



SWPAG E-Newsletter



CHAIR'S CORNER

The Time is Now: Leaders, Advocates, and Champions Let's Make 2018 a Year to Remember!

By CDR Indira Harris, LCSW, BCD



I am so excited to represent our SWPAG as Chair while we continue our journey of excellence in 2018. It is truly a great time to be a Social Worker in the US Public Health Service! Our Motto for this year is...*"The Time Is Now!"* There is so much knowledge and experience within our ranks, but often times it is either underutilized or unutilized for various reasons. My hope is to change this – not only within the PAG, but also throughout the Corps. We have a tremendous voice individually, but collectively as well. It is time that we focus our efforts on how we can impact our respective communities, regions, and the nation as a whole. I look forward to working with you all on the various initiatives and activities we have planned for the year.

Some of the innovative activities we will be focusing on this year are:

1. Comprehensive Social Work Capacity/Capability Survey
2. Social Work White Paper – detailing wide-range capabilities of a SW Officer in the Corps (Companion piece to #1)
3. Homeless Veteran National Outreach Campaign

We must seize the momentum gained over the past year under the leadership of CDR Sonjia Howard. Last year the Social Workers were 'On the Move', but it was the same Social Workers we always saw holding up the PAG for the rest of us. Now, we need *All Hands on Deck* to truly make the impact I know we can make, in a way we all know is within our capabilities. I heard a wonderful quote recently, "Bite off more than you can chew, then chew it!" We know what we can do; so let's do it. Get excited and get ready to have a fantastic year! #TheTimeIsNow

**Meet the other members of 2018 SWPAG Executive Team:
CDR Delores Caldwell, SPWAG Chair-Elect
LT Deirdre Oretade-Branch, SWPAG Executive Secretary**



Meet CDR Deloris Caldwell! CDR Caldwell is currently the Social Work PAG Chair Elect for 2018. Originally from Jacksonville, AR, she holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Missouri–Columbia and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She is currently enrolled in the Doctorate of Health Sciences program at Nova Southeastern.

With over 13 years in the Commissioned Corps, CDR Caldwell currently serves a Behavioral Health Clinical Consultant for the ICE Health Service Corps Headquarters Behavioral Health Unit in Washington DC. At ICE, CDR Caldwell provides oversight, guidance, case coordination and consultation to mental health providers assigned to ICE detention facilities primarily in the West coast of the United States.

You should also know, that CDR Caldwell serves as Health Service Officer (HSO) mentor, is a member of SAT team 5, and sits on the HSO Career and Guidance Team. Her hobbies include reading, meditation, traveling and practicing spirituality.

Meet LT Dierdra Oretade-Branch is currently serves the 2018 SWPAG Executive Secretary. Although recently commissioned in Public Health Service, LT Oretade-Branch has been a clinical social worker for over 6 years and have recently completed her Doctor of Social Work degree from the University of Tennessee - GO VOLS!



Presently, LT Oretade-Branch is stationed in the Federal Bureau of Prisons at the Federal Medical Center in Butner North Carolina. She also has clinical experience within the field of Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Forensic Social Work, and most recently Medical Social Work. Among her noteworthy achievements, LT Oretade-Branch had the privilege of publishing in a Second Edition textbook entitled *Forensic Social Work: Psychosocial and Legal Issues Across Diverse Populations and Settings*. In addition, she finds time to help prepare the next generation of social workers by teaching at the North Carolina State University Social Work Department part-time over the past 4 years. You should also know that experiences, I am happy to share that LT Oretade-Branch is a wife and mother of three beautiful, busy, and smart boys, who keep her “going like the Energizer Bunny”!

Welcome to both of these stellar leaders who have answered the call to serve the Social Work Professional Advisory Group, the Health Services, PAC, and the USPHS Commissioned Corps!

SOCIAL WORKERS FRONT & CENTER

S.W.O.Y. Awards: The Time to Recognize Our Own for Exceptional Service

By Dierdra Oretade-Branch, DSW, LCSW, BCD

The Social Work Professional Advisory Group is now accepting nominations for the Senior and Junior Social Worker of the Year Awards.

