



The Fulcrum

Note from DHPAG Chair

CDR Kari Pinsonneault

2019 Fall Issue III



Dear Fellow Officers,

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as your chair this year. We have had a very productive year and have superseded my expectations in accomplishing our PAG goals for the year. As we prepare for our next year, I continue to encourage our junior officers to join a subgroup workgroup. One of the most important goals of ours this year was to increase visibility of our officers within our PAG, the PAC, and the Corps. From

establishing a “Welcome Package” for our newly commissioned officers, providing our resources, Corps. points of contacts, and introductions to our PAG leadership to more than 40 officers deploying to multiple missions including RAM events and the USNS Comfort Humanitarian Mission, we have made our officers visible in the Corps. Our officers have represented our PAG with great honor and pride, getting the attention of leadership reinforcing our PAG’s value to the Corps.

With the end of my term approaching, I have a different appreciation for the camaraderie of our PAG and our leaders. We worked closely with the PAC and together we have completed the PAC assigned activities for the year. The expectations of PAG leadership is growing as the Corps. continues to evolve. These changes are moving our PAG, PAC, and Corps. to a stronger more unified place among the Uniformed Services and our responsibilities are increasing. The impact of strong leadership has never been this imperative to our PAG. I am proud to say we have had a notable rise in junior officer participation this year and our senior officers continue to step up to mentor and guide. As representation of our junior officers increases, I encourage you all to continue your involvement with the PAG and PAC next year.

I am proud of our PAG and being a part of this team of great leaders. I want to reiterate my appreciation for our PAG leadership and making this such a wonderful experience. Please join me in welcoming LCDR Jennifer Curtis as our upcoming PAG Chair and LCDR Emily Warnstadt as our upcoming PAG Chair-Elect. We are in great hands and I look forward to where they will lead us, we are CorpsSTRONG!

Yours in Service,
CDR Kari Pinsonneault

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New Officer Spotlight:

[LT Balderrama](#)

Awards

Save the Date

Continuing Education

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Co-Editors:

[LCDR Marie-Elena C. Puleo](#)

[LCDR Tanya Selling](#)

[LT Keasha Myrick](#)



Happy Fall/Winter to all Our Fellow Dental Hygiene Officers!

Please join us in Thanking

CDR Kari Pinsonneault for her dedication and hard work this past year as our DHPAG Chair!
We truly appreciate your dedication to our PAG this past year and your continued support
as we move forward into the next year!

As the new year comes in, let us welcome and support our incoming 2020 DHPAG Chair....

LCDR Jennifer Curtis



LCDR Jennifer Curtis has served as a U.S. Public Health Service Officer since October 16, 2006 and for the Indian Health Service (IHS) since September 13, 2015. LCDR Curtis is stationed at the Claremore Indian Hospital as an Advanced Clinical and Community Dental Hygienist. LCDR Curtis holds a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Science in Health Administration from Southern California Health Science Independence University. During her career as a U.S. Public Health Service Officer, LCDR Curtis has provided dental services in remote underserved locations throughout Oklahoma. LCDR Curtis has also had the opportunity to served as a Corporate Compliance Officer, Privacy Officer, and Acting Patient Advocate.

LCDR Curtis has proudly deployed as the Lead dental Hygienist on the Continuing Promise Mission in 2008 in South America, as an Administrative Officer for an Applied Public Health Team APHT-4 for the 2011 Operation Foothold on the Sioux Tribe Reservation and Oklahoma Remote Area Medical (RAM) events for 3 consecutive years. She is the second in command to the Lead Planning Section Officer for RDF-4. LCDR Curtis serves on multiple committees including but not limited to: the Indian health Service Dental Hygiene Executive Committee Continuing Education Chair and the Dental Hygiene Representative for the Field Advisory Committee (FAC) of the National Oral Health Council (NOHC).

