



Health Services Officer Category

Medical Laboratory Science Professional Advisory Group (MLSPAG) Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2017

Location: Teleconference/Webinar
Time: 1400 – 1500, ET
1-866-882-1054
Passcode: 206 64 64

MLSPAG Chair:
LCDR David Young

MLSPAG Executive Secretary:
LCDR Thomas J. Maruna

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members

CDR Toni Bledsoe	Present
CDR Renee Galloway	Excused
CDR June Germain	Present
LCDR Richard Bashay III	Present
LCDR Charles Boison	Present
LCDR Lisa Flores	Present
LCDR Camille Mitchell	Excused
LCDR Emmanuel Ndenga	Excused
LCDR Babatunde Oloyede	Present

MLSPAG Members in Attendance

CAPT Todd Alspach
CAPT Gina Woodlief
CDR Robin Goodwin
CDR Cara Nichols
CDR Karen Romancito
LCDR Jessica Damon
LCDR Maggie Kemp
LCDR Christopher Le
LCDR Julie Morris
LCDR Ryan Thrasher
LCDR Vladmir Tirado
LT Helen Chavez
LT Ashley Frost
LT Angela Hatzenbuhler
LT Shercoda Smaw

Enclosure:

Appendix A: MLSPAG Organizational Chart 2017
Appendix B: Slide Deck – February 9, 2017 MLSPAG Meeting

Minutes prepared by: LCDR Thomas J. Maruna, MSc, MLS(ASCP), CPH

AGENDA:

1. [Roll Call](#)
 2. [Updates](#)
 3. [2017 MLSPAG Chair Goals](#)
 4. [2017 MLSPAG Organizational Chart](#)
 5. [MLSPAG Subcommittees Updates](#)
 6. [Questions/Concerns](#)
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ROLL CALL:

As noted above

MLSPAG CHAIR UPDATES:*PAG Uniform Bylaws implementation*

The PAG Uniform bylaws were approved back in November 2016. Currently the PAC and PAGs are working closely to implement these bylaws into place. The implementation will be carried out in phases to ensure that all the PAGs are on the same page before moving on. For example, the first six months will concentrate on the converting the PAGs to the new infrastructure, Technical Readiness, and Communications Subcommittee. The MLSPAG is one of the few PAGs that have already transitioned to the new PAG structure.

Technical Readiness

Defined as discipline-specific knowledge and skills an officer needs in order to successfully deploy based on their qualifying degree or discipline. PAG officers are expected to be able to effectively function during their deployment as their qualifying degree dictates. Currently the Technical Readiness Subcommittee is working closely with the PAC to determine the minimum knowledge and skills for MLSPAG to have in order to deploy as a MLS.

Community Stakeholder Subcommittee

This is a new Subcommittee that was introduced to the PAG last year. Per the PAC Community Stakeholder lead, speaking at local universities, community health fairs and organizations (such as ASCP) is considered as engaging in community stakeholder. If you are planning to speak at local universities, organizations, community health fairs, local COA Chapters, you must notify the PAG Chair so that your activities and accomplishments can be documented.

Uniform SOP template

To date, the MLSPAG has not received the Uniform SOP template. The HSPAC Policy Subcommittee is still working on it and it should be ready late February or March for dissemination.

Max.gov

The PAC will be utilizing the MAX.Gov site to serve as a workspace platform whereby teams can collaborate across the Health Services Subcommittees and PAGs. The utilization of

Max.gov will also ensure that all essential documents pertaining to the PAC and PAGs are stored on the same site.

Mentorship

The PAC Mentorship Subcommittee is currently looking to increase the numbers of mentors and mentees. If you're interested in being a part of the Mentorship program, please be sure to reach out to the Subcommittee Chairs.

USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, Chattanooga, TN

The PHS Scientific and Training Symposium will be held in Chattanooga this year from June 6-9. Registration is now open, so please be sure to register early if you're planning to attend.

PAG Chairs/Chair-Elects Leadership Calls with CPO

A new initiative that was developed from the PAC is to have monthly calls with all the PAG Chairs and Chair Elects. The reason for this initiative is to ensure smooth transition from the PAG Chair to Chair Elect, as well as to identify issues and resolutions that may affect the PAGs during the rollout of the Bylaws. At this time the only issue that we are currently dealing with is the pre-2004 certification issue (addressed below).

PAG Subcommittee Chairs/Co-Chairs roles

The roles of the PAG Subcommittee Chairs have changed in that only voting members are allowed to be PAG Subcommittee Chairs. Further, the PAG Subcommittee Chairs and Co-Chairs will now serve as a liaison between the PAC and PAG for their respective Subcommittees, to promote smooth flow of information and encourage open communication and ideas.

