



**MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL
 MEETING MINUTES**

Date/Time: 28 JAN 2020; 1400-1600 hrs EST
Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 900 037 276

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	LCDR	Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	<i>Chair</i>	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Gayle Tuckett	<i>Chair</i>	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Mizraim Mendoza	<i>Vice Chair</i>	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR	Eduardo O'Neill La Luz	<i>Vice Chair</i>	HOAC	CDC
Present	CDR	Teresa Ramson	<i>Secretary</i>	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Dipti Kalra	<i>Secretary</i>	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Carol Cummins	<i>Liaison/Past Chair</i>	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR	Seneca Smith	<i>Liaison</i>	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Absent	CDR	Janet Hayes	Past Chair	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Melissa Schossow	Past Chair	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Dustin Tran	JOAG Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CAPT	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Absent	CAPT	Kofi Ansah	Advisor	BCOAG	FDA
Present	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Elizabeth DeGrange	RDB	RDB	DCCPR

I. Call to Order

- LCDR Tuckett (BCOAG), MOLC Chair called the meeting to order at 1401 EDT.

II. Council Roll Call

- CDR Kalra (APAOC) conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1403.

III. Meeting Minutes

- Motion for approval of December 2019 and January meeting minutes will take place during the February meeting.

IV. DCCPR/RDB Update: CDR Elizabeth DeGrange

- PHS officers' numbers for deployment are to be increased in response to Puerto Rico and coronavirus. Please don't proactively respond to deployment emails but be diligent in reading your emails (check your personal and duty station). Be sure to update your contact information in CCMIS.

V. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates: RADM Brandon Taylor (IHS)

- CCHQ ASH email re: coronavirus and Puerto Rico. Read all emails.
- Lots of chatter on FB group for ODUs and acquiring them. My counsel to you all is keep all uniforms in tip top shape always. Review uniform policies overall.
- PHU information: officers have 90-day window for this documentation.
- Review and be familiar with the forms, which are provided under the medical tab of CCMIS. The form lists comprehensive information. Audiology is not required for now. The dental form has changed. Behavioral health and disclosure documents are needed. Much to be aware of so please take a look.
- There are three officers that have approval for engagement with COA: RADM Taylor, CAPT Lau, and CAPT Toure

VI. MOLC Orientation Presentation: LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA)

- MOLC Overview slides discussed. DSG asked for our Purpose to be refined and updated. Each CMAG needs to take a look here. Use the Charter contents to make sure all align. All should review the slides.
- MOLC secretaries need to receive members updates in a timely manner to be able to compile ahead of time.
- MOLC updates presented quarterly to the DSG and updates will follow after.
- Roles of the various members are in the slides. The task for members is to be familiar with your role and read these slides online (Max.Gov).
- Need for additional liaisons was discussed-AMSUS should be added.
- Discussion of conferences and dialoguing with COA is not possible at this moment in a professional capacity from MOLC. CDR Toure will discuss with COA further. Further question came up as to whether this can be discussed at such meetings. CAPT Lau mentioned a MOU is forthcoming from the DSG soon. On duty hours planning for COA is not allowed. All tasks can be done in 'off hours'.
- CMAG Honor awards timeline was discussed.
- MOLC Booth info timeline was presented.
- Member recognition: each CMAG must submit their packets by Friday 9/11/20.
- Award submission plan is quarterly. MOLC special assignment award information is listed.

VII. Charges from OSG & Updates: LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA)

- Tobacco cessation, economic health and prosperity reports coming out. Calls to action: maternal health assistance from MOLC being sought. Emails forthcoming. Identify SMEs in each area possibly as well going forward as a suggestion to the CMAGs.

- No fundraising for the awards, etc. allowed. We need to discuss how to streamline process going forward with the restrictions imposed to present to DSG for next face to face meeting.
- Tobacco cessation SMEs needed first as PACE is working on lesson plans here. We will collaborate here first.

