



PHPAG NEWSLETTER



December 2012

PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP TO THE USPHS

Volume I, Issue I

Message From The 2012 Chair



**CDR Joseph Roth
PHPAG Chair (2012)**

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to introduce the inaugural issue of the PHPAG Newsletter. Though introductions are not often made during one's entry into Ex-Officio status, I am, nonetheless, happy to make this debut while passing the torch to the new PHPAG leadership.

It seems only recently that the call was sent for volunteer officers interested in forming a new PAG. At the time, our charge was simply to form a cohesive structure to represent public health officers in the HS PAC. The 2010 call set in motion ongoing discussions about the roles, varieties, and myriad contributions of our officers, laying the foundation for defining our

group and forming a unique PAG structure. Under the leadership of LT Dawn Arlotta, the team opted for a novel structural approach to assure discipline representation in our diverse group. Thus formed were four formally organized Public Health Specialist groups within the PAG which included Epidemiology, Generalist of Public Health, Health Promotion & Education, and Policy. The prototypical PHPAG officer, to some degree, has a footing in each of these genres and it behooves us to recognize these distinct paths in the context of their collective additions to what defines our singular field. Indeed, our shared footing and breadth of training are the strengths that define our PHPAG and those qualities will undoubtedly serve us well as we begin our third year. Under the leadership of LCDR Deidre Washington-Jones and an enthusiastic voting membership, there is no question that our PHPAG will continue to grow.

This inaugural issue of the newsletter highlights some of the activities and accomplishments of PHPAG subcommittees. What is striking about these is the depth of activity described that is emblematic of a highly seasoned PAG. Indeed, enthusiasm and notable accomplishments of our officers are what have characterized our group and there is no doubt that with this team the PHPAG has an exceptionally bright future. It has been a pleasure serving the PHPAG and I look forward to another great year with our new Executive Team.

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Special points of interest:

- We would like to introduce you to our PAG.
- We are excited to introduce our new Executive Committee and Voting Members
- Learn about our subcommittees
- See all that we've accomplished

Helpful Tips: The ODU



All ODU uniforms and accessories can be ordered online at <http://www.uscg.mil/UNIFORMS/>. First-time users must be pre-registered. The Walter Reed Uniform Shop has the following items in stock for the Coast Guard ODU: USPHS ball-caps, insignia, blue t-shirts, and name tapes. Limited ODU accessories, in addition to those listed above, include rigger belts, BOS tapes and ODU skill badges are available online at the Navy and Marine Corps Uniform Support Center at https://www.mynavyexchange.com/uniform_wg_select_speed.html. There have been some complaints about the sizing of the uniforms so be sure to follow the sizing guidelines appropriately before placing your order.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW PHPAG
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & VOTING MEMBERS**

EFFECTIVE JAN 2013

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

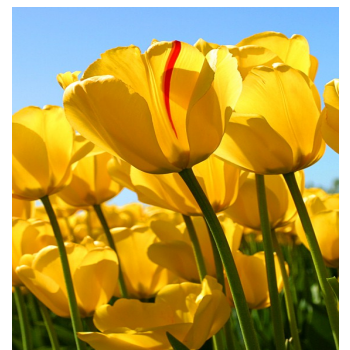
**LCDR DEIDRE WASHINGTON-JONES, CHAIR
CDR CHRISTYE BROWN, CHAIR-ELECT
CDR LESLIE HAUSMAN, SECRETARY**

VOTING MEMBERS

**CDR IDONGESIT ESSIET-GIBSON
CDR LESLIE HAUSMAN
CDR JOSEPH ROTH (EX—OFFICIO)
LCDR NISHA ANTOINE
LCDR SHERENE BROWN-CORA
LCDR MARNA HOARD
LCDR LEJEANA HOWIE
LCDR ANDREA PEAY
LCDR MELANIE ROSS
LCDR PAULA WASHINGTON
LCDR JYL WOOLFOLK
LT DAWN ARLOTTA
LT BRITTANY BOVENIZER
LT MARGARET WHITTAKER**

**FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS
WHOSE 2-YEAR VOTING MEMBER TERM
ENDED DEC 2012:**

**CDR MARIA BENKE
CDR CHRISTYE BROWN
CDR MATTHEW WEINBURKE
LCDR SHWANA COLEMAN
LCDR VAN MORFIT
LCDR DEIDRE WASHINGTON-JONES
LCDR LORRAINE WILLIAMS
LT VALERIE MARSHALL**



Mentoring Subcommittee

MISSION

To assist officers in successfully navigating their PHS career by facilitating peer to peer networking.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS OPERATIONAL YEAR

Within the Commissioned Corps, responsibility for career development and promotion lies with the commissioned officer, so it is helpful to have a network of peers. Additionally, an officer must juggle other responsibilities such as deployment and physical readiness. The mission of the Peer-to-Peer Networking Program is to connect officers of the same rank to assist each other in navigating the multiple facets of Officership. This year, we matched twelve officers based on their backgrounds in epidemiology, health education, informatics, and other public health based disciplines. Additional officers are awaiting matches.

LT Valerie Marshall
Subcommittee Chair

Awards Subcommittee

MISSION

To recognize officers for their accomplishments with Public Health Service and Category Awards in their respective public health disciplines.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS OPERATIONAL YEAR

CDR Weinburke, CDR Tran, LCDR Washington, LT Mosley, and LT Azimi-Bolourian played a vital role in the PHPAG Awards Subcommittee's mission, goals and objectives. These officers created the PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award and formulated a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to guide the subcommittee in its operations. The PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award was created to recognize a Health Services Officer (HSO) who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in the field of public health and for exceptional work toward the mission of the PHPAG.

The Award subcommittee's SOP was used for reviewing and scoring the award nomination packages. The SOP includes the review operations and procedures that can assist with the award nominations' review process. Following the delivery



HSO Officers pictured above, with the US Surgeon General VADM Regina Benjamin, were recipients of HSPAC category awards at the 2012 USPHS Annual Symposium

of the first PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award at the 2012 COF Conference in Washington DC, the PHPAG Awards subcommittee revised the SOP to ensure its seamless transition to the 2013 PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award process. The result of their work will be used for future PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Awards and other various PHPAG awards activities.

CDR Matthew Weinburke
Subcommittee Chair

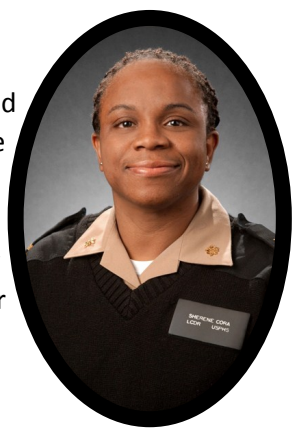
Communications Subcommittee

MISSION

The Communications Subcommittee strives to provide effective, accurate and up-to-date communications to the PHPAG.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS OPERATIONAL YEAR

During this operational year, the subcommittee successfully developed its mission statement and objectives, updated the guidelines for submitting PHPAG announcements, created a template for the very first newsletter and drafted a coin that represents the diversity of the PHPAG. We also recruited three new members and revised the PHPAG brochure for the 2012 Symposium. The subcommittee received and disseminated announcement requests via the listserv and the HSPAC Weekly Announcements, and several website requests were prepared and submitted to the HSPAC for updates to the PHPAG section of the HSO website.



LCDR Sherene Brown-Cora
Subcommittee Chair

Membership Subcommittee

MISSION

The mission of the Membership subcommittee is to recruit, involve and retain PHPAG members.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS OPERATIONAL YEAR

This operational year we achieved several accomplishments. We analyzed and distributed 2011 PHPAG Retention Survey findings to voting membership, coordinated the revision of the PHPAG Brochure for the 2012 Symposium and participated on HSPAC Recruitment & Retention committee calls to share PAG updates and also receive important information to bring back to the PAG. We also developed nomination and voting standard operating procedures in order to execute a streamlined election process; We utilized these SOPs to coordinate and execute elections for voting membership, Chair-Elect and Secretary. We utilized our Membership Spreadsheet to respond to demographic inquiries from HSPAC and internal stakeholders.

