



# PHPAG NEWSLETTER



December 2016

PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP TO THE USPHS

Issue 5

## Reflections from the 2016 PHPAG Chair

It has truly been an honor and a highlight of my career in the USPHS to serve as the 2016 Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG) Chair! This has been a year full of changes and new initiatives for all PAGs with the addition of a new PHPAG structure and revised PAC and PAG bylaws to align with the new structure. While these changes were being fleshed out, all PAGs were requested to hold on most activities. However, the PHPAG was able to successfully complete several activities this year. The list below highlights some of the many outstanding accomplishments during 2016:

- Hosted over 10 brown bags/webinars on various topics, including Policy 101 and Case Study: The Development and Implementation of the CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain; National Disaster Medical System; Global Human Subjects Research: Emerging Opportunities; encore presentation of the Value in Credentialing, CPH vs. CHES vs. MCHES; and the National Park Service.
- Hosted two roundtable discussions at the 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium on Category Day.
- Published an article in the Commissioned Officers Association's October 2016 edition of Frontline titled "Why should I consider the Certified in Public Health (CPH) credential?"
- Completed and published the Public Health Policy Resource Guide.
- Initiated the first PHPAG Coin Challenge, which yielded the largest coin sales since the coin was debuted.
- Awarded 2 awards at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium: PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award and Junior Officer of the Year Award.
- Ensured the successful transition of all PHPAG web materials to the new HS PAC website.
- Conducted 2 virtual athletic events: Surgeon General 5K Virtual Run and Veteran's Day Virtual Run.

I am proud of all of our accomplishments this year and want to personally thank each PHPAG voting member, subcommittee, and public health track chair and co-chair for their hard work and continued dedication to the PHPAG. I am certain the PHPAG will continue to flourish while providing guidance and leadership to public health officers under the dynamic leadership of the 2017 Chair, CDR Monique Salter! I look forward to continuing to work with and being a part of the PHPAG!



LCDR LaJeana Hawkins  
2016 PHPAG Chair

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# 2016 At-A-Glance



PHPAG Awardees, CDR Matthew Weinburke (Back row, fourth from right) and LCDR Erin Grasso (Back row, second from left) stand with fellow HSOs at the HSPAC Award Ceremony at the 2016 USPHS Symposium.



CDR Antoinette Percy-Laurry and LCDRs June Germain and Emily Crarey assist at the first aid station at the July Park n' Praise in Washington, D.C.



CDR Samuel Price & LCDR Elizabeth Garza, PHPAG Generalist Track co-presented at the 2016 USPHS Symposium during the HSO Category Roundtable session on "The Value of the Credential in Public Health".



Global Health Track members meet in Washington, D.C. From L to R: LCDRs Leticia Manning, Felicia Warren, Kemi Asante, LT Stephanie Briguglio, LCDR Charles Darr, and CDR Elizabeth Garza.



PHPAG officers pose for a group photo on HSO Category Day at the 2016 USPHS Symposium.

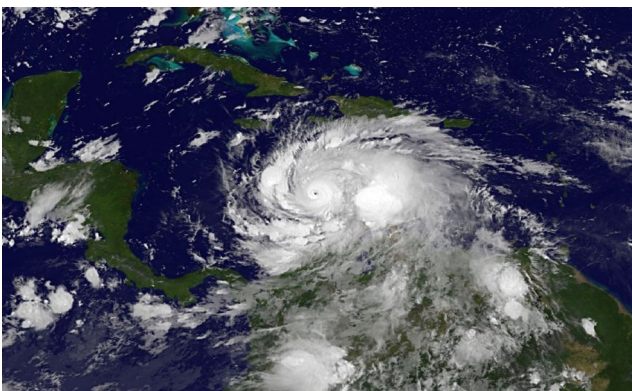
# Deployments: PHPAG Officers in Action



LCDR Niketta Womack (right) in the Zika Emergency Operations Center in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands on Zika Action Day to bring awareness and education to the community about Zika virus and preventive measures.