VIII. MOLC Executive Committee Updates

- a. Chair-BCOAG—LCDR Ogoebunam and LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA):
 - First General Body Meeting held on January 9, 2020
 - Chair and Committee Chairs presented 2020 goals and new initiatives
 - New Ad Hoc Committee → Behavioral Health Committee
 - Member of the Month is now Member of the Quarter
 - Working to develop quarterly BCOAG newsletter
 - Participated in OBC Recruitment on January 15th at the Bolger Center
 - On January 20th, participated in the 14th Annual MLK Peace Walk and Parade with Mayor Muriel Bowser of Washington, DC
 - To implement a Q&A Session for those interested in becoming Voting Members
 - Plans for an international recruitment trip to Belize from May 21st – 25th
 - Planning for the 30th Celebration
 - Black History Month Celebration to occur on February 25th on the FDA White Oak Campus – Atrium Building 74/71 with the topic of Social Determinants of Mental Health
- b. Vice Chair-HOAC—CDR Mendoza and LCDR O’Neill La Luz (FDA): No updates
- c. Secretary-APAOC—CDR Teresa Ramson and CDR Dipti Kalra:
 - APAOC had completed our FY2020 Q2 quarterly update with the DSG.
 - We have scheduled our first Education and Training session on Post PHS Career Panel Discussion on Wednesday February 19th. Please be on the lookout for the upcoming announcement.
 - We have selected our new APAOC Senior Advisor, CAPT Maria Fields. She is a HSO officer, a social worker by trade, and currently works in Administration for Children and Families.
 - We have reached out to all the CMAG chairs on potential collaborations to support the 2020 SG/ASH reports, Call to Actions, and other initiatives. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with all other CMAGs and MOLC in 2020.
- d. Liaison-AI/ANCOAC—CDR’s Carol Cummins and Seneca Smith (IHS):
 - CDR Janet Hayes and CDR Carol Cummins represented AI/ANCOAC in a focus group concerning cultural competency for officers preparing to deploy, sponsored by The Office of Minority Health (OMH) on Jan 30, 2020. The goal is to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) during disaster or emergency response.
 - Immediate action items have been disseminated to CMAG Chair

IX. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

- a. COA Liaison: CDR Hamet Toure (FDA)
 - Conference is 6/15-6/18 in Phoenix AZ; registration and hotel rooms are available. More information to come. Once MOU is in place we can have more discussions on conference.

- DCCPR/RDB Readiness Update: CAPT David Lau (FDA) In addition to CDR DeGrange's message above, AMSUS: SG is honorary chair. Reminder to wear ODUs as per ASH's email.
- JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA)
- b. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA) – Provided written report:
 - JOAG's second meeting of Operational Year 2020 occurred on December 13, 2019
 - Was able to fill all critical positions in Combined Call for Volunteers solicitation. Please visit <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/JOAG/> and continue to reach out to committee co-chairs for ways you can contribute.
 - The Fall JOC will be sent to the listserv in the near future.

X. **Old Business** –

- a. Individual and SAA awards submitted by APAOC should be present in PIRs
- b. Outstanding SAAs from the 2018 term should be signed and sent forward to the MOLC Chairs by January 31st
- c. All MOLC Reps should have been transitioned by now and received all necessary information; if not, please do so asap and reach out to MOLC Chairs if having any difficulties

XI. **Open Floor** –None

XII. **Announcements and Adjournment**

LCDR Tuckett adjourned the meeting at 1456.

Next Meeting: 25 FEB 2020 1400-1500 hrs EST
MOLC TELECONFERENCE LINE FOR 2019 OPERATIONAL YEAR VIA WEBEX:
Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 907849243



MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: 25 February 2020; 1400-1500 ET

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 900 037 276

- I. Call to Order**-The February meeting was canceled
- II. Council Roll Call**
- III. MOLC Meeting Minutes**
- IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates** RADM Brandon Taylor (IHS)-No report provided
- V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates**
 - a. Chair Updates**-LCDR Ogoegbunam and LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA):
 - Provided MOLC's feedback to the DSG regarding CMAG Honor Awards and the SG Initiatives
 - MOLC reviewed the PACE Vaccines presentation and lesson plan and our feedback was submitted to PACE on February 28, 2020
 - We received several CMAG awards to route to the OSG for approval
 - b. BCOAG Report**-LCDR Ogoegbunam and LCDR Gayle Tuckett
General Body Meeting took place on February 13, 2020 (1100-1230 EST)
 - The Community Outreach Committee will assist the Pharmacy PAC by volunteering for two events in March 2020. The activities will focus on the Surgeon General's initiative of health eating and active living. Three officers may assist with the event and training will be conducted by the PACE regional team lead on the presentation and topic to be discussed.
 - Officers will participate in a Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Presentation at an elementary school on March 6, 2020
 - Spring Sunday Brunch and Book Club (March 2020) featuring the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* will be held in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. POC: LCDR Alexia Blyther at Alexia.Blyther@hhs.gov.
 - Summer Outdoor Obstacle Course (July 2020). Details to come.
 - c. Vice Chair Updates**-CDR Mendoza and LCDR O'Neill (FDA):
 - Candidate Flag officers have been identified to participate in the MOLC annual awards ceremony to be held 18 June 2020 during the USPHS Symposium
 - ADM Blue Spruce has accepted to participate and administer the invocation
 - Entertainment is being discussed. Tradiciones Dance Company, a local Phoenix folkloric dance group is in conversations with MOLC reps.