LCDR Curtis is honored to serve as the 2020 Chair of the Dental Hygiene Professional Advisory Group (DHPAG). Her goal for the year is to serve the Dental Hygienist within the U.S. Public Health Service to the best of her ability and continue to uplift the Dental Hygiene Profession. LCDR Curtis resides in Owasso, Oklahoma with her husband Zach and two daughters Liberty and Gracelyn.

2019 DHPAG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Chair	CDR Kari Pinsonneault	816-426-6472	kari.pinsonneault@cms.hhs.gov
Chair Elect	LCDR Jennifer Curtis	918-342-6400	Jennifer.Curtis@ihs.gov
Secretary	LT Michele Gottshall	570-544-7205	mbedford@bop.gov

Operations

Communications Chair	LCDR Marie-Elena Puleo (Lana)	845-220-2122 x1101	marie-elena.puleo@fda.hhs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LT Keasha Myrick	405-951-3826	Keasha.Myrick@ihs.gov
Member	LCDR Tanya Selling	520-868-8455	Tanya.L.Selling@ice.dhs.gov
Awards Chair	LCDR Tammy Thomason	304-626-2500 x1151	tthomason@bop.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	OPEN		
Stakeholder & Community Engagement Co-Chair	LCDR Nicolette Bennett	301-443-3562	nbennett@hrsa.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LCDR Latasha Turner	301 443-0813	lturner@hrsa.gov

Officer Support

Recruitment Chair (Ad Hoc)	LCDR Doretha M Tonkins	336-333-5419; x103	Doretha.tonkins@fda.hhs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LCDR Miranda Nelson (Shropshire)	352-689-5134	mshropshire@bop.gov
Training, Education & Mentorship Chair	LCDR Paula M. Arango	609-723-1100 x6783	parango@bop.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LCDR Andrew Felix	619-661-4072	Andrew.Felix@ice.dhs.gov
Technical Readiness Chair	CDR Amy Strain	214-767-3048	astrain@hrsa.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LCDR Doretha M Tonkins	336-333-5419; x103	Doretha.tonkins@fda.hhs.gov
Data & Evaluation Chair	LCDR Charles Brucklier	301-443-0210	cbrucklier@hrsa.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	OPEN		

Management

Policy Chair	LCDR Emily Warnstadt	509-865-1708	emily.warnstadt@ihs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LT Theresa Chennault	918-342-6400	Theresa.Chennault@ihs.gov
Administrative Chair	LCDR Diane Weidley	301-443-8106	Diane.Weidley@fda.hhs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	OPEN		



SUBGROUP CORNER

COMMUNICATIONS SUBGROUP

WANTED ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTERS:

A day in the life of a RDH

Alternative Career Paths

Upcoming Conferences

Volunteer Opportunities and Engagement

Community Events

Tips for Successful PCS

Deployment Experience

Kudos for promotions and awards

What do you want to see in the Newsletter?

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION FORM:

Communications Subgroup has a new form for submitting article requests, notifying us of new officers, and subgroup updates- even if nothing to report.

AWARDS SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

STAKEHOLDER & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

TRAINING, EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP SUBGROUP

DIRECTORY

Will be updated quarterly: send new rank and any changes to maintain the directory updated to Andrew.Felix@ice.dhs.gov

DENTAL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

CE Credits: Available CE Credits: 297

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

<https://www.dentalacademyofce.com/dace/courses.aspx?s=Dental%20Hygienist&c=Hygiene>

National Board of Public Health Examiners

<https://www.nbphe.org/> CPH - Certified Public Health

National Commission on Correctional Health Care

<https://www.ncchc.org/CCHP-exam> - Certified Correctional Health Professional

TECHNICAL READINESS SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

ADMINISTRATION SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

DATA & EVALUATION SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

RECRUITMENT SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time

POLICY SUBGROUP

Nothing to report at this time



USPHS Commissioned Corps Dental Hygienists and USNS Comfort T-AH 20 Enduring Promise 2019 Deployment




