

## OPAG Minutes 10/04/2017

Mission: Represent and advocate for the professional discipline of optometry and its Commissioned officers, civil servants, contract and tribal optometrists serving within the Public Health Service and affiliated services.

### OPAG Voting members

Present:

- CAPT Cameron Scott (Chair)
- CDR Robert Chelberg (Chair-Elect)
- CAPT Chris Nield
- CAPT Kathleen Wooten
- CDR Nima Desai
- CDR Robert Kesead
- LCDR Laura Alexander
- LT Jill Thompson

Absent:

- CDR Craig Rennard

### Liaisons/Co-Chairs

CAPT Barb Cohn  
CDR Sarah Stienbarger  
CDR Erin Giles  
LT Emily Mathiak

### Approval of Minutes

All in favor; Minutes approved.

### Subcommittee Chair Reports

1. **Administrative Management:** CDR Rob Chelberg  
New voting member list was presented to HS PAC and awaiting their feedback. Hoping to have SOP's in place by the end of the year. Presented to HS PAC regarding stakeholders and they liked the level of engagement, especially internship and externship programs and interaction with universities. HS PAC also gained better understanding of Dawn Clary, Chief Clinical Consultant's role and influence within OPAG. Also liked connection to third party group like AAO through obtaining fellowships.
2. **Awards:** LCDR Laura Alexander  
Deadline for awards is December 31 and request for nominations will be going out soon. Submitted OPAG for award back in the spring.
3. **Communications:** LT Jill Thompson/LT Emily Mathiak

Website updates are being processed again and seem to be up to date. All requests that had been submitted have been processed. Added Sarah's information for recruitment to the OPAG page as a point of contact. There was no HS PAC Communications Subcommittee call in August due to Hurricane Harvey deployments.

4. **Data & Evaluations:** CAPT Chris Nield

Still lacking direction regarding data to be utilized. Have had regular contact with HS PAC Data & Evaluations Committee chair and she has been trying to also determine what sources data is to be obtained from. She has said that she would pass this information along as soon as she gained more insight. Was told back in July that there would be promotion data available to collate, analyze and report on. Committee chair has been on leave though so no data has been received yet at this time. There have been discussions regarding ideas for data generation but probably difficult to conduct a survey regarding incentive pay, accession bonuses and OSRP due to everyone generally being in favor of receiving more money. However, potential with surveying why HS PAC involvement is so low and CC Optometry numbers are dwindling.

5. **Policy:** Cameron for CDR Craig Rennard

There has been progress made on the SOP's but not completed yet at this time. Templates describe how meetings are conducted, how to handle members that aren't attending meetings and other operational topics, attempting to standardize across the PAC.

6. **Recruitment (Ad Hoc):** CDR Sarah Stienbarger

Slowly making progress in recruitment, some have been going through the recruitment process for close to 2 years. AS & DS waiting for security & medical review. MG waiting for just medical. RA may not pass medical clearance to be commissioned. WT & AT are also waiting on security and medical. RS & CG have been boarded but no contact has been received from either despite attempts to reach out. Working to recruit 3 individuals from the Navy, Air Force and a civilian working for the Army. They are all starting the application process. One other individual interested who may start application process. Have contacted all 21 Optometry schools and posted job notices on the websites. Also maintain email communication with most of them. Talked with a UC Berkley student only interested in working in California and communicating with 4 SCO grads.

Wanting feedback regarding how often to post job applications on websites since most expire after 30 days and not feasible to go to each website and repost openings every 30 days. Consensus was that most graduating student start their job search in January time frame and that that would be the ideal time to post on the websites.

Cameron has been receiving names of newly boarded candidates through Max.gov and forwarding them to Sarah. Ideally, Sarah would receive notifications directly but both Rob C. and Sarah have applied for access but haven't received any further communication or access to Max.gov.

7. **Stakeholder & Community Engagement:** CAPT Kathleen Wooten

Rob's presentation to HS PAC covered already. No further updates at this time.

8. **Technical Readiness:** CDR Robert Kesead/CAPT Larry Zubel

A catalogue of classes is being developed and reviewed the table of contents. Has everything available on the website like readiness and airport information, everything that's in Direct

Access. Asked to update Optometry's role in disasters, needs of an optometrist when deployed, equipment needed and our background. Paper sent to be reviewed was from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and some other information from 2008 but nothing had been updated since. Provided feedback as to what roles an optometrist could fill but haven't heard anything back. Committee is trying to finish list of courses (ARTI) available that would help the deployment readiness for each profession. Wanting clinical officers to complete 10 hours of classes off this list. Looking for input of any classes other officers may be aware of. Not aware of any classes at this time though.

Deployment history isn't showing up on website despite numerous attempts to reach out to RedDOG. Past deployments do fall off the website after a certain period of time though, after about 5 years.

9. **Training, Education & Mentorship:** CDR Nima Desai/CDR Sarah Stienbarger  
No updates.

### **Liaison Reports**

**AAO:** Ryan Manning, Barb Cohn (diplomates): No report

**AFOS:** CDR Greg Smith: No Report

**AMSUS:** Barb Cohn: No Report

**APHA Vision Care:** vacant

**Chief Clinical Consultant:** CAPT Dawn Clary

**FDA:** Kim Lewandowski-Walker: No Report

**JOAG:** vacant

**JVN:** CDR Chris Nield

GPRA year has changed for anyone who might not be aware and there's a new Chief Ophthalmology Consultant, Dr. Dara Shahon, who will be taking over the JVN program from Dr. Mark Horton.

**National Combined Council IHS:** Larry Zobel (CEO), Greg Smith (CEO)

**PACE:** Barb Cohn

It's important for local COA branches to link their projects in with PACE and it's an easy format to do. Just contact your COA branch and get support from them, and then contact PACE. They're willing to help you and make it as simple as possible.

**PHS Recruitment/Applicant Placement:** CDR Sarah Stienbarger:  
Discussed during subcommittee reports.

### **Discussion Topics**

None.

Meeting adjourned

**Upcoming OPAG meetings**

December 6, 2017

All meetings are:

8:00 AM Alaska

9:00 AM Pacific

10:00 AM Mountain

11:00 AM Central

12:00 PM Eastern

**Call in number for December 6, 2017 OPAG meeting: 1(877)267-1577**

**Meeting number 997 288 816**