- Volunteers have been identified to help out with ceremony planning.
- d. HOAC Report-CDR Mendoza and LCDR O’Neill (FDA):
- HOAC’s last General Body Meeting took place on 20 February 2020
 - CDR Michelle Sandoval-Rosario and CDR Luz Rivera, PACE Directors for Regions 9 (Los Angeles) and 6 (Dallas) respectively, gave a presentation on ‘Ending the HIV Epidemic’. This program aims to Develop, implement, and evaluate public health interventions through community partnerships and engagement.
 - Please see link for free online information and resources regarding Tobacco Cessation Intervention-RX for Change. The website has educational material that as officers and health care providers, we can use/reference in efforts to address tobacco use. <https://rxforchange.ucsf.edu/>
- e. Secretary Updates-CDR Teresa Ramson and CDR Dipti Kalra:
- Please send written reports to MOLC secretaries for inclusion in the minutes.
- f. APAOC Report-LCDR Kelly Leong and CDR Trang Tran:
- APAOC’s first Education and Training Session titled “Second Career Post PHS” Panel Discussion was hosted on Wednesday February 19th. 4 retired officers from Pharmacy, Physician, and Health Services categories sharing their experiences. It was very well received and had over 85 attendees. Our next Education and Training Session titled “Novel Coronavirus Deployments” will be scheduled on Wednesday April 15th from 1200 – 1300. We will have APAOC officers sharing their experiences on the field from the various locations around the country.
 - APAOC will be primarily supporting the OSG/OASH efforts on Tobacco Cessation and Hypertension Management. APAOC has reached out to MOLC Chair on seeking support from BCOAG to train more APAOC officers on Tobacco Cessation. APAOC welcomes any collaboration opportunities with other CMAGs to support OSG/OASH priorities.
 - APAOC will be planning our 4th Annual Leadership Submit, tentatively on Friday October 2, 2020 at Parklawn building in Rockville, Maryland.
 - APAOC has 9 Voting Members deployed, or currently being deployed since February to support the COVID-19 deployments. We are sure all the CMAGs are having similar situation.
- g. Liaison Updates-AI/ANCOAC—CDR’s Carol Cummins and Seneca Smith (IHS):
Deadlines: **Complete/Met**
- Submit any outstanding 2018 CMAG Special Assignment Awards (SAA) by Friday, January 31st. –Two Submissions from AIANCOAC
 - Call for CMAG’s (AIANCOAC) Annual Honor Award nominations by Friday, January 31st.
 - Response requested by Wednesday, February 5th by 1200 ET:
 1. CMAG Honor Awards-responses submitted
 2. SG Initiatives
 - Submit any new CMAG Awards (unit and/or individual) by Friday, February 14th- **AIANCOAC No Submissions**
 - Review and feedback requested by **Wednesday, February 19th by COB:**
PACE has asked us to review the attached Vaccination Lesson Plan (8 documents total) with a focus of the review on cultural competence and political consciousness. SME AIANCOAC Volunteers: LT Sara Kernell, CDR Darla

McCloskey, CDR Valene Bartmess, LCDR Karla Weise, LT Abigail Petrusis, LT Jennie Eng, CDR Cara Nichols, CDR Darryl Dine-Yazhe, CDR Robin Goodwin, LCDR Lessina Williams

- Review and response requested by Monday, March 16th COB: Pending
Please provide your feedback on the role and purpose of MOLC.
Please review the 2012 Charter and incorporate any edits/comments/questions on the document within max.gov.

VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

- a. COA Liaison: CDR Hamet Toure (FDA)-No report provided
- b. AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA)-No report provided
- c. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA)-Provided written report:
 - JOAG's most recent meeting occurred on February 14, 2020
 - Application deadline for JOAG Voting Membership is COB March 23, 2020. There are 9 positions to be filled, 4 At-large and 5 Category liaisons: 1 HSO, 1 Nurse, 1 Therapist, 1 Engineer and 1 EHO. Nominations should be submitted to LCDR Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam (ogochukwu.ogogebunam@fda.hhs.gov)
 - In need of JOAG volunteers, especially local officers in the Phoenix area, for Symposium in June 15-18, 2020. More information on all the specific JOAG activities at the Symposium will be sent to the JOAG listserv soon.

VII. Old Business

VIII. Open Floor

IX. Announcements and Adjournment

Next Meeting: March 24, 2020 1400-1500 hrs EST
MOLC TELECONFERENCE LINE FOR 2020 OPERATIONAL YEAR VIA WEBEX:
Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 900 037 276



MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL AGENDA

Date/Time: MARCH 24, 2020; 1400-1500 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257

[Join meeting](#)

2020 MOLC Voting Representatives/Members:

Chair (AI/BCOAG) LCDR Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam (FDA) / LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA)
Vice Chair (HOAC) CDR Mizraim Mendoza (IHS) / LCDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz (CDC)
Secretary (APAOC) CDR Teresa Ramson (FDA) / CDR Dipti Kalra (FDA)
Liaison (ANCOAC) CDR Carol Cummins (IHS) / CDR Seneca Smith (IHS)