The Social Work Professional Advisory Group's Social Worker of the Year Award is presented to a Social Work Health Services Officer in the Commissioned Corps of the USPHS who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments, exhibits exceptional leadership ability and exemplary service, while substantially advancing the health of the Nation through innovative and strategic solutions as well as significantly impacting the mission of the Corps.

Any active duty USPHS Senior Commissioned Officer (O-5 to O-10) or Junior Commissioned Officer (O-1 to O-4) Social Worker (Officer's qualifying commissioning degree must be in Social Work). One person will be chosen for the 2018 award. The Chair, -Elect, Secretary and Awards Subcommittee Members of the Social Work Professional Advisory Group (SWPAG) are not eligible to compete. Please see the nomination package and criteria attached. **The nomination packet should be submitted electronically by Wednesday, February 28, 2018 to CAPT Torris Smith/ torris.smith@cms.hhs.gov or LCDR Kymberly Spady-Grove/ Kymberly.Spady-Grove@ice.dhs.gov**



SWOTY SR Officer
Nomination Form 201



SWOTY JR Officer
Nomination Form

Call to Action: The Mission Continues.....



The Commissioned Corps continues to support the Department's public health and medical response and recovery efforts for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. The Readiness and Deployment Operations Group (RedDOG) is trying to identify additional officers to support case management and patient movement-related services in Atlanta, GA. The targeted officers in disciplines that would be able to support a case management mission (i.e. nurses, physicians, social workers, pharmacists, therapists, dieticians, and healthcare administrators.) You recently received a deployment notice from RedDOG regarding the going case management support mission in Atlanta, GA Officers assigned to Tiers I, II and III are expected to be available to deploy during their on-call months. We are approaching

month 7 of hurricane response and recovery activities but here is an ongoing need for officers to support those impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. If you are available to deploy, please respond to RedDOG@hhs.gov. The continued support of the Commissioned Corps is greatly needed.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have specific questions, please contact CDR Damon Smith (damon.smith@hhs.gov) or CDR Beth DeGrange (elizabeth.degrange@hhs.gov)

Social Workers lead team at 2018 Winterhaven Veteran's Stand-down

By LT Bynum, LCSW, BCD and LCDR Sean Bennett, LCSW, BCD



Officers of the U.S. Public Health Service had the honor of serving 840 homeless and at risk Veterans at the 2018 Veterans Affairs Medical Center Winterhaven Stand-down. This day-long, one-stop shop event provided an array of wrap around services needed to assist in the elimination of homelessness in DC Metro Area. The event took place on January 27th, 2018 at the Washington, D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center, located at 50 Irving Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Major outreach events like Winterhaven are a crucial part of the medical center's Health Care for the Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program. Services provided include employment, education and housing counseling, financial planning, substance abuse and rehabilitative programs and psychosocial services. Winterhaven attendees who

were underemployed and at-risk of homelessness had access to resources to assist in foreclosure or rental eviction avoidance, utility bill assistance and legal aid. Veterans also received health assessments, HIV testing, specialty care exams including: dental, podiatry and audiology as well as warm clothing, boots, haircuts, personal care packs and a warm meal. Participants met personally with community organizations, community volunteers and government agencies which joined forces with the DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center to eliminate and avert Veteran homelessness in the DC metropolitan area.



LCDR Stephanie Felder and LT Jamillah Bynum coordinated the involvement of USPHS Officers and afforded officers the opportunity to serve as leaders in this mission. LCDR Sean Bennett arrived bright and early at 0700 hrs to ensure all items were organized and ready to be disseminated. LT Teresa Hu and LCDR Tyann Blessington served as Team Leaders and worked tirelessly to ensure continued coverage was provided in all areas. As other officers arrived, they ensured boots and socks remained organized according to size and gender and were disseminated in a timely and orderly fashion. They effortlessly set Veterans at ease while giving them coats, socks, and directing them to their next station. With a team effort, 631 pairs of new boots were distributed to deserving Veterans. The Honorable David J. Shulkin, Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), was present and thanked the USPHS for our efforts to achieve the mission.