CDR Julie Erb-Alvarez, RDF-4 Team Member provided an educational presentation on Zika to RDF-4 teammates and DMAT Massachusetts 2. This photo was taken in the Carl Maddox Field House on the campus of LSU in Baton Rouge Louisiana, location of the FMS.



LCDR Emily Creary (2nd from right) and LT Jennifer Freiman (center) with fellow National Incident Support Team (NIST)-E deployment team members supporting the Hurricane Matthew response at the HHS Secretary's Operations Center.

# Subcommittee Updates

## Awards Subcommittee

### *Mission*

To provide written procedures for the Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG) Awards Subcommittee on:

- Organizational and structural guidance to manage and facilitate the Subcommittee.
- Detailed guidelines for reviewing, nominating, and issuing the PHPAG award(s).
- Organize, structure, and manage award nomination packages.

Our committee is also responsible for selecting the award winners for the Excellence in Leadership and Junior Officer of the Year awards.

### *Accomplishments*

The PHPAG Awards Subcommittee has done it again! The 2015-2016 awards cycle has been a very busy and demanding process to say the least. It is very gratifying to see firsthand the collective participation, dedication, and overall team spirit we have amongst our committee members.

- Reviewed and revised the PHPAG Award Subcommittee standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Successfully completed the review of 9 nominations for the 2015-2016 award cycle.
- Awarded the PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award and Junior Officer of the Year Award at the 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This year's award recipients were:
  - **CDR Matthew Weinburke - PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award** for outstanding accomplishments in the field of public health and for exceptional work toward the mission of the PHPAG.
  - **LCDR Erin Grasso - PHPAG Junior Officer of the Year Award** for exemplary commitment to the mission of the USPHS and for exceptional work toward the mission of the PHPAG.
- The climax of the awards process was crowned with huge success as the deserving recipients received their awards. The PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award and Junior Officer of the Year Award are awarded annually. The call for nominations will begin early December 2016.



CDR Adam Tahiru  
Subcommittee Chair



LCDR Katrina Sloan  
Subcommittee Co-Chair

# Career Development Subcommittee

## *Mission*

To serve as a resource for officers in enhancing their career potential and job satisfaction by planning, coordinating, and organizing events and activities related to career development for officers of the PHPAG.

## *Accomplishments*

- The PHPAG Career Development Committee has been working to update the Work-Life Balance Guide for PHS Officers that was originally developed a few years back.
- A *Work-Life Balance* Webinar was held by the PHPAG Generalist Track that offered a summary of three officers who shared their experiences of control, achievement and satisfaction in their lives.

Be on the lookout for the Work-Life Balance Resource Guide and more career development offerings in the new year!



CDR Heidi Hudson  
Subcommittee Chair



CDR Julie Erb-Alvarez  
Subcommittee Co-Chair

# Communications Subcommittee

## *Mission*

To coordinate timely and relevant dissemination of information for officers within the PHPAG. The subcommittee is responsible for developing and disseminating the weekly PHPAG announcements, the PHPAG brochure, and the annual PHPAG newsletter. In addition to developing written materials, the subcommittee updates PHPAG information on the HS PAC website and markets the PHPAG coin.

## *Accomplishments*

- Represented the PHPAG on the HS PAC Communications Strategic Planning workgroup. The workgroup is spearheading the rebranding of the HS Category as well as developing ways to communicate the work of HS officers with both internal and external partners.
- Worked with the HS PAC Communications team to ensure successful transition of all PHPAG web materials to the new HS PAC website.
- Completed HS PAC/PHPAG website updates.
  - Fulfilled 14 website update requests.
  - Uploaded monthly continuing education resource documents.
- Completed and disseminated PHPAG Weekly Announcements to the listserv.
- Completed HSO Weekly Announcements requests.
- Updated the PHPAG brochure.
- Promoted PHPAG coin sales by introducing the PHPAG Coin Challenge, which yielded the biggest coin sales since the coin was debuted.
- Developed the 2016 End-of-Year Newsletter.



