



# PHPAG End of Year Newsletter



December 2017

USPHS PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

Issue 6

## Reflections from the 2017 PHPAG Chair

The commitment of PHPAG officers is both inspiring and invigorating. Not only do we work each day to further the mission of our agencies, but in 2017, we fulfilled a significant HS PAC initiative and sustained valuable PHPAG activities while responding to public health emergencies domestically and abroad. During my leadership as PHPAG Chair, we identified three focus areas for 2017: **Structure, Membership, and Leveraging Partnerships**. It was my intent to set a realistic focus while stretching beyond our comfort zones and making an impact. We quickly surpassed the vision.

**Structure:** We operationalized the new Health Service Officers Professional Advisory Group organizational structure consisting of nine subcommittees. This involved establishing four new subcommittees: Stakeholder & Community Engagement, Technical Readiness, Data & Evaluation, and Education, Training & Mentorship. This new structure allowed us to align with PAC priorities and organize our PAG activities. Within this structure, we facilitated more than a dozen PHPAG webinars on various topics including public health credentialing, advanced degrees, public health policy, global health, deployments, the opioid epidemic, CDC’s 6 | 18 initiative, work-life balance, and leadership principles. Many of these webinars were open to officers outside of PHPAG. We launched a partnership with National Prevention Strategy—Prevention through Active Community Engagement (NPS-PACE) to provide health education expertise on opioid education curricula for schools and medical providers. For the first time, PHS officers joined together to virtually attend the 2017 APHA meeting and obtain continuing education credits.

**Membership:** Increasing membership and participation remains an important aspect of PAG life within our subcommittees. In addition to identifying volunteers for each of the new subcommittees, the subcommittees each reported membership growth in 2017. We also formed two ad hoc subcommittees to re-visit the appointment standards of MPH candidates and to prepare for future call to active duty announcements. As a result of the PAC initiative, we welcomed PHS officers newly assigned to the PHPAG. We administered the annual PHPAG officer survey and used the results to guide PAG activities. We also established an officer profile section in the PHPAG weekly announcements. These profiles provide a brief description of our varied duty assignments, favorite pastime activities, and an officer photo. I personally enjoyed reading each of the profiles each month.

**Leveraging Partnerships:** Coordination and collaboration with HS PAC and other PAGs was critical for optimizing efficiency and effectiveness during this transition year. Thanks to the exceptional leadership of our CPO, CAPT Willis- Marsh, and HS PAC Chair, CAPT Josef Rivero, this year of transition felt seamless. The PAC established multiple forums to provide updates and discuss PAG questions and concerns. Our PAG Subcommittee identified liaisons to work with PAC subcommittee and across PAGs. Additionally, the PHPAG was integrally involved in the development of the Standard Operating Procedures template for all PAGs.

I would like to thank HS PAC leadership, PHPAG general members, the PHPAG leadership team, and the PHPAG Executive Committee for their unwavering support and dedication to our PAG. We should all be very proud of our accomplishments. As I pass the baton to our capable incoming Chair, LCDR Jennifer Clements, it has been my honor to serve as the 2017 PHPAG Chair.



CDR Monique Salter  
2017 PHPAG Chair

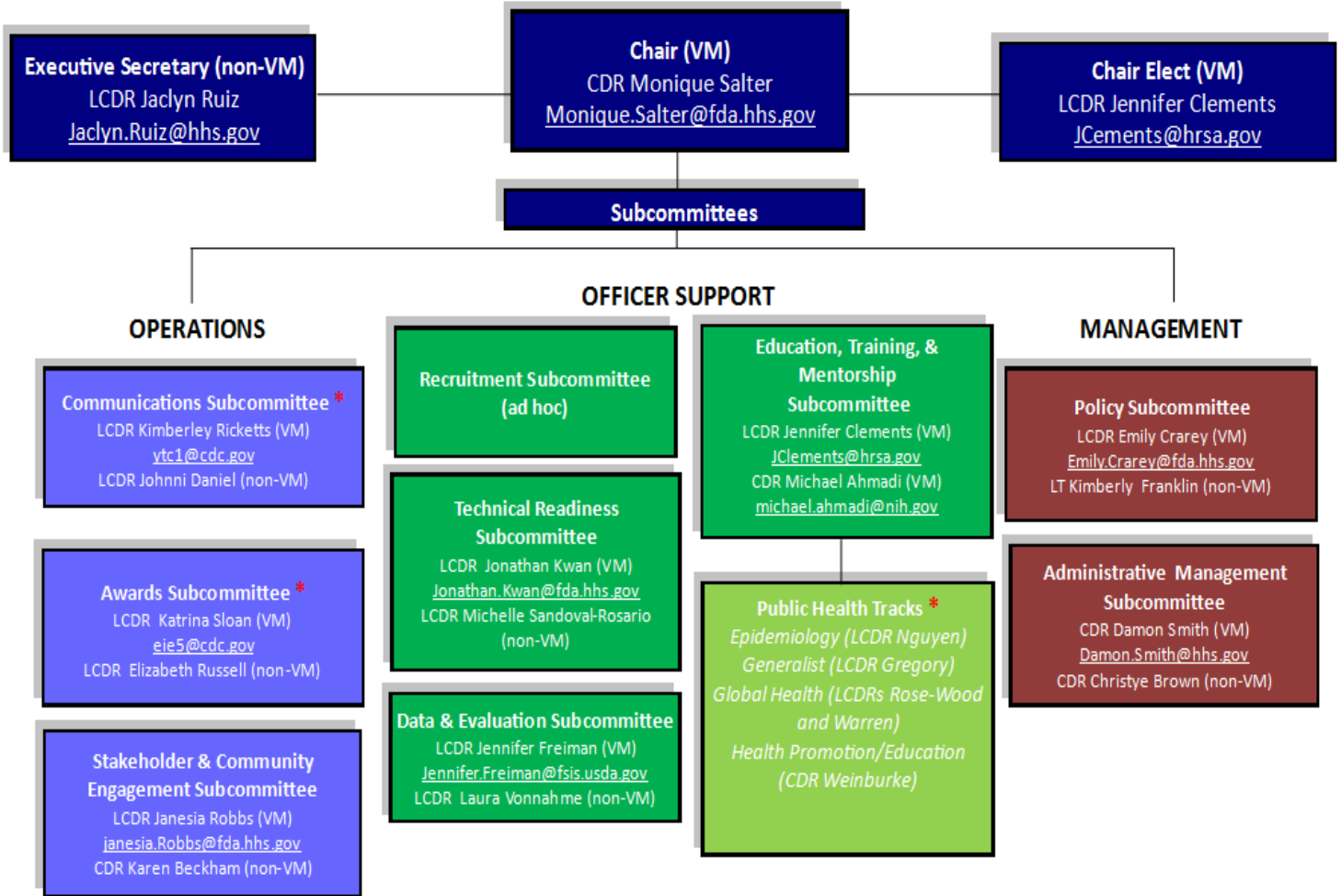
### In this issue:

