

A Year in Review

A Health Services Professional Advisory Committee Newsletter
Strength Through Diversity



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HS PAC Chair Report

CDR George Durgin

As the year end draws near I truly appreciate the opportunity I have had to serve on the HS PAC the last four years and as your Chair this year. CDR Sheila Merriweather will continue to leading the way forward in 2011. 2010 has been an eventful year with the change in the Health Services (HS) Chief Professional Officer (CPO) midway through the year. RADM Elizondo is the second flag officer to be the HS CPO. RADM Milner's tenure will be long remembered as he was the first flag HS-CPO and the first Physician Assistant of all the services to be promoted to a flag rank. The 2010 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium's Category Day was a little different by having round table presentations, providing the opportunity for more breakout session and the uniqueness of picking and choosing during the day. There was a lot of positive feedback and was a welcomed change.

A personal goal as a Mustang (former enlisted Servicemember), was to bring frocking to the USPHS, from the other Services. Frocking is when an officer is announced to be promoted. However, an officer's promotion date is in the future, yet they are doing the equivalent job of the rank they are being promoted to, so they are then granted orders to wear the rank until their official promotion date, at which time they are given the commensurate pay. Thanks to LCDR Joseph Shurina for leading the Frocking ad-hoc subcommittee this year. He was able to develop a draft instruction for submission up to the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG). The Surgeon General's Professional Advisory Committee Chairs reviewed and also approved the frocking instruction and it is now on the way forward. Finally, after a year of discussion, I was proud to see the Public Health Professional



Advisory Group (PHPAG) was officially formed. This was some time in coming with much discussion, however, there was a large group of officers in public health and health education that wanted to have their own professional advisory group and now they have it. I hope you all have a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing most of you next year in New Orleans.

The Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG)

LCDR Amy Constantine

On Friday, October 1, 2010, the HS PAC formally approved the creation of the Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG). The vision in creating the PHPAG was to connect HSOs working in public health positions by focusing on public health and creating subcommittees that focused on career advancement in the following areas: Epidemiology, Health Promotion and Education, Policy and a Generalist of Public Health. Prior to the PHPAG being established, the first conference calls took place in August 2010 and were attended by 29 officers from across the country, representing

multiple agencies. After these initial meetings, by-laws were created by 23 officers and reviewed by two senior officers for submission to the HS PAC. The PHPAG has already submitted round table discussion topics for the Commissioned Officer Foundation (COF) Scientific and Training Symposium, in New Orleans. Further, the PHPAG solicited nominations for their executive and voting membership. The following officers were selected for these roles:

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CDR George Durgin passes CDR Sheila Merriweather the HS PAC Chair gavel during the final meeting in December

Health Services Category Day at COF LT Kate Migliaccio

The 2010 Commissioned Officers Foundation (COF) Scientific and Training Symposium took place in San Diego, CA, May 24-27, 2010. It was well attended by officers stationed throughout the nation. On Tuesday, May 25, RADM Michael Milner, Chief Professional Officer (CPO), opened up the event, with 200 officers in attendance, and heard from some great speakers throughout the day. Category Day began with a panel discussion on "The Myths and Realities of HSO Promotion Precepts." The afternoon sessions consisted of 19 roundtable discussions that focused on career growth, deployments, leadership training, and discipline specific topics. This was the first year that roundtable sessions on special topics were offered. Officers were able to participate in four different roundtable sessions. It was great to spend the day and learn from fellow officers, while meeting new ones as well.

During the awards ceremony, later in the day, RADM Michael Milner and CDR George Durgin presented awards to LCDR Morrissa Rice, who was the Health Services Responder of the Year; CAPT Deborah Wilson, who received the Stanley J. Kissel Jr. Award and; LCDR Michael Tilus, who received the Joseph Garcia Jr. Award. The Professional Advisory Group (PAG) Chairs, or their representatives, presented awards to their respective recipients. We look forward to seeing each of you next year in New Orleans, LA for the 2011 COF Symposium.

Responder of the Year Award

LCDR Morrissa Rice



(Left to Right) VADM Regina Benjamin, LCDR Morrissa Rice, and RADM Michael Milner

Health Services Category Day Awardees



(Left to Right) CAPT Deborah Wilson, LCDR Morrissa Rice, VADM Regina Benjamin, LCDR Michael Tilus, RADM Michael Milner, and CDR George Durgin

Health Services Professional Advisory Group Awards 2010



(Left to Right) LT Yang Wang, LCDR Joseph Shurina, CDR James Gregory, LCDR Jean-Pierre DeBarros, VADM Regina Benjamin, CDR Ali Danner, CDR Dennis Slate, RADM Michael Milner, and CDR George Durgin

- Social Worker of the Year
- Psychologist of the Year
- Physician Assistant of the Year
- Information Technology Specialist of the Year Award
- Candace M. Jones Award for PHS Dental Hygienist of the Year
- Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Award
- Basic and Applied Sciences Officer of the Year Award

CDR Wanda Finch
CDR Dennis Slate
LCDR Stephen Smith

LT Yang Wang

LT Charles Brucklier
LCDR Jean-Pierre DeBarros

CDR Ali Danner

The Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG) *(continued from page 1)*

Senior Professional Advisors

CAPT Craig Wilkins
CDR George Durgin

Executive Committee Members

LT Dawn Arlotta Chair
LCDR Joseph Roth Chair
LTJG Brittany Bovenizer Secretary

Voting Members

CDR Joy Ann Mathias
CDR Leslie Hausman
LCDR Christye Brown
LCDR Marna Hoard
LCDR Jyl Woolfolk
LCDR Shwana Coleman
LCDR Lorraine Williams
LCDR Mathew Weinburke
LCDR Deidre Washington-Jones
LCDR Van Morfit
LCDR Maria Benke
LT Valerie Marshall

Highlights from the Policy Subcommittee CDR Susan Bonfiglio

The Policy Subcommittee is normally charged with reviewing the Commissioned Corps Personnel Policy Memorandum and other policies and providing recommendations for revisions that will affect the Category and the Corps. The Policy Subcommittee this year was tasked with providing significant comments on nine documents, seven of which were directly related to The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), signed into affect by President Obama March 23, 2010.