MEETING AGENDA

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	LCDR	Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	<i>Chair</i>	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Gayle Tuckett	<i>Chair</i>	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Mizraim Mendoza	<i>Vice Chair</i>	HOAC	IHS
Deployed	LCDR	Eduardo O'Neill La Luz	<i>Vice Chair</i>	HOAC	CDC
Deployed	CDR	Teresa Ramson	<i>Secretary</i>	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Dipti Kalra	<i>Secretary</i>	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Carol Cummins	<i>Liaison/Past Chair</i>	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Deployed	CDR	Seneca Smith	<i>Liaison</i>	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR	Janet Hayes	<i>Past Chair</i>	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Melissa Schossow	<i>Past Chair</i>	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR	Dustin Tran	JOAG Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CAPT	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CAPT	Kofi Ansah	Advisor	BCOAG	FDA
Present	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AI/ANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

I. Call to Order – MOLC Chair

- LCDR Tuckett (BCOAG), MOLC Chair called the meeting to order at 1401 EDT.

II. Council Roll Call - MOLC Secretary

- CDR Kalra (APAOC) conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1405.

III. MOLC meeting minutes- Jan & Feb meeting minutes sent. Feb MOLC meeting was cancelled. Jan & Feb minutes approved

IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates - RADM Brandon Taylor RADM Brandon Taylor-Joined at 1415. Updates: COVID-19 is consuming us all and we have a very busy pace due to the response. Please take care of yourself and families while performing at your duty stations. Over 1000 officers deployed to COVID-19 response so far. Front and center response of PHS in various ways as we've all seen. Community drive thru set up and under way. Leadership sent out training modules for COVID-19. Look for information to pending technical glitches and further updates to the initial email.

V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates

1. Chair / BCOAG-

MOLC

- New PACE Lesson Plan review request – Naloxone – DUE May 1st
- Deadline extended to April 3rd – MOLC Reps feedback on the role and purpose of MOLC
- Requesting volunteers to man MOLC table at 12th Annual FCON Public Health Education and Service Forum
- Submitted awards sent forward to DSG
- Participated in HHS Office of Minority Health Work Group on March 16th
- Met with MOLC Vice Chairs, on March 10th, concerning planning for the MOLC Awards Ceremony in June

BCOAG

- BCOAG's last General Body Meeting took place on March 12th
- Call for BCOAG Annual Award nominations closed last Friday, March 20th
- Request made for BCOAG officers consider delivering a 1-hour live CE for the upcoming 12th Annual FCON Public Health Education and Service Forum
- BCOAG has a new LinkedIn page
- Due to deployments, article submissions for BCOAG's new quarterly newsletter has been extended to Friday, April 10th
- Fact Sheet distributed on Heart Health Awareness in February and the Fact Sheet for March will be on Obesity and Nutrition
- Committee SOPs are currently under review by all BCOAG Committee Chairs
- Planning is currently underway for BCOAG's 30th Anniversary Gala – tentatively scheduled for September 2020

2. Vice Chair / HOAC

- Symposium request for volunteers have gone out and tasks being assigned. Planning underway well for COF and will continue planning until further.Planning

3. Secretary / APAOC-

MOLC

- Please continue to send written reports to us for inclusion in the minutes

APAOC

- April Education & Training Session will be on COVID-19 Deployment Experience Sharing on Wednesday April 15th from 1200-1300. We have officers deployed at Miramar, Travis, Lackland, Quarantine stations at SFO and JFK, and Japan sharing their unique experience. Teleconference info will be shared in minutes.
 - APAOC has an updated tentative date for our 4th Annual Leadership Summit on 10/23/2020 at White Oak Great Room. More details to come.
 - The deadline for the APAOC Honor Awards has passed, and we have received multiple nominations for all 3 of our honor awards. We are still planning to finalize the result by mid-April.
4. Liaison / ANCOAC

MOLC

- Moving forward with deadline action items. No further updates

VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

1. COA Liaison: CAPT Hamet Touré (FDA)
 - Last meeting was on 2/5 and no meetings since. COA is looking to fill the Executive Director position
 - Regarding COF, COA should be making an announcement on status soon. May be postponed
2. AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA)
 - CDR Degrange is unavailable to call in to the meeting.
 - AMSUS: continuing planning as meeting is in December. Will send information on article & abstract submissions soon. Monthly meetings are underway.
 - Deployments: self protection, look out for yourself and fellow officers.
3. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA)
 - Suspension of In-Person Events
 - Deadline Extension– Application deadline for JOAG Voting Membership postponed to COB April 23, 2020. There are 9 positions to be filled, 4 At-large and 5 Category liaisons: 1 HSO, 1 Nurse, 1 Therapist, 1 Engineer and 1 EHO. Nominations should be submitted to LCDR Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam (ogochukwu.ogoegbunam@fda.hhs.gov)