<a href="#">Reflections from the 2017 PHPAG Chair</a>	1
<a href="#">2017 PHPAG Organizational Structure</a>	2
<a href="#">Reflections from Previous PHPAG Chairs</a>	3
<a href="#">2017 Deployments</a>	4
<a href="#">2017 USPHS Scientific &amp; Training Symposium</a>	5
<a href="#">Officers in Action</a>	6-8
<a href="#">Subcommittee Updates</a>	9-15
<a href="#">Public Health Track Updates</a>	16-19
<a href="#">2018 Executive Committee and Voting Members</a>	20
<a href="#">Reflections from 2018 PHPAG Chair</a>	21
<a href="#">Announcements</a>	22



# 2017 PHPAG Organizational Structure

The Health Services Category has ten Professional Advisory Groups (PAGs) to address discipline-specific professional issues and advise the Health Services Category and the HS Chief Professional Officer. In 2017, the PHPAG, along with the other nine Health Services PAGs, implemented the newly standardized PAG organizational structure.



\* previously existing subcommittees and public health tracks

Visit the [PHPAG page](#) on the HS PAC webpage to learn more.



# Reflections from Previous PHPAG Chairs



CDR Christye Brown  
2014 PHPAG Chair

*"The PHPAG has become the premiere resource for officers to fulfill their niche in public health."*



CDR Melanie Ross  
2015 PHPAG Chair

*"Invest in your strengths, maximize your team, and understand why people follow." She recommends all chapters of the book *Strengths Based Leadership* by Tom Rath and Barry Conchie.*



LCDR Lajeana Hawkins  
2016 PHPAG Chair

*"Leaders must be close enough to relate to others, but far enough ahead to motivate them."  
~ John C. Maxwell*



CDR Monique Salter  
2017 PHPAG Chair

*"Together we are more powerful than we could ever be individually."*

# 2017 Deployments



From Left: CAPT Mercedes Benitez-McCrory, CDR Elizabeth Garza, LCDR Megan Casey and LCDR Tony Nguyen complete fit testing for Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Florida.



PHS-1 Alpha supported Hurricane Irma and Maria responses in Florida.



From Left: CDR Elizabeth Garza, LCDR Jorge Muniz Ortiz, and LT Cristina Dar prepare for the Hurricane Irma response.



LCDRs LaJeana Hawkins (Left) and Johnni Daniel (Right) deployed to the IRCT in Valdosta, Georgia for the Hurricane Irma response.



CDR Melanie Ross (Left) and LT Brian Czarnecki (Right) receive critical patients from the US Virgin Islands at the airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico during the Hurricane Irma response.

# 2017 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium



CDR Idongesit Essiet-Gibson (Center) receives the PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award.



LCDR Johnni Daniel (Center) with daughter, Lena, receives the PHPAG Jr. Officer of the Year Award.



RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams and CDR Matthew Weinburke attend the Anchor & Caduceus dinner.



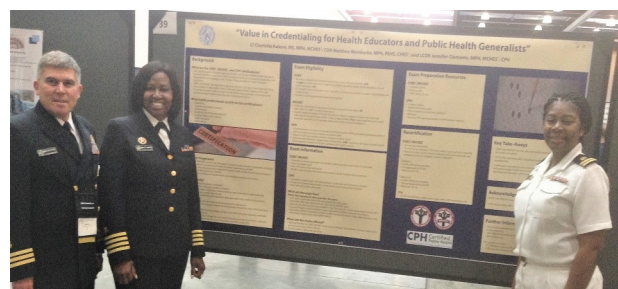
PHPAG officers pose for a group photo with CPO CAPT Jeanean Willis-Marsh (Center).