LCDR Johnni Daniel  
Subcommittee Chair



LCDR Kimberley Ricketts  
Subcommittee Co-Chair

# Membership Subcommittee

## *Mission*

To promote membership, and develop new and innovative ways to attract new members as well as retain current membership.

## *Accomplishments*

- Planned and coordinated elections for new voting members and Chair-Elect.
- Promoted recruitment activities within the PHPAG.
- Updated nomination forms for the 2017 PHPAG voting member elections.
- Conducted a Retention Survey of current PHPAG members and received 44 responses. This year, we have worked hard to address issues and concerns identified by our members in the 2016 Retention Survey.



LCDR Jessica Andrade  
Subcommittee Chair



CDR Damon Smith  
Subcommittee Co-Chair

# Mentoring Subcommittee

## *Mission*

To groom officers for professional success through the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) networking program.

## *Accomplishments*

- The Peer-to-Peer program has 63 volunteers. To date, we have matched 48 officers. This includes 10 Commanders; 20 Lieutenant Commanders; and 18 Lieutenants.
- Finalized the Mentoring Subcommittee Standard Operating Procedures
- Streamlined work by creating a mentoring website. The website will serve as a hub for Mentoring members and PHPAG leadership to access current data on the Peer-to-Peer program and SOPs.
- Supported the mission of the HSO Mentoring Committee by keeping the PHPAG informed of HSO mentoring activities.



LCDR Frankeena Wright  
Subcommittee Chair



LCDR Jonathan Kwan  
Subcommittee Co-Chair

# Public Health Track Updates

## Epidemiology Collaboration (EpiC) Track

### *Mission*

To provide resources and guidance to support Health Service Officers who either work as epidemiologists or are interested in epidemiology to develop and enhance their careers within the Commissioned Corps.

### *Accomplishments*

- Increased membership in 2016 from 19 to 23 members.
- Hosted a brown bag in January 2016 titled “Public Health Response and Agency Roles in a 2015 HIV Outbreak in Southeastern Indiana Linked to Injection Drug Use of Oxymorphone: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Perspectives.” Presenters included the STD Program Manager at the Indiana State Department of Health and a Pharmacist at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The brown bag was well attended and EpiC received positive feedback from attendees.
- Hosted a roundtable discussion at the 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium Category Day titled “Epidemiology – The First Frontier of Public Health: Surveillance, Patient Tracking, and Community Outreach” led by CDR Julie Erb-Alvarez. The roundtable highlighted the roles and responsibilities of epidemiologists at different agencies, the role surveillance and data collection play in disease prevention, and the importance of collaboration. The roundtable generated conversation and served as a resource for HSOs interested in learning more about epidemiology.
- Participated in deployment activities including the Flint Water Crisis, Louisiana Flooding, Zika response, and Hurricane Matthew.



LCDR Niketta Womack  
Track Chair



LT Jennifer Freiman  
Track Co-Chair



## *Mission*

To promote and support officers who possess diverse skillsets and expertise performing a wide range of public health functions within their agencies, deployment roles, and special assignments through:

- Education on public health competencies and the public health “generalist” credential — the Certified Public Health (CPH).
- Education and promotion of the capacities and competencies of public health “Generalists.”
- Opportunities to lead public health initiatives and activities for the PHPAG as a whole and the PHPAG Generalist Track.

## *Accomplishments*

- Provided an encore presentation of the “Value in Credentialing, CPH vs. CHES vs. MCHES” panel co-sponsored by Health Promotion and Health Education (HPHE) and the Generalist Tracks.
- Developed roster to increase networking among Generalist Track members.
- Drafted the HSO Ebola Collection. This cross-track initiative, led by Generalist, HPHE and Global Health Tracks, will showcase the stories of various HSO officers deployed both domestically and internationally in support of the 2014-2015 Ebola Response.
- Successfully initiated “Officer Highlight” during monthly calls to provide an opportunity for networking and building camaraderie among Track members.
- Developed a draft mission/goal statement for the Generalist Track, which will be finalized by the end of the calendar year.
- Organized a Work/Life Balance brown bag on how to successfully balance career and family life presented by CAPT Charlene Majersky, CDR Gerald A. Brozyna, Jr., and CDR Julie Erb-Alvarez.