Authors: LCDR Paula Arango, LCDR Jamie Martinez and LT Sascha Randolph



Commissioned Corps Dental Hygienists assigned to the Federal Bureau of Prisons were selected to deploy to support the Operation Smile Team onboard the USNS Comfort T-AH 20. This is the first humanitarian mission with the USNS Comfort where Public Health Service (PHS) Officers have served in approximately 9 years. The three HSO Officers assigned to the 4th rotation of PHS Officers were LCDR Paula Arango from FCI Fort Dix, NJ, LCDR Jamie Martinez from FCI Pollock, LA and LT Randolph from FCI Fairton, NJ. Among the requirements to be selected for this deployment were basic readiness, currently in a clinical role, and an exceptional COER. LCDR Arango and LCDR Martinez served as Spanish interpreters while LT Randolph interpreted Jamaican dialect in order to facilitate communication between providers and patients.

USNS Comfort collaborated and worked with health and government partners in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean to provide care on the ship and at temporary land-based medical sites. They helped relieve pressure on national healthcare systems, including those strained by an increase in cross-border migrants. Through this partnership, the PHS Officers played a vital role in providing free health care to individuals in need on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals seeking care were from vulnerable populations that would not have received care otherwise.

During rotation #4 (October 15, 2019 to November 15, 2019), the PHS Dental Hygiene team worked alongside fellow military dental officers, enlisted service members, and professionals from Non-Governmental Organizations to treat a total of 2,123 patients. The two teams providing care consisted of 2 oral maxillofacial surgeons, 10 general dentists, 1 exodontist, 3 pediatric dentists, 3 dental hygienists, and several dental assistants. PHS dental hygienist deployment team in support of USNS Comfort's mission Operation "Enduring Promise 2019," provided dental hygiene treatment, preventative services and home care instructions at two temporary medical treatment sites in several Caribbean Countries. The countries visited include:

-  Dominican Republic from October 16, 2019- October 22, 2019 (842 total patients)
-  Jamaica from October 25, 2019 - November 3, 2019 (825 total patients)
-  Haiti from November 4, 2019 - November 11, 2019 (456 total patients)

Medical site teams were established at secure locations to ensure safety and offer accessibility to patients needing the most care. The Dental Department provided 872 dental prophylaxis, 872 fluoride treatments, 1,701 extractions, and 1,154 restorations to underserved populations that do not have access to even the most basic dental care. As Public Health Officers, and as dental hygiene experts we are honored to have served onboard the USNS Comfort T-AH 20. We are proud to have represented the Commissioned Corps, and to have supported the mission "Enduring Promise 2019". We provided excellent dental care under challenging circumstances, with limited resources and left a positive impact knowing that each patient departed with a healthier smile than when they first arrived.



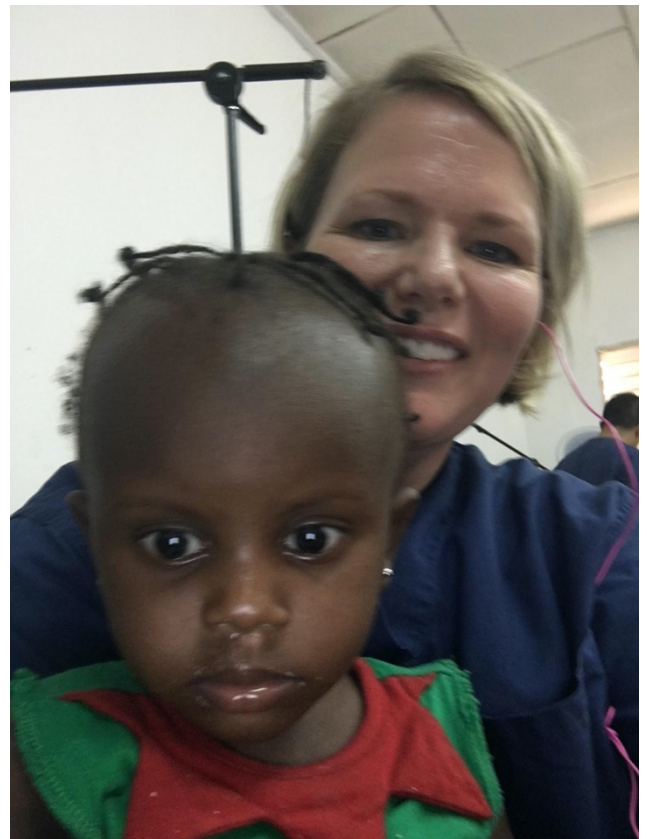
Impact of USNS Comfort Deployment 2019 in Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Haiti.



