



Social Work Professional Advisory Group

General Meeting Minutes

26 APR 2021 1300-1400 HRS EST

Conference Link: <https://stephaniefelder.my.webex.com/meet/33felder>

Conference Dial in (415) 655-0001 Access Code: 126 444 6836#

- I. **Welcome/Attendance**– (Please Press *6 to unmute)
- II. **(02/16/21) Review Minutes (1st Motion/2nd Motion)**: CDR Booker/ CDR Nemeti
- III. **Flag Officer: RADM Matthew E. Kleiman**
 - RADM Kleiman introduced self and background. He has been with USPHS for 16/17 years. Began career with US Air Force as a Clinical Social Worker. Transitioned to USPHS in 2005. Most of career has been outside of HHS. Past 5 years with the National Guard Bureau where he has been leading psychological health and warrior resilience. Prior to that he was stationed with the Coast Guard in the Behavioral Health Services Division, in HHS emergency operations, and in mental health coordination with immigration health. Has been in DC Area and Commissioned Corps Headquarters positions for most of his career.
 - Interested in how he can utilize his role as a flag officer to best support the SWPAG community and Commissioned Corps officers across the service. Would like to use these forums to hear from officers on issues that are important to the SWPAG community and provide a voice and seat at the table with other Assistant Surgeon Generals to ensure our needs are being looked at at the highest levels of the Public Health Service.
 - Has been in fairly close contact with the SWPAG Chair and HSO CPO. Also has regular meetings with the Surgeon General, the ASH, and Aslant Surgeon Generals. Will attempt to continue to make himself available for SWPAG Meetings. Please utilize his contact information as he is open to direct contact and happy to speak with anyone individually or in a smaller group setting. Best way to reach is via email: matthew.e.kleiman.mil@mail.mil.
 - RADM Kleiman expressed appreciation for the SWPAG adjusting the General Body Meeting day/time to allow him to attend and get more engaged.
- IV. **SWPAG Chair: CDR Stephanie Felder**
 1. Thank you to everyone for a great Social Work Month 2021. We had great participation throughout all events. Approximately 85 people attended the General Petraeus leadership talk. Special Thanks to LT Janelle Phillip for her dynamic interview with the General.

2. Special Pay Updates

- SWPAG Executive Secretary Finch-Hall recently sent an email with our most recent Special Pay updates. Headquarters isn't able to send anyone to attend the SWPAG meeting as requested, however, they did review our questions and they made updates to the Q&A section of the website. LT Finch-Hall will resend this information to ensure the SWPAG sees the information which includes a link to the policy, a link to the Q&A, and a link to submit additional questions for the SWPAG to forward. We will continue to utilize this process.
- Headquarters has requested that officers only send novel questions that have not been addressed by the policy, by the Q&A, or by any other information they have previously sent.
- It takes 90 days from when CCHQ begins to process the agreement to receive Special Pay.

3. HSPAC Leadership Updates

- On recent HSPAC Leadership call, the CPO stated that if you did not attend the last townhall held on 30MAR2021 to please review the playback as our leadership shared important information.
- Regarding deployments, CPO stated it is not a matter of if you will deploy but when. Stay ready for deployment, have your family care plans in place, and keep your bags prepared.
- HSPAC is interested in hearing about deployment issues downrange. An email was sent with information officers can use if you are having issues on deployment. SWPAG can also route issues through SWPAG Leadership and we will assist to have them addressed.
- There will be continued recruitment within our category. It was also mentioned that they are continuing to move the Clinical Psychologists from the HSO category to the Scientist category.

4. Upcoming Initiatives

You will see further information coming out about these initiatives in the future.