The Policy Subcommittee continued its charge in developing and revising the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which was initiated in 2009. The SOP will stand as a guide for current and future leaders of the Health Services Professional Advisory Committee (HS PAC). The purpose of the SOP is to ensure that each officer understands their roles and the roles of others. This document also outlines the roles and responsibilities of the HS PAC voting members, the

Ex-Officio members, Subcommittee Chairs and members, and the Executive Secretary and Recorder. In addition, the SOP provides the most essential component, a section that outlines the position descriptions for each Subcommittee Chair. The PPACA has had a widespread impact on the Commissioned Corps' operating procedures and that HS PAC is no exception. The Policy Committee continues to revise and adapt the SOP to the new provisions taking this charge into 2011.

The Policy Committee was also charged to participate in a collaborative effort with the 2010 Bylaws Subcommittee to bring the SOP into compliance with revisions to the HS PAC Bylaws, in its three year review, per the HS PAC Bylaws. Due to the interactive and fluid relationship between these two documents, this charge will also continue into 2011 as the HS PAC responds to the PPACA as well as ongoing transformational changes.



Health Services Category Awards Luncheon LT Keisha Johnson

After a productive and eventful year for the Health Services Professional Advisory Committee (HS PAC), officers gathered at the Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon to celebrate the accomplishments of this past year and share holiday cheer. On December 3, 2010, immediately after the gravel was handed over to the new 2011 HSPAC Chair, CDR Shelia Merriweather, during the HSPAC meeting, officers met for the Awards Luncheon at Dave and Buster, in Rockville. Approximately 50 officers from all over the country were present to share accolades and acknowledgements, including the 2010 HSPAC Chair, CDR George Durgin and the new incoming HSPAC Chair, CDR Merriweather. Officers in attendance enjoyed great food and had an opportunity to fellowship with new officers and become reacquainted with officers they hadn't seen for a while. CDR Durgin provided remarks and thanked officers for attending the luncheon.

After CDR Durgin's farewell speech, began the awards ceremony. Numerous officers received awards this year, including five members who were presented with the HSPAC Chief Professional Officer (CPO) certificates, after serving three years: CAPT Nancy Bill, CDR Laurie Hall-Brown, CDR Delia Jones-McHorgh, CDR Donald Schmidt, and CAPT Cheryl Wiseman. The HSPAC Mentoring Committee all received CPO certificates for serving as CPO representatives for the successful completion of the 2010 non-promotion mentoring counseling sessions. This year, CDR Raquel Peat, received the most awards for the year. CDR Durgin presented the HSPAC Chair Certificates to all eighteen chair persons and thanked them for their hard work and commitment. Surprisingly, this year, recipients of the CPO certificate were fortunate to have both RADM Michael Milner's and RADM Epi Elizondo's signatures. At the end of the celebration, officers gathered for a group photo and continued to converse with each other.

Thank you to LTJG Tracy Tilghman and LT Kimberly Hawkins for their efforts in making this a successful luncheon.!



CDR George Durgin conducting the Health Services Category Luncheon and Awards Ceremony



Health Services Category Luncheon Attendees, 2010

2010 Health Services Professional Advisory Committee Members

Role/Committee	Name.
Outgoing Chief Professional Officer	RADM Michael Milner
Incoming Chief Professional Officer	RADM Epifanio (Epi) Elizondo
Chair	CDR George Durgin
Chair - Elect	CDR Sheila Merriweather
COF Liaison	CDR Michelle Pelkey
Executive Secretary	CDR Donald Schmidt
Recorder	LTJG Garmin Williams
Subcommittee Chairs	
Mentoring	LCDR Raquel Peat
Membership	CDR Todd Alspach
Readiness	CAPT Nancy Bill
Communications	LCDR Morrissa Rice
Policy	CDR Susan Bonfiglio
Awards	CDR Travis Fisher
Career Development	LCDR Nicole Glines
Recruitment and Retention	LCDR Michelle Colledge and CDR Delia Jones - McHorgh
AMSUS	LCDR David Lau
Bylaws	LCDR Janet Cliatt
Frocking	LCDR Joseph Shurina
COA	CDR Karen Sicard
OCCO	LT Dorinda Ball
JOAG	LCDR Brett Maycock
Voting Members	
	CAPT Cheryl A. Wiseman
	CAPT Bill Wyeth
	CDR Scott J. Salvatore
	CDR Cecile Town
	CDR Laurie A. Brown
	LCDR Raquel Peat
	LCDR Iris Valentin-Bon

Thanks so much to all the voting members and non-voting members for their service this year. The following officers will be leaving the HS PAC after serving three years:

CAPT Nancy Bill
 CAPT Cheryl A. Wiseman
 CDR Laurie Hall-Brown
 CDR Delia Jones-McHorgh
 CDR Donald Schmidt

A huge thank you to LCDR Brett Maycock, LCDR Amy Constantine, LT Keisha Johnson, LT Kate Migliaccio for creating and editing this newsletter.