygienist with Indian Health Service (IHS) serving as Operations Director to the Dental Support Center-Oklahoma City and Bemidji Areas and supports the Dental Support Center in Great Plains Area. She manages two dental programs of 83 dental clinics and supports a third dental program of 19 dental facilities. She manages national oral health initiatives and surveillances; provides funding to support dental initiatives to awarded dental clinics; organize five yearly continuing dental education seminars and conferences for approximately 1120 dental staff; and works closely with eight other Dental Support Centers.

LCDR Myrick commissioned into USPHS in September 2017 with a bachelor's in Dental Hygiene and a doctorate in Health Science. Prior to commissioning, she provided dental services to an underserved population in Georgia, her native state, for over 12 years. She later joined IHS in December 2015.

LCDR Myrick, not only serves within dental communities but numerous committees within IHS and PHS: IHS-COVID19 Vaccine Teams (4), National Oral Updates Conferences, and assist with special projects on national and local IHS and dental levels and PHS-HSPAC Readiness Subcommittee as ARP Liaison for DHPAG, HSPAC Recruitment & Retention as Executive Secretary, Team Lead of Candidate Application Tracking Team and named 2020 Top Performer, HSPAC Career Development as DHPAG Liaison, DHPAG Technical Readiness Chair, DHPAG Communication co-Chair, DHPAG Training, Education, and Mentorship Dental Hygiene Directory Update co-Chair, JOAG Readiness & Development Officer Readiness Team Lead and APFT co-Team Lead, JOAG Professional Development Career Development co-Team Lead and named 2021 Outstanding Committee Member, and COA local branch, Oklahoma City Chapter. LCDR Myrick was awarded 2021 DHPAG Junior of the Year, 2018 IHS National Oral Health, Junior Dental Hygienist of the Year and 2022 National Oral Health, Senior Dental Hygienist of the Year.

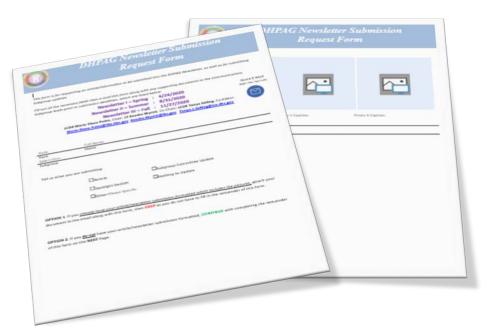
LCDR Myrick takes great pride as a mentor and mentee in advancing public health priorities, personally and professionally

The DHPAG Communications Subgroup has a new form!

DHPAG Newsletter Submission Request Form

Please start utilizing this form for **2023** Newsletter Submissions, Officer Spotlight, DHPAG Officer Career Paths, Subgroup Updates including nothing to report!

Click below to be directed to the new form as well as other documents!



^{*} After clicking picture above, it will open the PDF attachment window on the left, click and download the attachment to get the form *

Other Documents Included:

DHPAG New Officer Questionnaire: Know a new officer? Are you a new Officer yourself? Fill out one of these questionnaire forms and submit with the 2022 DHPAG Newsletter Submission Request Form.

DHPAG Officer Career Paths Questionnaire: For LCDR's and Senior Officers; Do you have a career experience you would like to share with other officers and give advise? Fill out one of these questionnaires and submit with the 2022 DHPAG Newsletter Submission request form.

Save the Date 2023

Below are the upcoming dental conferences and seminars. Please submit any dental conferences and seminars to be included in newsletters and website that may not be listed below.

Also, let us know which event you are attending for a meet n greet session! See you there!!!

								Tevent you are attending for a meet in a															
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2023 Upcoming Events







APRIL 17-19, 2023 AT THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON UNIVERSAL STUDIOS, ORLANDO, FL

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS APRIL 15-16, 2023

2023 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium

May 8, 2023 – May 11, 2023 8:00 AM-4:00 PM Cox Business Convention Center 100 Civic Center Tulsa, OK 74103

ADHA Annual Conference July 7 - 9, 2023 at McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois

(More information to come when available)



Attend one of the events?

Tell us about it! Submit an article request describing how your experience went and what you learned!