USPHS Dental Hygienists LT Sascha Randolph, LCDR Jamie Martinez, and LCDR Paula Arango (left to right) ashore in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.



LT Sascha Randolph providing dental care in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.



LCDR Jamie Martinez holding a child who received care in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.



LCDR Paula Arango treating a patient in Kingston, Jamaica.



DEPLOYMENT TIDBITS

CDR KARI PINSONNEAULT

As our officers continue to deploy to RAM events, the lack of adequate lighting for clinicians has been an observed. CAPT Candace Hander has identified an affordable solution. The Denshine Portable Head Light Lamp for Dental Surgical Medical Binocular Loupe can be purchased on Amazon for under \$30.00. Adding this, or a similar device, to your armamentarium will improve your ergonomics and experience during RAM events.



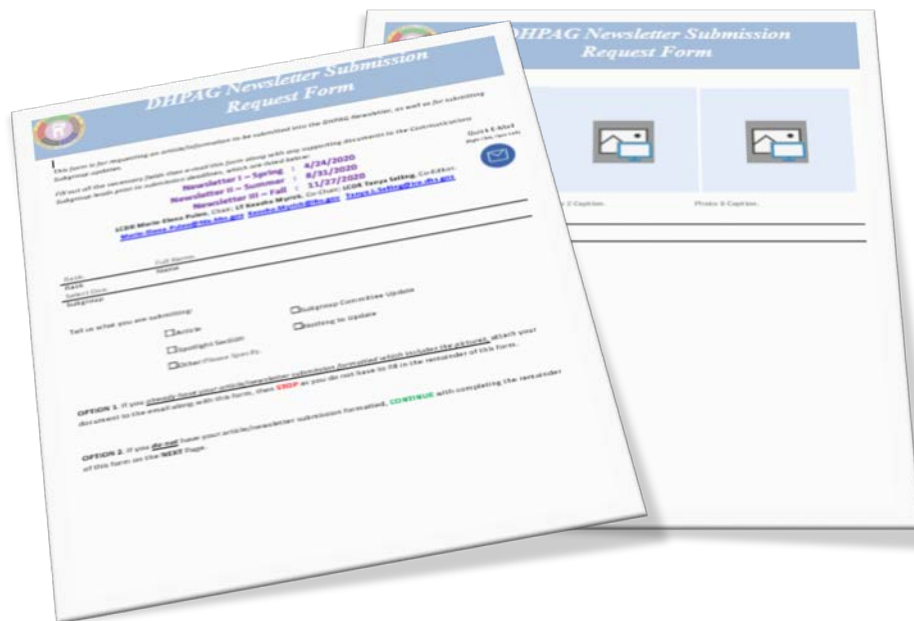


NEW!

The DHPAG Communications Subgroup has a new form!

DHPAG Newsletter Submission Request Form

Please start utilizing this form for Newsletter Submissions, Officer Spotlight, Subgroup Updates including nothing to report! Click below to be directed to the new form!



* After clicking link above, it will open the attachment window on the left. Click and download the attachment to get the form *

New Officer SPOTLIGHT



DHPAG



**DRIVEN
NURTURING
OUTGOING**

LT Balderrama has been a RDH for 7 years and is from Anthony, New Mexico. He received his B.S. in Dental Hygiene as well as Biology.