Officers participate in Category Day at the Symposium.



Officers network during the PHPAG social in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



CDR Matthew Weinburke (Left) and LCDR Charlotte Kaboré (Right) present on the value of public health credentialing.

# Officers in Action

## VADM C. Everett Koop Junior Officer Award

PHPAG member, **LCDR Alyson Rose-Wood**, was awarded the inaugural VADM C. Everett Koop Junior Officer of the Year award during the 2017 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium awards luncheon in Chattanooga, TN. This award recognizes outstanding junior officers who have used scientific evidence to advocate for, inform, develop and/or implement public health policy or healthcare reform at the local, state, regional, national or international level. LCDR Rose-Wood demonstrated exceptional leadership and outstanding capability by undertaking highly visible special assignments. Below are a few highlights from the award nomination:

- Led policy and programmatic initiatives with global impact spanning areas such as the Western Hemisphere addressing public health issues including malaria and viral hepatitis.
- Managed \$2.5 million to implement activities for a commission that involved the Secretaries of Health for both the United States and Mexico by addressing border priorities and the development of tuberculosis policy and disaster risk reduction for indigenous populations.
- Advocated for the creation of a new unit in CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis to address the needs of people who inject drugs.



VADM C. Everett Koop Award winner LCDR Alyson Rose-Wood (center) with LCDRs Samantha Spindel (Left) and Sara Azimi-Bolourian (Right).

## Emory University Rollins School of Public Health Mock Interview & Networking Night

PHPAG members, **CDR Lazenja Harris** and **LCDR Felicia Warren**, served as interviewers for the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health Mock Interview & Networking Night. They conducted a three-part evaluation for graduate students preparing to join the public health workforce, which included a 20-minute mock interview, resume review, and skills assessment.

The Mock Interview & Networking Night was an excellent opportunity to connect with current students, public health professionals, and Emory alumni. When asked about their experiences, CDR Harris and LCDR Warren both shared that students inquired most about their uniforms making it an opportune time to provide an overview of the U.S. Public Health Service, its mission, and eligibility criteria.



CDR Lazenja Harris (Left) and LCDR Felicia Warren (Right) share their experience with future public health professionals.

# Officers in Action

## Global Health Track CDC Headquarters Site Visit

The Global Health Track is the only USPHS group with a global health focus. The Track currently has representation geographically all over the world from six USPHS Categories. One of the Track's overarching goals for 2017 was to provide professional development opportunities on multilateral organizations and other key global health stakeholders across the U.S. Government. The Track hosts one in-person site visit as its cornerstone activity each calendar year.

On August 4, 2017, eleven officers convened in Atlanta, Georgia for the Global Health Track CDC Headquarters Site Visit. Four of the participating officers used annual leave and personal funds to travel from locations including California, Maryland, and New York to participate in the day's activities. The objectives of the day were to:

- 1) Provide an overview of CDC, CDC's global health programs, and the hiring process for domestic and overseas global health positions
- 2) Identify potential global health opportunities within CDC and competencies and skills needed to compete for global health positions
- 3) Meet with other officers and CDC staff currently working in global health programs

Commissioned Corps Speakers/Presenters included:

- RADM Stephen Redd, Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response
- RADM Jordan Tappero, Senior Advisor, Center for Global Health, Office of the Director
- CAPT Pamela Ching, Epidemiologist, Center for Global Health, CDC India Country Office
- CAPT Jason Thomas, CDC Biosurveillance Coordinator, Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services
- CDR Bobby Rasulnia, Deputy Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Office of Risk Management and Operational Integrity

Commissioned Corps Participants:

CDR Sylvera Demas, CDC  
CDR Jacinta Smith, CDC  
LCDR Tara Dondzila, NPS  
LCDR Denise Duran, CDC  
LCDR Benoit Mirindi, HRSA  
LCDR Alyson Rose-Wood, CDC

LCDR Laura Vonnahme, CDC  
LCDR Felicia Warren, CDC  
LCDR Jay Wong, FDA  
LT Mark Larson, FDA  
LT Ijeoma Perry, CDC



Global Health Track members participate in CDC EOC tour with CDR Bobby Rasulnia (Left) and George Roark (Center).

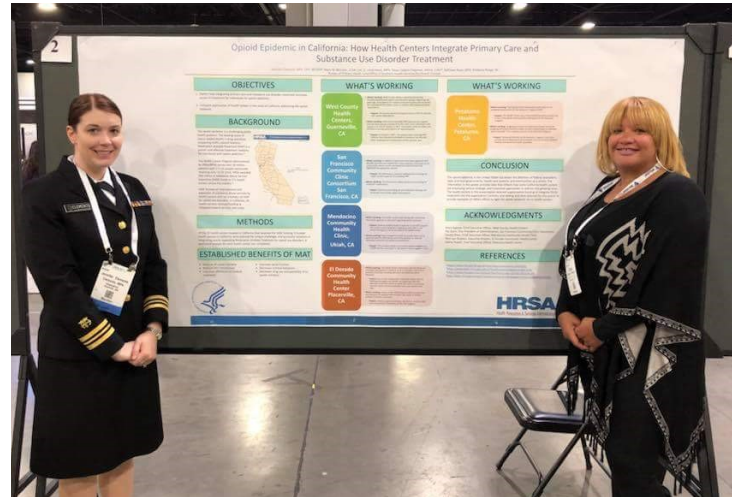


Global Health Track members participate in the CDC Headquarters Site Visit in Atlanta.