VII. MOLC Initiative Proposal – CDR Carol Cummins-with regard to the role and purpose of MOLC, would like to propose our group pursue designation of the Commissioned Corps as one of the Military Branches. CDR Cummins would be happy to take the lead on this initiative if approved. She believes the work and contributions of the Commissioned Corps are worthy of this designation and first heard of efforts for recognition on COA calls. The National Museum of the American Indian denied inclusion of the Commissioned Corps as part of a display honoring the military forces of the United States. Ongoing COA efforts to seek recognition and inclusion of the Commissioned Corps into the museum were disapproved. CDR Cummins would like to lead an attempt for reconsideration of this effort, if approved.

Discussion: What does the process entail? Is COA pursuing this? The space force has also been recognized as one of the military branches. Organization would need to hire a lawyer who works

on such activities. Work with a senator who would champion this effort. Proposal gets attached to a budget and goes thru the legislation process. Some feel this should be done in a personal capacity. Although, recently PHS has received positive press coverage with COVID-19 which could be beneficial for us as a service. This issue might be worth discussion with OSG/DSG possibly too. MOLC Response: based on the feedback, this initiative will not move forward.

- VIII. Old Business-awards submitted in Feb were sent forward to commissioned officers' program today
- IX. Open Floor-No discussion
- X. Announcements and Adjournment
 - LCDR Tuckett adjourned the meeting at 1440.

Next Meeting: APRIL 28, 2020, 1400-1500 EST



MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date/Time: APRIL 28, 2020; 1400-1500 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257

[Join meeting](#)

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	LCDR	Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Gayle Tuckett	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Mizraim Mendoza	Vice Chair	HOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Eduardo O'Neill La Luz	Vice Chair	HOAC	CDC
TDY	CDR	Teresa Ramson	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Dipti Kalra	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Carol Cummins	Liaison/Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	CDR	Seneca Smith	Liaison	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	CDR	Janet Hayes	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Melissa Schossow	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR	Dustin Tran	JOAG Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CAPT	Kofi Ansah	Advisor	BCOAG	FDA
Excused	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

- I. Call to Order-MOLC Chair
 - LCDR Ogoegbunam (BCOAG), MOLC Chair called the meeting to order at 1401 EDT.
- II. Roll Call-MOLC Secretary
 1. CDR Kalra (APAOC) conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1405.
- III. MOLC meeting minutes-Discussion and Approval. March minutes approved.
- IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates - RADM Brandon Taylor (absent but sent update): CMAG quick turnaround of responses appreciated.
- V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates
 1. Chair/BCOAG-
MOLC
 - Working with CMAGs to submit Honor Awards, awaiting submission date from OSG
 - Meeting with the SG on April 20th, discussed COVID-19 response efforts in the communities we serve
 - Compiled two-page summary with COVID-19 strategies from each CMAG and sent to OSG
 - MOLC quarterly meeting with the OSG on April 23rd

- PACE's Naloxone Lesson Plan review – DUE May 1st
- FDA's 12th Annual Public Health Education and Service Forum (PHS Awareness Day) is cancelled

BCOAG

- BCOAG's last General Body Meeting took place on April 9th
- PACE hand washing presentation on April 1st to New Hope Academy, presented to 1st grade class via Zoom conference
- Due to deployments, article submissions for BCOAG's new quarterly newsletter has been extended to Friday, April 10th
- Fact Sheet distributed on Oral Health in April
- Planning continues for BCOAG's 30th Anniversary Gala – tentatively scheduled for October 2020

2. Vice Chair/HOAC:

MOLC

- LCDRs Thalia Vega, Carlos Gonzalez-Mercado, and Adriana Restrepo reviewed the PACE Naloxone Lesson Plan with recommended edits sent to MOLC chairs on 1 May 2020.
- HOAC awards packets were submitted to MOLC chairs on 1 May 2020.

HOAC

- HOAC's last General Body Meeting took place on 16 April 2020
- LT Adelaida Rosario shared her recent COVID-19 deployment experience. She shared the following link as part of her presentation: Use the link provided to assist with her story: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2007016>.
- LCDR Adriana Restrepo, HOAC Chair, would like all members to complete free online tobacco cessation training with goal of 100% completion by voting members. This falls in line with the Surgeon General's priorities and USPHS PACE initiatives.
- Please see link for free online information and resources regarding Tobacco Cessation Intervention-RX for Change. The website has educational material that as officers and health care providers, we can use/reference in efforts to address tobacco use. <https://rxforchange.ucsf.edu/>
- HOAC Secretary, CDR Alfredo Sancho sent the following announcement: FDA has translated a frequently asked questions page about the coronavirus and need your help to promote it. Please retweet: <https://twitter.com/FDAenEspanol/status/1241036758063747077/photo/1> or share this information with your networks