LCDR Jaclyn Ruiz  
Track Chair



LCDR Tchernavia (Navia) Gregory  
Track Co-Chair

# Health Promotion/Health Education (HPHE) Track

## *Mission*

To increase the visibility of health educators across the Commissioned Corps and provide opportunities to support health educators' continuing education requirements and enhance professional growth and development.

## *Accomplishments*

- Hosted 6 brown bags/webinars on topics including the National Disaster Medical System, Reducing Health Disparities, and National Park Service Public Health Officers. Over 250 officers from various agencies and geographic areas attended the sessions.
- Presented a roundtable on Category Day at the 2016 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium titled "Identifying, Creating, and Disseminating a CHES/MCHES Resource Guide within Professional Health Networks."
- Co-authored an article with the Generalist Track titled "Why should I consider the Certified in Public Health (CPH) credential?" which was published in the October edition of COA/COF Frontline and published two HPHE articles in the Heath Administrative PAG and JOAG newsletters.
- Co-presented poster with the Generalist Track titled "Value in Credentialing for Health Educators and Public Health Generalists" at the 2016 AMSUS meeting.
- The HPHE/PHS Athletics subcommittee hosted 2 virtual athletic events: Surgeon General 5K Virtual Run and Veteran's Day Virtual Run. Both events were eligible for the Surgeon General's Fitness Team Roll Call.
- HPHE continues to collaborate with other PHPAG Subcommittees and Tracks to strengthen partnerships and identify gaps that are viable to sustaining the mission of our Subcommittee.
- HPHE continues to assess the professional and personal needs of health educators and introduce best practices to reinforce growth within the Commissioned Corps.



LCDRs Jennifer Clements and Janesia Robbs  
Track Chair and Co-Chair

## *Mission*

To provide policy-relevant resources, education, and networking opportunities to Officers who are interested in or involved in public health policy.

## *Accomplishments*

- Published a Public Health Policy Resource Guide on the PHPAG Resources Webpage. The Policy Resource Guide provides a list and description of websites, journals, books, reports, and manuals that are useful for researching, developing, and implementing public health policy interventions.
- Coordinated a webinar on Policy 101 and Case Study: The Development and Implementation of the CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. This event began with an introduction to public health policy and the importance of making evidence available to decision makers. A case study followed, highlighting the problem of prescription drug overdose and the development of the recently published CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.
- Conducted Policy Spotlight Interviews of Commissioned Corps Officers who are serving in a policy-related position. The Policy Spotlight Interviews highlighted the leadership and service of policy professionals in a newsletter article.
- Created a Google Site and NIH Email Listserv for Policy Track members to share resources, events, and opportunities relevant to public health policy.

In January 2017, the PHPAG Policy Track will migrate under the PHPAG Policy Subcommittee. The Policy Subcommittee will be responsible for conducting the annual review of the Category Appointment Standards, licensure and certification requirements, and other discipline-specific requirements. In addition, the Policy Subcommittee will annually address, revise, update, and recommend HSO policy-related issues, and develop white papers and decision memos on behalf of the PAG.



LT Jenna Adams  
Track Chair



LCDR Emily Creary  
Track Co-Chair

## *Mission*

To increase the capacity of the Commissioned Corps in global health. The Track provides resources and guidance to support officers who are interested in global health to develop and enhance their careers within the Commissioned Corps.

## *Accomplishments*

After completing strategic planning in 2016, the Global Health Track restructured its activities to align with global health core competencies: communication, coordination, policy analysis, planning and logistics. The Track developed a series of foundational global health talks, each addressing at least one of the competencies.