Although Winterhaven was a success, there is much more work to be done. Be the change you want to see; join us next year for our fourth year of service of helping to end homelessness among our Nations Veterans. Contact LCDR Stephanie Felder or LT Jamillah Bynum for further information on how you can get involved.

Special thanks to all of the officers who participated in this event:

- CDR Zanethia Eubanks
- LCDR Stephanie Felder, Lead Advisor
- LCDR Sean Bennett, Advisor
- LCDR Tyann Blessington, AM Lead
- LCDR Teisha Robertson
- LCDR Diane Wong
- LCDR Samantha Spindel
- LT Jamillah Bynum, Advisor
- LT Teresa Hu, PM Lead
- LT Zavera Brandon
- LT Tiffany Pham



**5600 SOCIAL WORK MONTH
NETWORKING & APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**



SOCIALWORKERS
leaders. advocates. champions.

WHEN: March 7, 2018

TIME: 9AM-11AM

WHERE: 5600 Parklawn Drive

Rm #: 5A04 PAVILION

WHY: To celebrate 5600 Social Workers

POC: CDR Indira Harris (IHarris@hrsa.gov)

HAPPY NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH!

**SERVICES ACCESS TEAM (SAT) #5:
SOCIAL WORKER RECRUITMENT**

Services Access Team (SAT) #5 is recruiting a limited number of Social Workers in the Commissioned Corps.

- Are you a Social Worker looking to join a Response Team?
- Are you a skilled Case Manager?
- Are you interested in serving “at-risk” individuals and populations?
- Are you able to deploy within 36 hours of notification?
- Are you able to speak another language, preferably Spanish?

Yes, yes, yes, yes? Then, look no further!

If you are interested in joining SAT #5, please send your CV to [LCDR Aisha Faria](#) and [LCDR Iman Martin](#) by **February 16, 2018**.

CDR Tarsha Cavanaugh, Team Commander

CDR Qiana Coffey, Deputy Team Commander

SAT Fact Sheet:

https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/RedDOG/FactSheets/SAT_Fact_Sheet_FINAL.pdf

LIFELONG LEARNING

Continuing Education Resources for Professional Development

By LCDR Sean Bennett, LCSW, BCD



This month we are highlighting online resources on health systems improvement and public health effectiveness.

1. The Agency for Health Care and Quality Improvement (AHRQ) offers the TeamSTEPPS train via the Learning Management System. TeamSTEPPS is an evidence-based teamwork system aimed at optimizing patient outcomes by improving communication and teamwork skills among health care professionals and staff. It includes a comprehensive set of ready-to-use materials and a training curriculum to successfully integrate teamwork principles into any health care system. You can either enroll to become a Master Trainer, or simply complete individual modules. In all cases you can earn CE upon successful completion. FMI please click the following link <https://tslms.org/>
2. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) provides access to the IHI's 'Open School' to support you in your quality improvement efforts. The Open School offers essential training and tools in an [online, educational community](#) to help you and your team deliver excellent, safe care and to build core skills in improvement, safety, and leadership. The Open School offers more than 30 online courses in quality, safety, leadership, the Triple Aim, and patient-centered care. FMI please click the following link <https://www.ihl.org/layouts/15/ihl/userregistration/userregistration.aspx?displayuserreg=full&ReturnURL=http://app.ihl.org/lmsspa/#/validatePasscode>
3. The CDC has a free CE program known as Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA). The purpose of COCA continuing education opportunities is to increase clinicians' knowledge and competencies of threats to the public's health, their effects on human populations, and evaluation and management strategies of these threats. COCA continuing education is free.

How to earn continuing education (CE):

- a. Go to the [CDC Training & Continuing Education Online System](#).
- b. Log in as a participant. If this is your first visit, you will need to register and establish a login name and password
- c. Click on "Search and Register"
- d. Under "keyword search" find the course you are interested in by entering:
- e. "WC2286" for calls hosted in last 30 days
- f. "WD2286" for calls hosted more than 30 days ago
- g. Select your course
- h. Complete evaluation
- i. Pass posttest at 50%
- j. Print your CE certificate

Consider signing up today for these professional development opportunities. Hope to see you around in the virtual classroom!