CDR Christye Brown
Subcommittee Chair

Career Development Subcommittee

MISSION

The mission of the PHPAG Career Development Subcommittee is to serve as a resource for Public Health Service Officers to enhance their career potential and job satisfaction. The Career Development Subcommittee has developed linkages with the Health Services Professional Advisory Committee (HSPAC) Career Development committee and other PACs and Health Services Professional Advisory Groups (PAGs) on cross discipline content areas. Currently, the subcommittee consists of approximately forty officers including 5 subcommittees and 4 additional specialty areas.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS OPERATIONAL YEAR

The most unique aspect of the PHPAG Career Development Subcommittee are the 4 specialty groups that promote and provide subject matter expertise in epidemiology, policy, health education, and the generalist category. The public health specialists groups have been the driving force for several Career Development Subcommittee activities. Although the PHPAG has only been in existence for 2 years, its Career Development Subcommittee has been very active and engaged in designing and implementing career and knowledge enhancement activities for PHPAG Officers.

LCDR Deidre Washington-Jones
Subcommittee Chair

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Specialty Groups

Epidemiology Collaboration Subgroup (EpiC)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Between December 2011 and December 2012, EpiC sponsored four brown bag presentations and one roundtable during the 2012 PHS Symposium's Category Day. EpiC also partnered with six Commissioned Corps professional disciplines (Physician, Nurse, Scientist, Veterinary, HSPAC Basic and Applied Science Professional Advisory Group and the Epidemiology Interest Group) to identify and share epidemiology resources and educational opportunities. As a result of their partnership, EpiC and the Commissioned Corps Epidemiology Interest Group are currently working together to cosponsor an epidemiology session at the 2013 PHS Symposium .



CDR Leslie Hausman
Subgroup Chair

Specialty Groups

Policy Subgroup

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The accomplishments of the policy subgroup included, collaborating with the Career Development committee and offering three Brownbag seminars where public professionals shared their perspectives and experiences with pursuing and successfully maintaining a policy career path within HHS. The presenters included: RADM Peter J. Delany, PhD, LCSW-C, Dr. Debra Nichols and CDR Adrienne J. Goodrich-Doctor, Ph.D. The Subgroup also conducted a HSO Category Day Roundtable presentation at the 2012 COF Symposium in College Park, MD as well as developed a Policy resource list for the PHPAG website.

LCDR Van Morfit
Subgroup Chair

Health Promotion/Health Education Subgroup

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In CY2012, the committee more than tripled in number and worked to: serve as a focal point for HPHE; assist with professional health education credentialing; provide and actively share continuing education contact hour (CECH) opportunities for Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) and Master CHES (MCHES); and host brown bags that offer CECHs and share HPHE resources.



The subgroup also worked with the USPHS Training and Scientific Symposium to offer CHES credits and present about CHES and MCHES ; hosted two brown bags and planned for four additional events in CY13; assisted eight plus individuals interested in HPHE; developed standard operating procedures; supported a local Community and Church Health Fair, and coordinated participation of eight USPHS officers, including two featured speakers.

CDR Chiel Thompson, LCDR Kent Forde, and CDR Monique Brooks at local Health Fair.

CDR Maria Benke
Subgroup Chair

Generalist Subgroup

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

During the operational year, the generalist subgroup offered a Brown Bag 'Thirty-plus Years a Corps Generalist' with CAPT (Ret) Carol Rest-Minberg (April 26, 2012); Presented on PH Generalist specialty area at the 2012 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium (June 2012); and wrote an article in JOAG Newsletter titled, "A Public Health Generalist" (Fall 2012). The subgroup also added four new members.

LCDR Marna Hoard
Subgroup Chair

Reflections from Our Past, Present, and Future Chairs

“It has been an honor to serve as the founding Chair of the Public Health PAG. During the initial year, working with CDR Jay Roth and others, we built the PHPAG from an initial group of 16 voting members to eventually encompass 63 HSO officers who joined as volunteers. Much of the initial work involved development of the vision, mission, and bylaws of the newly formed PHPAG. Next, a structure for the group was put in place, with 9 committees established to address the key functions of the group, including critical roles for the PHPAG such as recruitment/retention; mentoring; career development, which included epidemiology, policy, health education and promotion, and generalist; communications; and awards. It was a very exciting time, because this was the culmination of a process developed to respond to a critical need among our fellow HSO officers for a professional advisory group that would assist us with our career progression. Continuing as your Ex-Officio chair for the next year along with CDR Jay Roth, we are committed and focused on sustainability and growth of the PHPAG, and to support the vision of our new chair, LCDR Deidre Washington-Jones. With an ever expanding group of HSO officers involved in our PHPAG activities, we will continue to seek ways to keep our members informed during challenging times, and provide the support for career advancement that our fellow officers have come to appreciate and value. Look forward to working with all of you during 2013.”