MT certification (Pre-2004)

The issue noted above was that there is no expiration date on MT certifications received prior to 2004. A memo was sent to the CPO last year requesting that lab officers who were certified prior to 2004 receive an indefinite expiration date on their certification, so that there is no need for officers to pay a fee to renew their membership, as currently that is the only way to show the expiration date of the certification. The PAG Chair met with the CPO on February 8th to determine the status of the memo. The CPO mentioned that additional info is required on the memo to move forward. As such, the PAG Chair will have to add an action plan to the memo and send it to the CPO for approval before the MLSPAG can start implementing the action plan. Additional updates will be forthcoming.

2017 MLSPAG CHAIR GOALS

The MLSPAG Chair characterized the 2017 PAG Goals as follows:

- *Celebrate our discipline, establish and promote relationship-building, communication, and collaboration (via social media – Facebook) with our sister services' respective laboratory colleagues and the laboratory academia.*

- *Promote technical readiness, ensuring laboratory officers, regardless of clinical or programmatic billets, are able and ready to serve in the Medical Laboratory Scientist role during deployments.*
- *Promote career progression.*

2017 MLSPAG ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Appendix A

MLSPAG SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Awards

LCDR Emmanuel Ndgenga – Lead, CDR Jeri Coats – Co-Lead

No update given

Communications

LCDR Lisa Flores – Lead, Lcdr Charles Boison – Co-Lead

Facebook page has been created and is functional; general guidelines have been distributed via the MLSPAG Listserve. Currently the subcommittee is actively soliciting newsletter articles, specifically any potential articles highlighting anything unique or special about an officer's laboratory (or workspace). The deadline for submission is March 31, 2017. The articles will be made available by April 21, 2017.

Data & Evaluation

CDR Toni Bledsoe – Lead, CDR Cara Nichols

Subcommittee has received a new Chair. No additional updates provided.

Management – Administrative

CDR Renee Galloway – Lead, LT Helen Chavez – Co-Lead

No update given

Policy

LCDR Camille Michelle – Lead, CAPT Todd Alspach – Co-Lead

The Policy subcommittee held its first meeting on January 24th to discuss the new ASCP Board of Certification (BoC) requirements. The subcommittee will coordinate with the MLSPAG Chair concerning any requirements that will effect PAG members and has volunteered to assist with SOP review.

Recruitment and Retention

LCDR Charles Boison – Lead, Lcdr Katrina Redman – Co-Lead

Subcommittee held its first meeting the week of January 30th and is awaiting the SOP template to be distributed by the HS PAC. No additional updates given.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement

LCDR Babatunde Oloyede – Lead, Lcdr Lundy Patrick – Co-Lead

This subcommittee is still in active recruitment. No additional updates given.

Technical Readiness

CDR June Germain – Lead, LCDR Jessica Damon – Co-Lead

The subcommittee held its first meeting on January 19th. A presentation is scheduled for the April MLSPAG meeting concerning technical readiness. A survey will be distributed by close-of-business Monday, February 13, 2017 via the MLSPAG Listserve consisting of 10 – 12 questions about technical readiness.

Training, Education, and Mentorship

LCDR Richard Bashay III – Lead, CDR Karen Romancito – Co-Lead

The subcommittee held its first meeting on January 23rd. Actively seeking volunteers submit a photo of themselves in the workplace for a poster presentation at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium. The principle ideation is to highlight PAG contributions to the Corps mission. Additionally, the subcommittee will again be distributing case studies via the MLSPAG Listserve beginning in late-February. The subcommittee is also actively soliciting senior officers (O5 and above) to serve as mentors on the HS PAC mentoring subcommittee. The subcommittee has received all award nominations for Junior and Senior Medical Laboratory Scientist of the Year award; the award packages are currently under review and will be complete by February 13, 2017. The subcommittee will require a short narrative (approximately 5 sentences) and a photo of the awardees.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