# Officers in Action

## American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

PHPAG member, **LCDR Jennifer Clements**, presented during the 2017 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in November 2017. Her poster, [\*Opioid Epidemic in California: How Health Centers Integrate Primary Care and Substance Use Disorder Treatment\*](#), compared approaches of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in California addressing the opioid epidemic and described how integrating primary care and substance use disorder treatment increases access to treatment for individuals with opiate addiction.



LCDR Jennifer Clements (Left) and Tanya Cepero-Chapman present during the APHA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Peer-to-Peer Networking Program

The Peer-to-Peer Networking Program (P2P) grooms officers for professional success. It connects officers as “buddies” based on their respective rank and job title. This is a wonderful opportunity for officers to share their experiences in the Corps! In 2017, the program successfully:

- Matched more than 75 officers, including officers stationed overseas.
- Updated Education, Training, and Mentoring Subcommittee’s Standard Operating Procedure.
- Partnered with the Technical Readiness Subcommittee on tracking initial degree qualifications with peers.
- Informed the PHPAG on HS PAC’s Mentoring Committee activities.

Suggested topics for participants in the P2P Networking Program include: career development, promotion, COER, awards, personnel, deployment opportunities, officer support, and work life balance.



LCDR Daniel Bailey  
Chair



LCDR Tonya Twyman  
Co-Chair



# Subcommittee Updates

## Administrative Management Subcommittee

### **Mission**

To annually review and update the uniform PHPAG bylaws and standard operating procedures, solicit for new PHPAG members, manage the voting members nomination and selection process, and maintain the PHPAG listserv and official membership roster.

### **Accomplishments**

- Coordinated the standard operating procedures template pilot project for the PHPAG.
- Completed the solicitation and selection process for the new 2018 PHPAG voting members.
- Updated and maintained the listserv to ensure PHPAG officers received timely updates and announcements.



CDR Damon Smith  
Chair



CDR Christye Brown  
Co-Chair

## Communications Subcommittee

### **Mission**

To ensure the effective dissemination of information within the PHPAG. The subcommittee aims to increase the visibility of the PHPAG by developing and distributing marketing materials such as weekly announcements, the end of year newsletter, and the PHPAG brochure. The subcommittee is also responsible for marketing and selling PHPAG challenge coins, updating the PHPAG section of the HSO website, and updating the HS PAC calendar with PHPAG events.

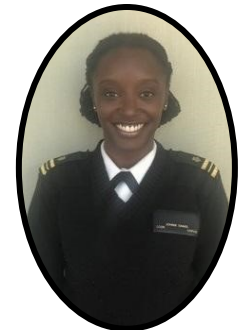
### **Accomplishments**

As we look forward to another year of health and service, we are honored to highlight the accomplishments achieved in 2017.

- Updated the PHPAG brochure and flyer.
- Completed and disseminated PHPAG weekly announcements.
- Developed the 2017 End of Year Newsletter.
- Sold 31 PHPAG challenge coins.
- Fulfilled HS PAC website updates and newsletter requests.
- Created child pages on MAX.gov for the sharing of PHPAG information.



LCDR Kimberley Ricketts  
Chair



LCDR Johnni Daniel  
Co-Chair

# Awards Subcommittee

## ***Mission***

To carefully review nomination packages for the PHPAG's Excellence in Leadership and Junior Officer of the Year awards, which identify two officers who went above and beyond to demonstrate their ability to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our nation.

## ***Accomplishments***

The PHPAG Awards Subcommittee has done it again! Our committee is pleased to recognize two exemplary officers each year. We do it with enthusiasm, honor, and integrity. In 2017, we successfully:

- Completed the review of five nominations for the 2016-2017 award cycle. The call for PHPAG award nominations for 2017-2018 will begin early January 2018.
- Awarded the PHPAG Excellence in Leadership Award and Junior Officer of the Year Award at the 2017 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This year's award recipients were:
  - **CDR Idongesit Essiet-Gibson** – 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 Johnni Daniel** – 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.*
- Gathered and submitted the PHPAG's accomplishments for a Unit Commendation award nomination. To assist with future award nominations, we established a workgroup within the Awards Subcommittee.
- Reviewed and revised the PHPAG Award Subcommittee's standard operating procedures.
- Enhanced scoring criteria and guidance documents to assist reviewers with reviewing and scoring applications.

A special thanks to **LT Kimberly Hart** for ensuring that the subcommittee stayed on track! Your assistance was greatly appreciated, especially during extended absences for deployments and maternity leave. In 2017, LCDR Katrina Sloan welcomed a new addition to her family, a son Nkosi Princeton-Alfred Sloan.



**LCDR Katrina Sloan**  
Chair



**CDR Elizabeth Russell**  
Co-Chair



**LT Kimberly Hart**  
Secretary

# Data and Evaluation Subcommittee

## ***Mission***

To use analytics to guide PHPAG activities and support officers active in the PHPAG. The subcommittee works with the Health Information Technology Professional Advisory Group (HITPAG) and HS PAC's Data Analytics Subcommittee to develop, disseminate, and analyze surveys and other data from PHPAG.