Feature Article

How Supervising a Junior Social Worker Strengthens Our Own Clinical Skills

By CAPT Julie A. Niven, Four Corners Regional Health Center, Red Mesa, AZ

Recently I have been afforded the opportunity to begin supervising an LMSW so that she can accrue the supervision hours needed to test for her clinical license. (Please note that I write “opportunity” instead of “additional duty” and allow me to explain my viewpoint on this). There is no question that providing supervisors means more work. Supervisors shaping the future of the social work field. And what an awesome opportunity that is!



There is no question that providing supervision to a junior colleague can have such a significant hand in work field. And what an awesome

It's been several years since I've worker, so before I even began had to purchase and complete an board, submit the required wait for approval. While waiting, I

provided supervision to a junior social work with my current supervisee, I online course required by her state paperwork to the board and then searched for examples of supervision

contracts as well as weekly documentation forms and though I found a number of possible choices, I ended up modifying both into new documents to make them more complete. I also asked my supervisee to complete a modified Myers-Briggs personality test while I completed the same. I felt it would be helpful to discuss our commonalities as well as differences before starting our regular work together.

My supervisee and I meet weekly. Our meetings are scheduled on Mondays so we will both be fresh for every session. This is especially important for me as I find I must think for two or more in each session. I am listening to my supervisee for areas I need address, considering how the clients she sees are reacting to her work, while filing through my years of field experience to offer information aimed at challenging her thinking and improving practice. In some ways, at the same time, I am recycling through the supervision I received 20 years ago. I use the experience I had then to guide my work today, but strive “to kick it up a few notches” and provide even better supervision than I received.

Supervising an individual junior colleague is in some ways a conjoint supervision. I find myself learning, relearning, and reinforcing within my own practice that which I strive to teach my supervisee. And my supervision work sends me back at times to the literature to refresh my memory when a presented case is one I haven't dealt with in a while.

In closing, I would encourage any social worker who has the chance to supervise a junior colleague towards licensure to jump at the opportunity. It is a gift we give our juniors as well as a gift we give ourselves, but perhaps most importantly of all, a gift we give our patients in our day-to-day clinical work. We strengthen our own skills while helping junior workers acquire and strengthen theirs.



WHO: PHS OFFICERS

WHAT: INFORMAL NETWORKING EVENT

WHERE: MATCHBOX

(1699 ROCKVILLE PIKE, ROCKVILLE MD 20852)

WHEN: FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH 2018

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

WHY: TO CELEBRATE SOCIAL WORK MONTH
AND PROMOTE ESPRIT DE CORPS AMONG ALL
OFFICERS

CONTACT LT. JAMILLAH BYNUM (jamillah.bynum@nih.gov) OR LCDR LOQUITA
ROBERTS (loquita.d.roberts.mil@mail.mil) TO RSVP. FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT MATCHBOX, PLEASE GO TO
[HTTP://WWW.MATCHBOXRESTAURANTS.COM/ROCKVILLE/](http://www.matchboxrestaurants.com/rockville/)



SAT 4 Wants You!



During a disaster response be a part of a team and help those in need!

Join SAT 4 where we take an active role in Patient Movement and Disaster Case Management.

If you have experience with or willing to gain skills in:

1. Performing Needs Assessment;
2. Clinical Care Coordination;
3. Continuity/Transition Management or;
4. Psycho -Social Management;

SAT 4 is the team for you!!

Please contact:

CDR Marivic Fields - maria.fields@acf.hhs.gov
CAPT Veronica Gordon - veronica.m.gordon.mil@mail.mil

Please submit articles for future publications of the SWAG Newsletter:

- LCDR Sean Bennett – Chair SWPAG Communication Subcommittee at sean.bennett@ihs.gov
- LCDR Lorerner Brayboy, Co-Chair SWPAG Communication Subcommittee at LBrayboy@hrsa.gov
- LT Dierdra Oretade-Branch , SWPAG Executive Secretary at Doretade@bop.gov