LT Justin Balderama

OBC 114 - Albuquerque, NM. IHS

What are your hobbies and/or Interests?

Snowboarding and Traveling

How did you find out about PHS?

Through my current duty station.

What are your goals with PHS?

To aid in advancing PHS as it grows and evolves over the upcoming years and to also bring awareness to the presence of the Corps.

How was your experience during OBC Training?

My experience during OBC was informative and eye opening, the the many opportunities that the Corps allows for.

What was your highlight of OBC Training?

The highlight of OBC training was all of the great professionals that I met from across our great Nation.

What do you aspire to accomplish in your current position?

In my current position I hope to maintain and further improve quality of care provided to our patients. I also hope to further improve and maintain my duty stations infection control practices.

Where do you see yourself in your PHS career in 2-3 years?

My primary role at the moment is as a clinician but I can see myself doing more administrative duties or somewhat of a hybrid role.

Ultimately, I will go in whatever direction the Corps needs me.

As a new PHS officer, How do you feel the DPHAG could support you?

I feel that the DHPAG can provide me with great guidance and knowledge necessary to grow as an Officer.

What area or state would you like to work as a duty station?

I would love to expand to either the West or East Coast as a duty station.



No Awards submitted for this Newsletter

*To submit an award to appear in the next
Newsletter [Click Here](#)*



Save the Date



Welcome, everyone to the **SAVE the DATE** section! This section of the newsletter will provide upcoming dental conferences and seminars to attend. 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!!!

September						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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29	30					

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29	30	31	<i>2019 AMSUS</i>			

January						
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29	30	31	<i>2020 Hinman</i>			

April						
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31						

June						
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31	<i>2020ADHA</i>					
<i>2020 COF Symposium Phoenix AZ</i>						

July						
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<i>2020 RDH Under One Roof</i>						

August						
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30	31					



December

2nd-6th

2019 AMSUS Annual Meeting

December 2-6, 2019 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

<https://www.amsus.org/events/annual-meeting-2/>



19th- 21st

March

<https://www.hinman.org/>

April

6th-8th

National Oral Health Conference

April 6-8, 2020

San Diego, California

<https://www.eventscribe.com/2019/NOHC/>





12th- 14th

2020 ADHA Conference
June 12-14, 2020
New Orleans, Louisiana
<https://www.adha2020.org/>

**ADHA
2020
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
NEW ORLEANS**

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 - SUNDAY, JUNE 14

15th- 18th

2020 USPHS Symposium
June 15-18, 2020
Renaissance Phoenix Glendale
9495 W. Coyotes Blvd.
Glendale, AZ 85305



July 16th-18th



2020 RDH UnderOneRoof
Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center
Denver, Colorado

Pre-Registration is Now Open
<https://www.rdhunderoneroof.com/2020-pre-registration>



Continuing Education

Free: <https://www.dentalcare.com/en-us>

Free: <http://vivalearning.com/>

Certifications

Certified Correctional Health Professional (CCHP):

<http://www.ncchc.org/cchp>

****Coin Sales On Hold Until Further Notice****



Dental Hygiene Professional Advisory Group (DHPAG) Coin Order Form



Price: \$12

Name: _____

Address (for shipment): _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Quantity: _____

Total Enclosed: _____ (including S&H)

(Please make the **COIN** check payable to:

Commissioned Officers Foundation

AND the **SHIPPING** Check to Angelica Chica)

Send your check and this form to:

LCDR Angelica Chica

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

15100 NW 67th Ave, Suite 400

Miami Lakes, FL 33014

Shipping and

Handling:

Less than 10 coins= \$3.00

10 or more coins= \$7.00

QUESTIONS: Contact LCDR Chica at 305-816-1450 or angelica.chica@fda.hhs.gov

****Coin Sales On Hold Until Further Notice****