## ***Accomplishments***

- Designed, analyzed, and disseminated PHPAG's 2017 member survey.
- Developed a one-page document to summarize survey findings and highlight ways the results are used to support officers in the PHPAG. Examples of results in action include:
  - 76% of officers indicated that a list of available discipline-specific courses or trainings would be helpful for deployments in discipline-specific roles. The Technical Readiness Subcommittee (TRS) has been working with the HS PAC to develop a list of discipline-specific trainings that will be disseminated to officers. In collaboration with the TRS, the Peer-to-Peer Network will include qualifying degree/discipline in the matching criteria, when possible, to facilitate dissemination of discipline-specific deployment opportunities.
  - 71% of officers indicated interest in having a mechanism to submit questions, concerns, or suggestions on policies that affect PHPAG members and disciplines. The Policy Subcommittee will identify a mechanism to capture this information.
- Tracked growth in active participation among PHPAG members since implementation of the new PAG structure in January 2017.



LCDR Jennifer Freiman  
Chair



LCDR Laura Vonnahme  
Co-Chair

# Policy Subcommittee

## Mission

To serve as a resource for public health policy related information and to strengthen the Commissioned Corps' ability to identify and elevate specific policies impacting officers represented by the PHPAG.

## Accomplishments

- Reviewed the Health Services appointment standards for the public health discipline and assisted an ad-hoc PHPAG advisory committee to develop recommendations for HS PAC consideration.
- Coordinated a “Policy 101” webinar featuring CDR Melanie Ross who presented the CDC 6|18 Initiative. The webinar provided public health policy fundamentals and described six common high burden preventable health conditions and the eighteen evidence-based interventions being presented to purchasers, payers, and providers to improve health and control costs.
- Implemented a feedback mechanism for reporting issues, ideas, or concerns to the Chairs of each subcommittee through the PHPAG weekly announcements. This effort will serve as the first step in identifying topics for policy related white papers and decision memos.
- Provided substantial information to the HS PAC Policy Subcommittee for the creation of the uniformed PAG SOP template.
- Coordinated a “Policy in Public Health” webinar featuring Dr. Robert DuPont, President of the Institute for Behavior and Health. The webinar summarized the Surgeon General’s Report, Facing Addiction in America, and presented a vision for prevention and treatment.



In addition to these remarkable accomplishments, the subcommittee also established a community of volunteers with varying expertise and public health policy interests. The work of the Policy Subcommittee members was integral to the PHPAG’s ability to transition to a uniform structure and contribute to knowledge sharing with the HS PAC and fellow PAGs.



LCDR Emily Crarey  
Chair



LT Kimberly Bissohong  
Co-Chair

# Stakeholder and Community Engagement Subcommittee

## ***Mission***

To manage public health related activities within the community and foster relationships with professional organizations of interest to the PHPAG membership.

## ***Accomplishments***

- Focused on creating processes and tools to track community activities and engage key public health professional organizations, colleges, and universities.
- Utilized results of the PHPAG survey related to professional development/career progression needs and incorporated these data in our action items for the year.
- Submitted draft Standard Operating Procedures language to PHPAG leadership for review and approval.
- Discussed the role of the subcommittee and opportunities to partner with the Health Promotion Health Education (HPHE) Track in the future.
- Consulted with the HS PAC regarding stakeholder and community engagement efforts and how we can collaborate with other national organizations.
- Identified primary points of contact and key public health professional organizations, college/universities that have MPH (or other PHS qualifying degrees).
- Gathered primary contact information for the following organizations: National Center for Health Education Credentialing, George Washington University, National Board of Public Health Examiners, University of Wisconsin, University of Washington, and Morgan State University.
- Developed the solicitation for public health professional organizations, colleges, and universities to promote the USPHS and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Spearheaded a meeting with the leadership of American Public Health Association's Center for Public Health Practice and Professional Development to discuss collaborative opportunities between the two groups, which included officer's participation in the following activities:
  - Continuing education and training;
  - Attendance at annual conferences and meetings;
  - Membership involvement in primary sections, caucuses, and forums; and
  - Participation on panels and webinars as subject matter experts (SMEs)



LCDR Janesia Robbs  
Chair



CDR Karen Beckham  
Co-Chair

# Technical Readiness Subcommittee

## ***Mission***

To serve as the primary source of discipline-specialty information and training on USPHS response and deployment roles for the PHPAG.

The subcommittee promotes and ensures discipline-specific technical readiness for deployments to PHPAG officers by strengthening the quality and performance of PHPAG officers in the field. PHPAG disciplines include, but are not limited to, the following: General Public Health, Epidemiology, Health Promotion Health Education, Environmental Science, Public Health Administration, Biology, Biostatistics, Business Statistics, International Health, Mathematics, and Occupational Safety Public Health.