None

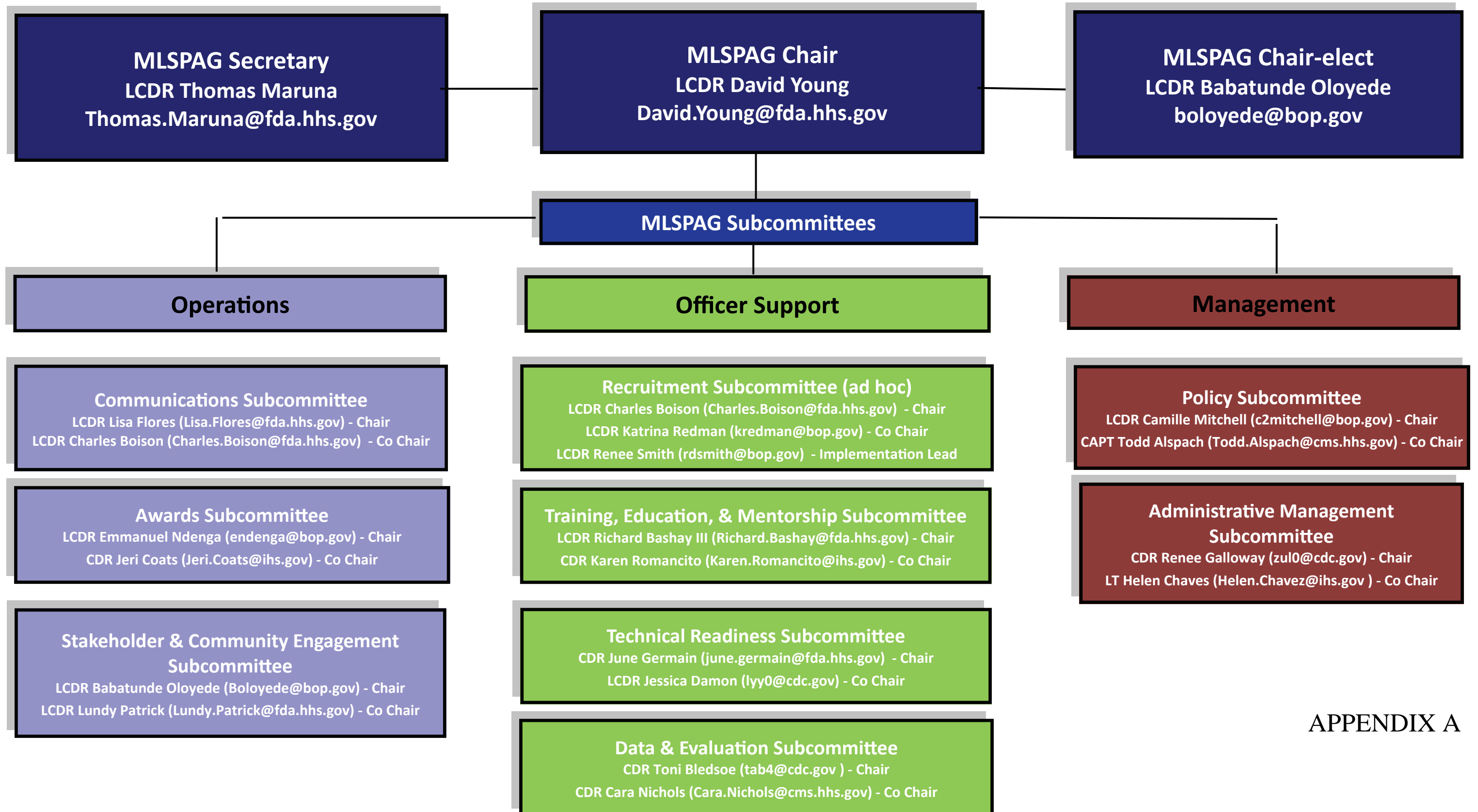
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2017 Medical Laboratory Science



Professional Advisory Group (MLSPAG) Organizational Chart



APPENDIX A



2017 February MLSPAG Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2017

LCDR David Young - Chair
David.Young@fda.hhs.gov

LCDR Thomas Maruna - Executive Secretary
Thomas.Maruna@fda.hhs.gov



Agenda

- Roll Call
- Updates
- 2017 MLSPAG Chair Goals
- 2017 MLSPAG Organizational Chart
- MLSPAG Subcommittees Updates
- Questions/Concerns



Roll Call (Voting Members)



- CDR Toni Bledsoe
- CDR Renee Galloway
- CDR June Germain
- LCDR Richard Bashay III
- LCDR Charles Boison
- LCDR Lisa Flores
- LCDR Camille Mitchell
- LCDR Emmanuel Ndenga
- LCDR Babatunde Oloyede



Updates

- PAG Uniform Bylaws implementation
- Technical Readiness
- Community Stakeholder
- Uniform SOP template
- Max.gov
- Mentorship
- USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, Chattanooga, TN
- PAG Chairs/Chair-Elects Leadership Calls with CPO
- PAG Subcommittee Chairs/Co-Chairs roles
- MT certification (Pre-2004)



2017 MLSPAG Chair Goals

- Celebrate our discipline, establish and promote relationship-building, communication, and collaboration (via social media – Facebook) with our sister services' respective laboratory colleagues and the laboratory academia.
- Promote technical readiness, ensuring laboratory officers, regardless of clinical or programmatic billets, are able and ready to serve in the Medical Laboratory Scientist role during deployments.
- Promote career progression.