- Increasing interaction among non-active social work members by 25%
- USPHS awareness campaign goal - at least 50% of the 255 MSW Social Work Programs identified by CSWE. This will work well in tandem with the Recruitment and Retention subcommittee "21 in 21" recruitment initiative.
- Homeless Veterans nationwide Collaboration w/ U.S. Veterans (AZ, CA, HI, NV, TX, DC)

5. VA MOU Changes

- Social Workers were recently added to the MOU with the Veterans Affairs.
- We were made aware the focus is currently on new Call to Active Duty (CAD) officers. At this time, SWPAG leadership, including RADM Kleiman, is reaching out for

information to learn more about the decision-making process and how all Social Workers can benefit from this inclusion to the MOU. More to come on that.

V. SWPAG Chair-Elect: LCDR Robert Van Meir

- Reminds officers, as we continue to deploy and/or TDY while also taking care of our families and ourselves during COVID-19, to remember to check in with each other to ensure that WE are okay. People often forget that Mental Health workers are people too and they mistakenly assume that we are always doing “okay”. We are doing outstanding work. Let’s remember to take care of each other during these trying times.

VI. SubGroup Reports

OPERATIONS

<p>Communications <i>Chair:</i> LCDR Lorener Brayboy Lorener.E.Brayboy@ice.dhs.gov</p> <p><i>Co-Chair:</i> LCDR Mark Durham Mark.Durham@ice.dhs.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will reach out to the Health Informatics PAG for assistance with the Max.Gov website. Please be patient as we seek assistance.
<p>Awards <i>Chair:</i> CDR Kymberly Spady-Grove kymberly.m.spady-grove@uscg.mil</p> <p><i>Co-Chair:</i> CDR Preston Shumaker Preston.L.Shumaker@ice.dhs.gov</p>	<p>Welcome our new members to the subcommittee:</p> <p>LT Keisha Suzae Bryan LT India L. Johns</p> <p>Officers interested in joining the Awards subcommittee should reach out to CDR Spady-Grove or CDR Shumaker. Officers should take note that when you are serving on the Awards subcommittee you are not eligible to be nominated for SWPAG awards.</p> <p>We received great nomination packages for the 2021 Social Worker of the year (SWOY). We encourage social workers to prepare to submit nomination packages for the 2022 SWOY. Announcements will go out in the early part of 2022.</p> <p><i>Senior SWOY:</i> CDR Christine Nemeti <i>Junior SWOY:</i> LCDR Jennifer Weekes</p> <p>Congratulations to these officers. Their full bios will be included in the upcoming SWPAG newsletter so that all can read and learn more about them.</p>

<p>Stakeholder & Community Engagement <i>Chair:</i> CDR Monique Worrell-Oriola Monique.Worrell-Oriola@ice.dhs.gov</p> <p><i>Co-Chair:</i> CDR Holly Berilla HBerilla@hrsa.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Update.

OFFICER SUPPORT

<p>Training, Education, and Mentorship <i>Chair:</i> LCDR Monique Richards Monique.Richards@ihs.gov</p> <p><i>Co-Chairs:</i> CDR Kimberley Jones (Mentoring) kimberley.r.jones.mil@mail.mil</p> <p>LT Candice Karber (Training and Education) CKarber@hrsa.gov</p>	<p>TRAINING/EDUCATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training/Education Team will hosted The University of Kentucky’s Doctorate of Social Work Information Session on Tuesday, March 2, at 3pm EST. • Training/Education Team will host the first Virtual Book Club Discussion on Sunday, June 6 from 2-4pm. The featured book will be “The Power of Passion and Perseverance”. Preregistration information has been disseminated in the SWPAG Announcements. <p>MENTORING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring Team is currently gauging interest in monthly Leadership Lunch and Learns. Junior Officer listserv created and query sent out to Junior officers in preparation to launch Leadership Lunch and Learns. • Mentoring Team is currently developing the Mentoring Matters Column for SWPAG Newsletter • Mentoring subgroup has added two additional Action Officers in support of Mentoring action plan. <p>LT Jackson inquired about past training program to have CVs reviewed by peer officers and if SWPAG plans to host a program like this. SWPAG has no plans for this at this time. LT Jackson was directed to the HSPAC as this has been hosted in the past by the PAC.</p>
<p>Readiness <i>Chair:</i> LT Desirrae Harris desirrae.d.harris.mil@mail.mil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update.