## ***Accomplishments***

- Developed the subcommittee's inaugural mission statement and goals.
- Increased the subcommittee membership to eight officers, including Chair and Co-Chair.
- Developed criteria and requirements that led to the identification of more than 45 PHPAG related trainings for the HS PAC Advanced Readiness Subcommittee's Advanced Readiness Training Inventory (ARTI) list.
- Collaborated with the PHPAG's Epidemiology and Global Health Tracks to develop and host a brown bag on three PHPAG officers' experiences during their Zika response deployments.
- Collaborated with the PHPAG Data and Evaluation Subcommittee to provide public health technical readiness questions and develop qualitative summaries for the PHPAG survey summary document for PHPAG leadership.
- Identified 25 of 30 USPHS deployment positions where a PHPAG officer could fulfill the required duties based on PHPAG discipline-specific needs.



CDR Jonathan Kwan  
Chair

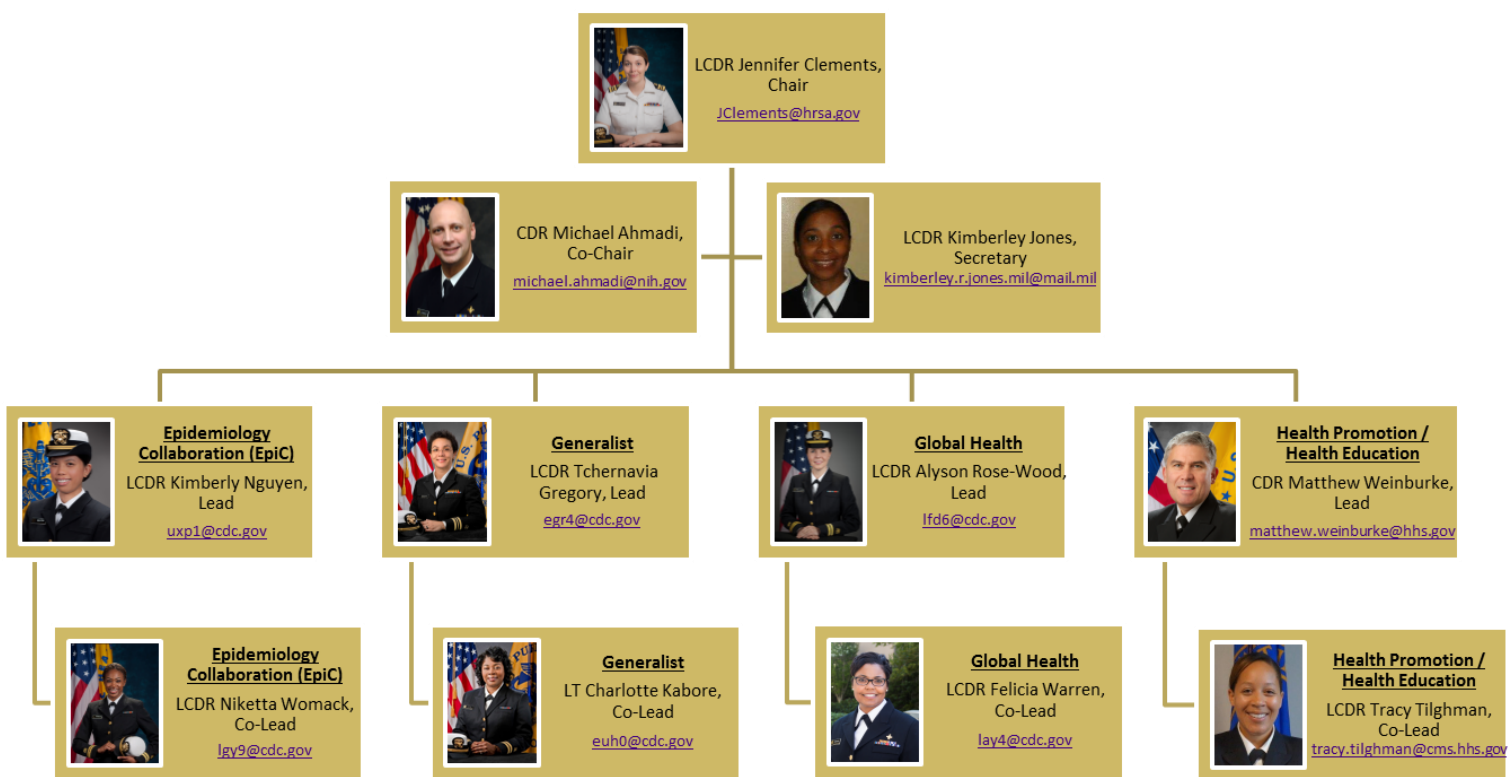


LCDR Michelle Sandoval-Rosario  
Co-Chair

# Education, Training & Mentoring Subcommittee

The Education, Training, and Mentoring Subcommittee (ETM) was established as part of the reorganized PAG structure to support the discipline-specific continuing education training and mentoring needs of PHPAG officers. The work is conducted through the following career tracks: Epidemiology, Generalists of Public Health, Global Health, and Health Promotion Health Education. In addition, Peer to Peer (P2P) networking is available for officers of similar rank, background, and experience.

While 2017 was a “transition” year for us as a newly formed subcommittee, we hit the ground running and are extremely proud of all the work our group has accomplished! You can read more about the tracks throughout this newsletter. We encourage officers to reach out to us if you are interested in participating in the ETM subcommittee in 2018.