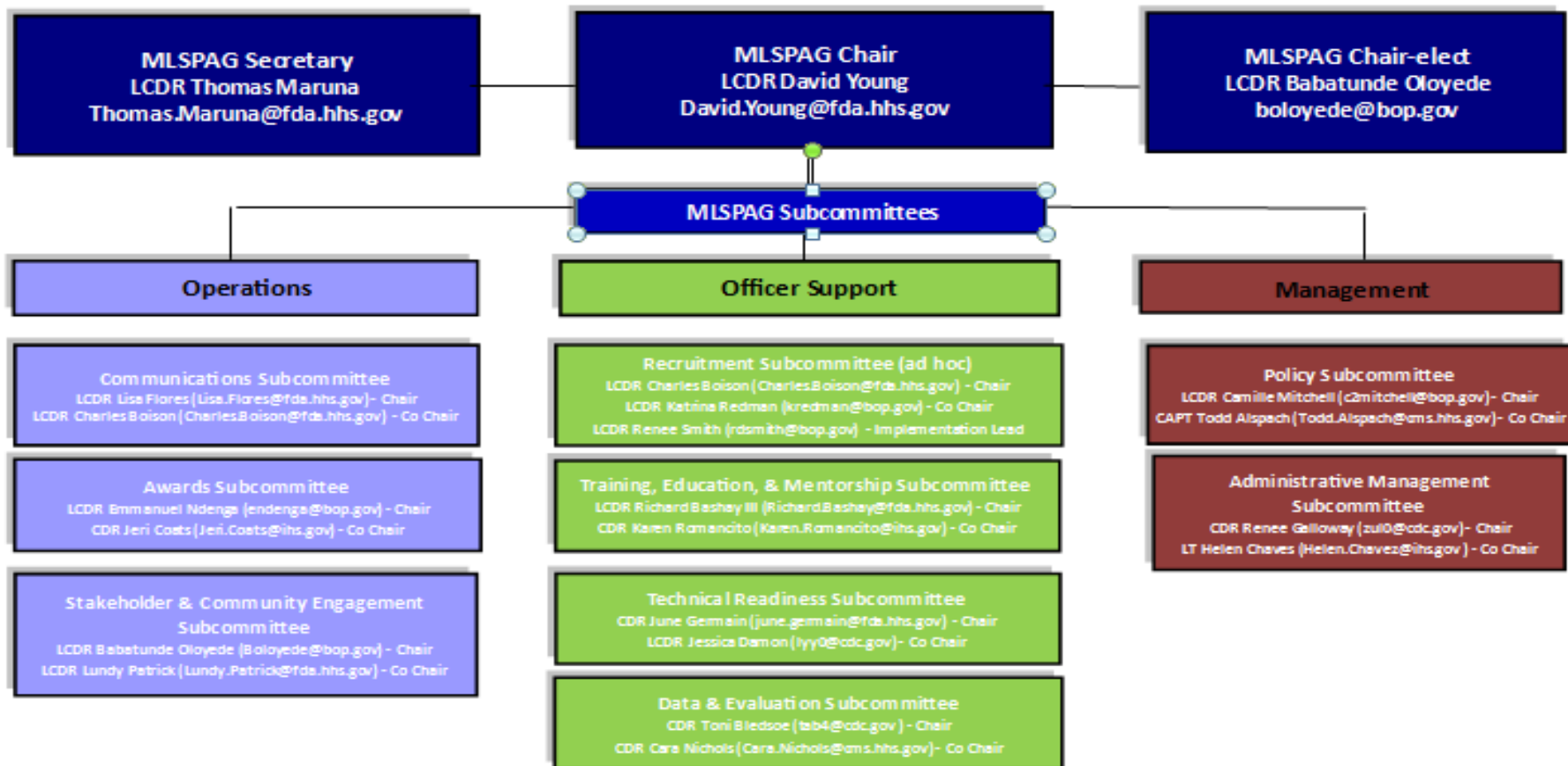
2017 MLSPAG Organization Chart



2017 Medical Laboratory Science



Professional Advisory Group (MLSPAG) Organizational Chart





Subcommittee Updates

- Awards
- Communication
- Data & Evaluation
- Management – Administrative
- Policy
- Recruitment and Retention
- Stakeholder and Community Engagement
- Technical Readiness
- Training, Education, and Mentorship



Next MLSPAG Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2017
1400-1500 ET

Toll-free teleconference line: 1-866-882-1054
Passcode: 206 64 64