

OPAG Minutes 02/01/2017

Mission: Represent and advocate for the professional discipline of optometry and its Commissioned officers, civil servants, contract and tribal optometrists serving within the Public Health Service and affiliated services.

OPAG Voting members

Present:

- CDR Cameron Scott (Chair)
- CAPT Kathleen Wooten
- CDR Nima Desai
- CDR Chris Nield
- LCDR Craig Rennard
- LT Laura Alexander
- LT Jill Thompson

Absent:

- CDR Robert Chelberg (Chair-Elect)
- CDR Robert Kesead

Liaisons/Co-Chairs

CDR Sarah Stienbarger

Approval of Minutes

All in favor; Minutes approved.

Subcommittee Chair Reports

1. **Administrative Management:** CDR Rob Chelberg
Brief by Cameron in Rob's absence. Proposed changes to by-laws will be introduced in near future and will need approval. If anyone is interested in helping to edit the by-laws, let Rob know.
2. **Awards:** LT Laura Alexander
Only one nomination received for CO awards. Motion to extend the deadlines until February 24. First by Laura; Second by Kathleen. All in favor; Motion approved.
Student award currently requires the student to be performing a 3 month rotation at one of the IHS extern sites, which excludes students from Berkley. This was not an issue when the award was originally written and no exclusions were intended. Motion to remove the 3 month specification and only require that an IHS rotation is completed. First by Laura; Second by Kathleen. All in favor; Motion carried.
3. **Communications:** LT Jill Thompson
Updates needed on the OPAG website and minutes to be posted after approval.
4. **Data & Evaluations:** CDR Chris Nield

CPO is driven by data-based recommendations and very interested in Optometry and our needs. Looking for information regarding recruitment due to decreasing CC Optometry numbers. Applications were only accepted for 3 days about 2 year ago but open continuously as of recently. It's a struggle to get residents interested in the CC due to debt out of school. CS seeing higher retention bonuses and GS levels. Takes about 10 years for the CC to sound like a great decision. Now an option to receive both LRP and OSRP. CPO wanting to see survey data that we're having retention problems because of the lack of retention bonus and things of that nature. Wanting Data & Evaluations Subcommittee to develop surveys to collect data illustrating recruiting problems. Unsure what population appropriate to use to collect survey results. Interest in collecting data regarding Optometry promotion rates. Also consider looking at data to support possibly increasing the OSRP to \$15,000/year, which is a topic that Dawn is currently working.

5. **Policy:** LCDR Craig Rennard
By-laws predominantly dealing with HSPAC so pending further communication at this time.
6. **Recruitment (Ad Hoc):** CDR Sarah Stienbarger
Raul Angeles has almost completed application process, currently in Wasilla, AK. Three others considering applying/starting the application process. Another individual previously denied for a medical condition that had an expiration date is now reapplying and one more who is trying to get an exception because they have been denied application due to GPA. Sarah has been communicating with leadership regarding the dire state of Optometry. We currently have about 30 vacancies across IHS. Even with 10 residents/year and a high success rate of recruiting into the CC or CS, would take about 5 years to fill all the current positions. No feedback has been received. Looking at possible setting up the Residency Program to be similar to the Pharmacy Residency Program and having them in the Corps from day 1. Not really an option without a single individual that can be dedicated to the task.
7. **Stakeholder & Community Engagement:** CAPT Kathleen Wooten
Possible survey in near future to gather information regarding what types of community involvement are currently being done such as vision screenings, mobile eye clinics or health fairs.
8. **Technical Readiness:** CDR Robert Kesead/CAPT Larry Zubel
Having CAPT Zubel serve as Co-Chair since he has been acting in this capacity for an extended period but not a Voting Member. Currently attending another meeting.
9. **Training, Education & Mentorship:** CDR Nima Desai/CDR Sarah Stienbarger
Plan to coordinate with Dawn Clary and Barb Massey regarding IHS trainings.

Liaison Reports

AMSUS: CDR Greg Smith/CAPT Barbara Cohn: No Report

Chief Clinical Consultant: CAPT Dawn Clary: No Report

AFOS: CDR Greg Smith: No Report

FDA: Kim Lewandowski-Walker: No Report

PHS Recruitment/Applicant Placement: CDR Sarah Stienbarger:
Discussed during subcommittee reports.

HSPAC Career Development: CDR Sarah Stienbarger: Title has been updated to Mentoring.

APHA Vision Care: vacant

JOAG: vacant

HSPAC: CDR Erin Giles/CAPT Barbara Cohn: No Report

Discussion Topics

HSPAC subcommittees should be contacting each Subcommittee Chair in the near future now that the Org Chart has been submitted. Subcommittee Chair Certificates will be issued via email.

HSPAC tends to be critical of OPAG because OPAG tends not to get involved in HSPAC. Members encouraged to look for ways to get involved in subcommittees.

Meeting adjourned

Upcoming OPAG meetings

April 5, 2017

June 7, 2017

August 2, 2017

October 4, 2017

December 6, 2017

All meetings are:

8:00 AM Alaska

9:00 AM Pacific

10:00 AM Mountain

11:00 AM Central

12:00 PM Eastern

Call in number for April 5, 2017 OPAG meeting:

1(877)546-1567 pw 63158