**LCDR Jennifer Clements**  
Chair



**CDR Michael Ahmadi**  
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 Track membership from 23 to 25 members.
- Co-hosted a brown bag with the Global Health Track: “Zika Virus Response: How Three U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officers Responded”. Presenters included: LCDR Jorge Muniz-Ortiz - deployed to Puerto Rico and supported the Zika Unified Coordination Group (UCG); LCDR Niketta Womack-deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands as the lead epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and LCDR Jennifer Cockrill - deployed to the CDC Dengue Branch in San Juan, Puerto Rico and worked in the laboratory. The brown bag was well-attended and received positive feedback from attendees.
- Hosted brown bag: “Opioid Epidemic: Trends and an Overview of CDC’s Response”. Presenters included: LT Julie O’Donnell who highlighted mortality trends and law enforcement drug product testing of illicit opioids and LT Jamie Mells who provided an overview of CDC’s effort to combat the opioid epidemic.
- Several Track members participated in deployment activities including the Zika response and the responses for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.



CDR Kimberly Nguyen  
Lead



LCDR Niketta Womack  
Co-Lead



# Generalist Track

## ***Mission***

To promote and support officers who possess diverse skillsets and expertise performing a wide range of public health functions within their agency, deployment roles, and in special assignments with the USPHS 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;” and
- Opportunities to lead public health initiatives/activities related to the PHPAG objectives and engagement in PHPAG and PHPAG Generalist Track meetings.

## ***Accomplishments***

- CDR Matthew Weinburke, LCDR Charlotte Kaboré, and LCDR Jennifer Clements collaborated with the Health Promotion & Health Education (HPHE) Track to present a poster at the 2017 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium: "Value of Credentialing for Health Educators and Public Health Generalists.". The poster focused on the CPH, the CHES (Certified Health Education Specialist) and the MCHES (Master Certified Health Education Specialist), the processes and requirements needed to obtain each credential and their respective benefits.
- Co-hosted CPH/CHES/MCHES webinar on the “Value of Credentialing for Health Educators and Public Health Generalists.”
- Re-released “Credentialing: Review Sessions for the Certified in Public Health Exam” webinar.
- LCDR Sara Lee, LT Kimberly Davis, and LT Kimberly Hart led a three-part educational series on advanced degrees and certificate programs with a focus on the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree. The series featured George Washington University, University of Georgia, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2018, the Track will continue the series with additional universities and expand the scope to include clinical degrees.
- Be sure to look for the re-release of the 2016 Work-Life Balance webinar with helpful articles on how officers can successfully balance their careers and family life in December 2017.

**Certified**  
Education  
**Credentialing**  
Public  
Specialist  
Value  
Master  
**Health**



LCDR Tchernavia Gregory  
Lead



LCDR Charlotte Kaboré  
Co-Lead

## ***Mission***

Established in 2013, the Global Health Track serves as an interdisciplinary resource for officers of all USPHS Categories working in – or interested in – the field of global health. Our mission is to increase the capacity of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in global health through professional development for Public Health Service officers.

## ***Accomplishments***

- Conducted a needs assessment of the Global Health Track, which included key informant interviews with members to: engage Track members; generate ideas and feedback on proposed 2017 activities; and identify additional areas where the Track can provide resources and support.
- Coordinated global health seminars, which resulted in junior and senior officers across multiple agencies, categories, and tracks learning important global health information while also enhancing interpersonal connections and information sharing:
  - “USG and the Global Fund: A Tale of Two Donors” – Presenter: Zara Ahmed, Associate Director for Policy, CDC, Center for Global Health, Division of Global Health Protection; Discussant: LCDR Charlie Darr, Global Health Officer, Multilateral Relations Office, HHS, Office of Global Affairs.
  - "Global Health: What Role(s) for the World Bank?" – Presenter: Donald Shriber, Advisor, Office of the U.S. Executive Director of the World Bank (CDC secondee).
  - "Current and Future Directions of the Global Health Security Agenda" – Presenter: Jose A. Fernandez PhD, Deputy Director, Global Health Security, HHS Office of Global Affairs.
  - EpiC and Global Health Track Brownbag "Zika Virus Response: How Three U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officers Responded" – Presenters: LCDRs Jorge Muniz-Ortiz, Niketta Womack, and Jennifer Cockrill.
  - "Building a Global Health Workforce within HHS Focus: USPHS OGA Overseas Workgroup" – Presenter: Jessica Stewart, Senior Advisor for Agency Coordination, HHS Office of Global Affairs.
  - "CDC Global Rapid Response Team (GRRT) Panel" – Presenter: LCDR Ashley Greiner, Medical Officer, CDC, Center for Global Health, Division of Global Health Protection.
  - “An Introduction for PHS Officers to USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)” – Presenters: Sarah Farnsworth, Strategic Interagency Team Leader, USAID, Humanitarian Policy and Global Engagement Division and Topher Finley, Humanitarian Advisor to CDC.
- In August 2017, eleven officers participated in an in-person CDC Headquarters site visit in Atlanta, Georgia to learn about CDC and its global health programs.



LCDR Alyson Rose-Wood  
Co-Lead



LCDR Felicia Warren  
Co-Lead

# Health Promotion & Health Education 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 personal growth and development.