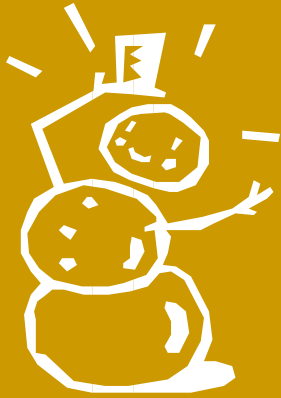
~LT Dawn Arlotta, 2011 PHPAG Chair

“Year two of the PHPAG marked a transition from a period of foundational building to that of framework expansion and sustainability. Under LT Arlotta’s leadership, the PHPAG forged the basic structure and, in a relatively short time, brought the PHPAG from concept to fully operational. That momentum carried forth into the second year when our focus shifted to building on that foundation and defining the operational character of our team. During its second year, the Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG) enjoyed myriad accomplishments. The nine brown bag education sessions conducted throughout the year and four roundtables at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium brought visibility to the PHPAG and the newly developed system for providing continuing health education credits will continue to be of value for all officers. The PHPAG completed a Retention Survey in 2012 to support PHPAG enhancements and implemented a range of SOPs to guide processes and communications. A Peer-to-Peer Networking Program was formed to connect officers of the same rank and “Coaching on Demand” activities allowed junior officers to receive coaching from senior officers. The PHPAG distributed a Policy Resource Document and coordinated epidemiology activities across professional disciplines. The PHPAG awarded the first annual PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award in 2012 and continually sought ways to recognize the hard work of its officers. There is no doubt that as we conclude our second year as a PAG the hard work and accomplishments of our members will continue to pay dividends as we transition to year three.

~ CDR Joseph Roth, 2012 PHPAG Chair

Throughout the last two years, I had the pleasure of working with LT Dawn Arlotta and CDR Joseph Roth to help form the PHPAG. Under CDR Roth’s Leadership, we were able to implement several brown bag informational calls, development our first PHPAG Leadership Award, and implement a Peer to Peer Mentoring Program. As your 2013 PHPAG Chair, my focus will be on: IMPACT-Increasing membership and marketing the PHPAG and our accomplishments, including systematically measuring the impact of the PHPAG’s work. IMPROVEMENT- Improving our processes as a PHPAG to ensure that we function effectively. INNOVATION-Developing activities and strategies that serve officers in new and innovative ways. We should be constantly asking ourselves, is there a different and better way to help our officers in their career development. INTERGRATION-Working with other PAGs and HSPAC to ensure that our activities are integrated and aligned. I hope that in addition to serving the career needs of officers, the PHPAG also serves as a creative outlet for its volunteers. I want officers to be engaged and thinking about the next big activity and how we can best serve PHPAG Officers. Additionally, I hope to help build future leaders that are visionaries and can think outside the box to create solutions to officer’s issues. To this end, I want the PHPAG to offer opportunities for officers to gain experiences and resources that will enhance their leadership and program development skills. I envision 2013 to be an exciting year for the PHPAG and I look forward to working with all the volunteers and voting members.

~LCDR Deidre Washington-Jones, 2013 PHPAG Chair



Announcements

SAVE THE DATE!

Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG) Award

The Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG) is looking for nominations for their annual PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award. The PHPAG Excellence in Leadership award is presented to a Health Services Officer (HSO) who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in the field of public health and is recognized by his/her peers for exceptional work toward the mission of the PHPAG. Self-nominations will not be considered. Applicants must meet Basic Readiness Standards in order to apply. Nomination packages and further details will be available in January 2013.

Contact the following officers for details:

Chair: CDR Matthew Weinburke matthew_weinburke@nps.gov
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Special thanks to the PHPAG Communications Subcommittee for their efforts in creating this inaugural newsletter

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