In 2016, we coordinated global health presentations, which resulted in collaboration with junior and senior officers across multiple agencies, categories, and tracks:

- “The HHS Global Health Career Track and the Global Bidding Assignment System (GBAS)” presented by Dr. Matthew Brown, Senior Advisor, HHS Office of Global Affairs.
- “Inside (Fr)Enemy Territory: Making the US Embassy Work for You” presented by Zara Ahmed, MPP, MPH, Senior Policy Advisor for Health Systems and Sustainability, CDC Haiti.
- “International Agreements 101” presented by Peter Mamacos, Director of the Multilateral Office, HHS Office of Global Affairs.
- “Global Human Subjects Research: Emerging Opportunities” presented by Dr. Edward Bartlett, International Human Research Liaison, Office for Human Research Protections, HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.
- “Global Health Diplomacy in a New World Order” presented by CAPT Abe Miranda, Medical Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- In December 2016, six officers participated in a culminating event in Washington, D.C. to tie the competencies together and learn from USG global health leaders at HHS, CDC, and the State Department.



LT Stephanie Briguglio  
Track Chair



LCDR Alyson Rose-Wood  
Track Co-Chair



LCDR Felicia Warren  
Track Co-Chair

**WELCOMETO OUR NEW PHPAG  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & VOTING MEMBERS (Effective January 2017)**

**2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

CDR Monique Salter , Chair  
LCDR Jennifer Clements, Chair-Elect  
LCDR Jaclyn Ruiz, Executive Secretary

**2017 VOTING MEMBERS**

CDR Michael Ahmadi  
LCDR Emily Craey  
LCDR Jennifer Freiman  
LCDR Jonathan Kwan  
LCDR Kimberley Ricketts  
LCDR Janesia Robbs  
LCDR Katrina Sloan  
CDR Damon Smith

## Message from Our 2017 PHPAG Chair

*“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

In years past, I have been fortunate to witness the commitment and passion of Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG) officers up close and in action. Our subcommittees are vibrant and our officers are continually striving to improve our PAG. Therefore, with great pride, I will begin my tenure as the PHPAG Chair in January 2017.

During 2017, under the leadership of the Health Services Officer Professional Advisory Committee (HSPAC), our PAG will enter a season of transition alongside the other eight Health Service PAGs. Each PAG will shift to a standard operating model and will adopt a uniform set of bylaws and organizational structures. This initiative will allow our efforts to become more streamlined and as a result, we will become a stronger PAC.

My main goal for 2017 is to work closely with each of you and to continue many of the essential PHPAG activities while implementing the new vision from the HSPAC. This transition will require intellect and sweat equity but then, our infamous PAG already has a historical, “get it done” record of accomplishment.

As I conclude, I would like to congratulate the very fine performance of each previous PHPAG Chair. Each of you has set a high standard of excellence for the PHPAG! It is my humble goal to continue this legacy with hard work, honor, and dignity, perhaps leaving behind my own mark. I look forward to serving in my new position.

Thank you.



**CDR Monique Salter  
2017 PHPAG Chair**

# Announcements

**Show your pride and esprit de corps by ordering your PHPAG coin today!**

Contact:  
CDR Monique Salter  
Monique.salter@fda.hhs.gov 240-402-2987

Or

LCDR Felicia Warren  
fwarren@cdc.gov 770-488-4284



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**Special thanks to the PHPAG Communications Subcommittee for their efforts in creating this  
5th Annual PHPAG Newsletter**

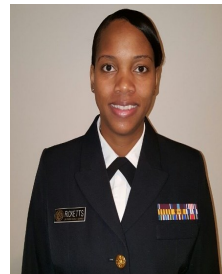
## Meet Your Editors



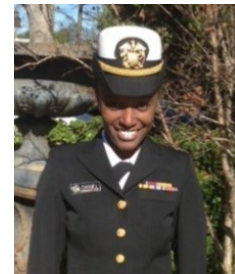
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