## ***Accomplishments***

The Health Promotion & Health Education Track led several innovative initiatives in 2017 to strengthen partnerships and identify gaps that are critical to the mission of the Track, including:

- Maintained monthly listing of continuing education unit (CEU) opportunities to provide free and low-cost CHES/MCHES resources to assist officers with maintaining their health education professional licensure and expertise.
- Spearheaded first-ever group registration for officers to virtually attend the APHA annual meeting November 4-8, 2017. Approximately 65 officers participated and were eligible to receive up to 16.5 CEUs.
- Utilized Track's expertise to collaborate with National Prevention Strategy - Prevention through Active Community Engagement (NPS-PACE) to standardize templates and related tools associated with their opioid lesson plans. This national initiative is supported by the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) and is in development.
- Initiated PHS Athletics events in support of the Surgeon General's physical fitness initiatives. More than 50 officers and community members participated in the activities to promote and maintain fitness standards.



CDR Matthew Weinburke  
Lead



LCDR Tracy Tilghman  
Co-Lead

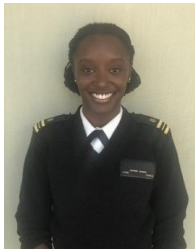
# Executive Committee & Voting Members

Welcome to our 2018 PHPAG Executive Committee and Voting Members

## New 2018 Voting Members



**LCDR Jennifer Freiman, Chair-Elect**, is an epidemiologist with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service where she coordinates foodborne illness investigations, conducts surveillance for foodborne hazards, and describes emerging food safety threats. She has been active in the PHPAG since 2013 serving in multiple roles including Epidemiology Track Co-chair and secretary. She is a current voting member serving as the PHPAG Data and Evaluation Subcommittee Chair.



**LCDR Johnni Daniel** is an environmental epidemiologist with CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. She currently serves as the acting team lead for the environmental epidemiology team within the Health Studies Branch. She has been active in the PHPAG since 2012, serving as the Chair and Co-Chair of the Communications Subcommittee for the past 4 years.



**LCDR Michelle Sandoval-Rosario** is a senior epidemiologist with CDC, assigned to the Arizona Department of Health Services, where she provides leadership, technical assistance, capacity, and epidemiology support to prevent and control chronic diseases and associated risk factors. She has been active in the PHPAG since 2014, where she currently services as Co-Chair for the Technical Readiness Subcommittee.

## 2018 Executive Committee

LCDR Jennifer Clements, Chair  
LCDR Jennifer Freiman, Chair Elect  
LCDR Jaclyn Ruiz, Executive Secretary

## 2018 Voting Members

CDR Michael Ahmadi  
CDR Jonathan Kwan  
LCDR Emily Crarey  
LCDR Johnni Daniel  
LCDR Jennifer Freiman (2018 Chair Elect)  
LCDR Kimberley Ricketts  
LCDR Janesia Robbs  
LCDR Michelle Sandoval-Rosario  
LCDR Katrina Sloan

# Message from the 2018 PHPAG Chair

I am very honored and excited to serve as the 2018 Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG) Chair. I have been working with the PHPAG since I commissioned in 2013, and it has been such a rewarding experience to work with the PHPAG and to witness its growth and fruition of our hard work as a PAG.

The past year has been a year of transition with the PAGs moving to a uniform structure under greater PAC alignment. I believe that the PHPAG did a phenomenal job in supporting our officers through this transition. Leadership (voting members and non-voting members) took on this new challenge willingly and jumped into the unknown, especially with the development of many new subcommittees including Education, Training, and Mentoring (ETM) and Technical Readiness. The positive attitude, dedication, and hard work of leadership and officers within the PHPAG has contributed to us becoming the strongest our PAG has ever been.

There is a strong interest in the PHPAG, as we are the **U.S. Public Health Service**, both from our CPO and other categories. This past year presented a unique opportunity to highlight the discipline-specific expertise of the PHPAG. This has included presentations on essential leadership skills for PHS officers, an overview of the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, public health credentialing (CPH, CHES, MCHES), and what CDC is doing to address the opioid epidemic to name a few.

Over the next year, I plan to build upon the success the PHPAG had through a transition year in 2017. Specifically, I will be looking at ways to better support our members. This will include a focus on:

- Streamlining communication with the use of MAX.gov;
- Building upon the success of our peer-to-peer mentoring program where officers can build personal one-on-one relationships with peers and provide one another career support; and
- Continuing to provide high quality continuing education and career development opportunities for PHPAG officers.

I would personally like to thank CDR Monique Salter, our 2017 PHPAG Chair, for her excellent leadership and mentorship as I have prepared over the last year to take over this position.



LCDR Jennifer Clements  
2018 PHPAG Chair

# Announcements

Show your PHPAG Pride and order your challenge coin today!

Contact CDR Monique Salter (monique.salter@fda.hhs.gov)



Special thanks to the wonderful officers on the Communications Subcommittee who volunteered their time throughout the year to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information to the PHPAG. All members of the Communications Subcommittee were instrumental in developing this newsletter. Bravo Zulu, all!

LCDR Jamar Barnes  
LCDR Onieka Carpenter  
CDR Jabal Chase  
CDR Sherene Cora  
LCDR Johnni Daniel

LCDR Cindy Eugene  
LCDR LaJeana Hawkins  
CDR Andrea Peay  
LCDR Kimberley Ricketts  
LCDR Felicia Warren

## Meet Your Editors



LCDR Felicia Warren  
Chief Editor



LCDR Jamar Barnes  
Editor



LCDR Johnni Daniel  
Editor