<p><i>Co-Chair:</i> CDR Kari Harris k2xharris@bop.gov</p>	
<p>Data and Evaluation <i>Chair:</i> CDR Allah-Fard Sharrieff Allah-Fard.M.Sharrieff@ice.dhs.gov</p> <p><i>Co-Chair:</i> CDR Alysa (Jackson) Ward ax4jackson@bop.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates to report at this time.

MANAGEMENT

<p>Policy <i>Chair:</i> LCDR Robert Van Meir Robert.E.VanMeir@ice.dhs.gov</p> <p><i>Co-Chair:</i> CAPT Karen Hearod karen.hearod@samhsa.hhs.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee has struggled to schedule meetings due to deployment but has a meeting scheduled in the upcoming week. Two new members have joined the subcommittee: CDR Booker and LT Hardy (new CAD). Anyone interested in serving on the policy committee should contact LCDR Van Meir. LCDR Lombardo requested to be added to this subcommittee and expressed interest in follow-up on the family medical leave white paper.
<p>Administrative Management <i>Chair:</i> CDR Cole Weeks cole.weeks.usphs@gmail.com</p> <p><i>Co-Chair:</i> CDR Christine Nemeti cole.weeks.usphs@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee continues to receive and make updates to the SWPAG roster. Working with the Communications subcommittee to get the SWPAG roster posted to Max.gov. Will standby as the PAG seeks assistance in that effort. Treasurer and Coin Sales positions will be removed from under this subcommittee as these are no longer authorized by PHS.

AdHOC SUBGROUP

<p>Recruitment and Retention <i>Chair:</i> LT Janelle Phillip Janelle.Phillip@ice.dhs.gov</p> <p><i>Co-Chair:</i> LT Everett Rollins IV rollinsiv@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating the next “Where We Work” and are looking to spotlight the Indian Health Service and Ice Health Service Corps. Seeking a volunteer from IHS to present. If interested, please contact LT Phillip and LT Rollins. Currently recruiting social workers to participate in “Social Work 21 in 2021.” This effort is to facilitate outreach to at least 21 universities about commissioning as a PHS social worker this calendar year. There have been 4 presentations
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	so far for 2021. We have revised the training materials to be in line with the CCHQ materials and added special pay information. We added an advertisement flier developed by LT Finch-Hall. Partnered with BCOAG on recruitment at HBCUs with Master's level programs.
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Meeting Adjourned at 1340 EST (1st Motion/2nd Motion): CDR Ward/ LT Rollins

NOTE: Please email your attendance to Executive Secretary Finch-Hall at tfinchhall@bop.gov

ATTENDANCE

RADM Matthew Kleiman	CDR Stephanie Felder	LCDR Robert Van Meir	LT Tamika Finch-Hall
CDR Booker	CDR Kymberly Spady-Grove	LCDR Monique Richards	CDR Kari Harris
CDR Allah-Fard Sharrieff	CDR Alysa (Jackson) Ward	CDR Christine Nemeti	LT Everett Rollins IV
CAPT Sonjia Howard	CAPT Julie Niven	CAPT Jerald Mahlau-Heinert	CAPT Elise Young
CDR Deanna DeVore	CDR Todd Johnson	CDR Todd Cesar	CDR Sonsy Fermin
LCDR Jennifer Weekes	LCDR Kimberley Calvery	LCDR Elliott Hill	LCDR Sara Rasmussen
LCDR Nicole Pascua	LCDR Marriah Lombardo	LT Katana Jackson	LT Jamilah Bynum
LT Angela Fellows	LT Regena Hardy	LT Tashonne Timson	LT Keisha Bryan
LT Courtney Trent			