3. Secretary /APAO:

APAO

- Submitting the APAOC Honor Awards packages to MOLC this week
- APAOC hosted an Education & Training session on April 15th on COVID-19 deployments. There was discussion with about 20 officers sharing their experience, and over 100 officers attended the session. APAOC will be sending out a Deployment Tip Sheet based on our officers' experience at the COVID-19 deployments. We will share with all CMAGs when it is finalized.
- APAOC has started our solicitation to recruit new voting members starting 2021. The applications are due in May.
- APAOC COVID-19 Support Plan – APAOC will be leveraging the existing public facing multi-languages public health education information from CDC/NIH/OSG to spread the

COVID-19 related information on our social media platform, and also post them at officers' local grocery store/drug store.

- APAOC is working on reviewing the Naloxone LP as well and will provide feedback by 5/1

4. Liaison/AIANCOAC:

AIANCOAC

- CDR Riviero was commended for an in-depth presentation on the HIV PACE initiative. All CMAGs encouraged on having a PACE program ready as force multipliers.

VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

1. COA Liaison: CDR Hamet Touré (FDA):

- COA announced on Friday, April 24, 2020, it had selected its new Executive Director. It announced that Jacqueline Rychnovsky, PhD, CAPT, USN, Ret., has been selected as the Executive Director of the commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service (COA) and the Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF). CAPT Rychnovsky succeeds Colonel James T. Currie, PhD, USA, Ret., who announced his intent to retire last July. CAPT Rychnovsky was selected by a joint COA/COF Search Committee after a rigorous and extensive nationwide search.
- Dr. Rychnovsky received her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Florida and her Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Nursing Research from the University of San Diego. Her professional experience includes more than 30 years in a variety of sectors including leadership of national healthcare advocacy, healthcare organizations and service in the United States Navy.
- Link to announcement: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/coausphs/posts/>

2. AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA): AMSUS update: dates are December 6-10, 2020. All PHS leadership attends. Great opportunity to hear from them and to network since COF is cancelled due to COVID-19. Please take note of it, and plan to attend. Abstracts are being accepted still. See website & emails for more information. Award submissions are also being accepted until 7/17/20. Recipients announced late September. Submit thru the online portal. Exhibit dates will be 12/7 & 12/8 during the meeting. Three scholarships are available for \$1000 each. Applications accepted until 5/31. Plan to have multiple booths to cover specific Agencies where our officers are stationed. Junior officers have opportunity to serve as aide de camps too. Last year HHS Secretary Azar was selected as the keynote speaker, and plan is for a high-ranking member to be the keynote speaker this year too.

3. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA):

- All four award recipients (Excellence, JOY, Carmona, Koop) have been selected, passed adverse action review, and pending final JOAG Executive Committee and/or OSG concurrence before final notification.
- Closed – Call for Nominations for JOAG Voting Membership positions ended on 4/23/2020

VII. Old Business

VIII. Open Floor

1. CDR Cummins: CMAGs recognition of Honor Award recipients: Question from AIANCOAC group regarding CMAGs and recognizing awardees: what are CMAGs doing, or their plans to recognize the award recipients? Social media platform announcements or a virtual meeting? Looking for suggestions from all. 1 suggestion: BCOAG 30th anniversary celebration in October plans to recognize them then. 2nd suggestion: CAPT Lau suggested a virtual award ceremony which could include the VIPs, senior leadership, and then following up on a subsequent year's meeting. 3rd

suggestion: Another forum could be at AMSUS to recognize the recipients since USPHS is the hosting service. AMSUS option seems to be perceived as a positive one.

- IX. Announcements and Adjournment: RADM Michael D. Weahkee confirmed as the Director of IHS. Funding of award plaques were discussed if AMSUS option selected. Will check with OSG/DSG office as needed.

LCDR Ogoegbunam adjourned the meeting at 1453.

Next Meeting: MAY 26, 2020, 1400-1500 EST

MOLC TELECONFERENCE LINE FOR 2019 OPERATIONAL YEAR VIA WEBEX:

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257



MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date/Time: MAY 26, 2020; 1400-1500 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257

[Join meeting](#)

2020 MOLC Voting Representatives/Members:

Chair (BCOAG) LCDR Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam (FDA) / LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA)
Vice Chair (HOAC) CDR Mizraim Mendoza (IHS) / LCDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz (CDC)
Secretary (APAOC) CDR Teresa Ramson (FDA) / CDR Dipti Kalra (FDA)
Liaison (AI/ANCOAC) CDR Carol Cummins (IHS) / CDR Seneca Smith (IHS)

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	LCDR	Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Gayle Tuckett	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Mizraim Mendoza	Vice Chair	HOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Eduardo O'Neill La Luz	Vice Chair	HOAC	CDC
Excused	CDR	Teresa Ramson	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Excused	CDR	Dipti Kalra	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Excused	CDR	Carol Cummins	Liaison/Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR	Seneca Smith	Liaison	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	CDR	Janet Hayes	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Melissa Schossow	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Dustin Tran	JOAG Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CAPT	Kofi Ansah	Advisor	BCOAG	FDA
Excused	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – MOLC Chair. Meeting called to order at 1402.
- II. Council Roll Call - MOLC Secretary alternate CDR Kishore conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1404.
- III. MOLC meeting minutes – April 2020 minutes approved.
- IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates - RADM Brandon Taylor N/A
- V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates:
MOLC

- Continues to provide feedback and attend meetings for Office of Minority Health's deployment cultural competency training
- 2020 CMAG Honor Awards are currently under review and will be sent forward to OSG by the end of May
- 2020 MOLC Voting Member Appointment Letters have been sent for signature
- 3rd PACE Lesson Plan review expected in June on maternal health
- No individual or group CMAG awards were received for the 2nd quarter deadline

1. Chair / BCOAG

- Honor Awards submitted to MOLC on May 4th
- BCOAG's last General Body Meeting (GBM) took place on May 14th
- CAPT Beverly Dandridge, DHS Liaison, gave a Public Speaking presentation during GBM
- CDR Valerie Marshall, delivered a special presentation on Minorities in Clinical Trials
- Holding off on any virtual events until further notice per Office of the Surgeon General
- Call for Voting Member Nominations closed on May 15th
- Call for CV reviewers ongoing through June
- May Fact Sheet on Mental Health distributed to membership
- Updates to the Committee Standard Operating Procedures are underway

2. Vice Chair / HOAC

- May 21, 2020 was the last meeting. New voting members announcement will be forthcoming.

3. Secretary / APAOC

- May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. Due to COVID-19, all the events have been cancelled. But APAOC hosted a brief program at our General Meeting on 5/20 and highlighted 4 officers in the program with over 60 attendees.
- APAOC Leadership Summit – We will no longer be having it at FDA White Oak but planning a virtual meeting. Date is to be determined. The Planning Committee will be sending out a survey for members' input.
- All Executive Subcommittee, Subcommittee and workgroup SOPs have been completed with the first draft revision.

4. Liaison / AIANCOAC

- No reports for today's meeting.

VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

1. COA Liaison: CAPT Hamet Touré (FDA)

- The COA office is closed and its staff are all working remotely until the pandemic is over.
- The last COA board meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. This meeting was Retired Colonel Jim Currie's last meeting. He received a virtual standing ovation for his commitment to Commissioned Corps officers and issues dear to officers and their service. The new Executive Director, Jacqueline Rychnovsky, PhD, CAPT, USN, Ret., was introduced during the meeting and participated in the meeting. She is excited to advance issues related to Commissioned Officers and its association.
- During this COA meeting, there was discussion about the OBC open house. This time previously served as an opportunity for COA to introduce itself to new officers. Since attendance at the OBC open house is restricted, COA is evaluating how best it can meet and interact with new Commissioned Corps officers.
- COA continues to advance issues related to officers. Jim Currie worked with RADM (Ret.) Tom Jurkowski, USN, a MOAA Board Member, on an article about the Commissioned Corps and its role in fighting the corona virus. The article was published in The Hill on April 4, 2020, and can be found at: <https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/490735-protect-a-national-treasure-the-us-public-health-service> .
- Jim Currie drafted and sent a letter to the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Service asking that they provide to PHS officers the same Montana resident rate for hunting licenses that they do for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and foreign military attached to the U.S. Armed forces. This letter was sent as the result of a COA member request. The letter can be found on the COA website at: https://cdn.ymaws.com/coausphs.org/resource/resmgr/lettersandnewsmedia/cc/letter_to_montana_fish_and_w.pdf
- Jim Currie participated in a regular call of the COA Local Branch Committee on April 27, 2020.

2. AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA)

- AMSUS:
 - Please review website for details as all discussed on this meeting is on the website.
 - May 31 is deadline for the three \$1,000 scholarships.
 - July 17 is deadline for abstracts. Please note PHS has an additional review process in place.
 - 7/17 is also the deadline for the annual award submission.
 - PHS day is planned again at the meeting.
- RDB:
 - NDMS summit email has been sent. Summit will take place in September 2020.
 - Anticipated PHS waiver extension due to the Public Health Emergency being extended by 90 days on April 27th. Continue to check RDB Self-Service site for updates. Waivers will only be for APFT, BLS, and PHU.

-Officers should be proactive for the PHU, APFT, and other readiness requirements, if possible.

3. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA)-on deployment, not in attendance. Written report:
 - We are planning Virtual Award Ceremony during our August General Meeting to recognize all the four major awardees and outstanding committee members. Please stay tuned.

VII. Old Business

1. Vote on Honor Awards presentation at AMSUS: As a follow up to the open floor discussion during our April meeting, a vote on behalf of your CMAG took place during the meeting on May 26th, regarding recognizing Honor Award selectees at AMSUS:
 - i. Motion: To pursue recognition of 2020 CMAG Honor Award recipients at the 2020 AMSUS Annual Meeting
 - ii. Votes: ANCOAC=yes, APAOC=yes, BCOAG=no, HOAC=yes.
 - iii. Plan is to discuss further with OSG next. If meeting is virtual, need to discuss this and other logistics with OSG.
2. Reminded MOLC Reps to share with respective CMAGs that announcements/notifications should not be made regarding awards or any items sent before OSG until approved/signed by OSG. Signed letters will be provided to MOLC Reps for distribution to CMAG leadership, and at that point recipients can be notified.
3. Reminders:
 - i. Pending redefinition of MOLC discussion from March. As the Pandemic continues, new deadline of July 1st will be attempted. Revision and vote on Charter planned for October 27th
 - ii. 3rd Quarter deadline for individual and group awards, along with SAAs, is August 15th – MOLC SAA submission form can be found on max.gov: <https://community.max.gov/display/HHS/MOLC+Charter+and+Forms>

VIII. Open Floor:

1. CAPT Lau brought up 2 items:
 - i. International Leadership Conference, ILC, at the end of June in Florida. Will be virtual now and they are looking for judges. This includes healthcare and maybe a follow up discussion on the MOU with JOAG on allowing judging should be discussed. LCDR Tuckett will reach out to JOAG Liaison and leadership regarding status HOSA MOU.
 - ii. Recommends MOLC consider recognizing the Navajo Nation Code Talkers and any tribal members having served in WWII at the COA in Phoenix next year.

IX. Announcements and Adjournment @ 1438. Thank you.

Next Meeting: JUNE 23, 2020, 1400-1500 EST



MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date/Time: JUNE 23, 2020; 1400-1500 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257

[Join meeting](#)

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Excused	LCDR	Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Excused	LCDR	Gayle Tuckett	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Kemi Asante	Chair alternate	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Mizraim Mendoza	Vice Chair	HOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Eduardo O'Neill La Luz	Vice Chair	HOAC	CDC
Present	CDR	Teresa Ramson	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Dipti Kalra	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Carol Cummins	Liaison/Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR	Seneca Smith	Liaison	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	CDR	Janet Hayes	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Melissa Schossow	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Dustin Tran	JOAG Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CAPT	Kofi Ansah	Advisor	BCOAG	FDA
Present	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

- I. Call to Order-MOLC Chair
 - LCDR Kemi Asante (BCOAG), MOLC Chair alternate called the meeting to order at 1403 EDT.
- II. Roll Call-MOLC Secretary
 - CDR Ramson (APAOC) conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1406.
- III. MOLC meeting minutes-Discussion and Approval. May minutes approved.
- IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates - RADM Brandon Taylor:
 - Different time in history and in our corps, grateful for the work and service that each of us do and provide for agency and corps. Hope everyone is safe and well and adjusting to the pandemic and its effects. Please look after one another to get through it from a physical and mental standpoint.
 - Social interaction encouraged while maintaining physical separations. June 17th an update brief from CCHQ work continues to stand up ready reserve. CCHQ stood up a command cell and are managing deployments of officers working with ESF8 and FEMA personnel. The deployment management shifts from FEMA to HHS very soon. Another encouragement from CCHQ to be very mindful of our social media posts and communications through social media. A year ago there

was a guidance sent of those guidelines, no policy yet but we are getting ramped up in the political season, you are an officer 24/7 and your social media post should reflect that.

- Please maintain basic readiness, some deadlines relaxing (BLS certifications and other care to maintain readiness). Some discussion and talk about hazardous duty pay for officers who are deploying/have deployed and those working in agencies in harm's way delaying with pandemic. A decision memo has been put forward and is in process, no decision has been rendered.
- Next OBC course has been shifted and more to come.
- Modernization efforts policy came out and updates to website coming, training offerings coming up on contact tracing, forced protection, and CCHQ positions have been announced. A lot of activities from CCHQ and modernization efforts. RADM Giroir set goal of 500 as to the number of highly skilled active duty officers to recruit. Promotions to be posted in the next 7 days, by law before July 1st.

V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates

Chair/BCOAG-

MOLC

- Cultural Competency Deployment Refresher e-learning program is going through clearance, then will be added to the program webpage. It is a 30-minute training that officers preparing for deployment will take.
- Please review and provide feedback on the 2012 MOLC Charter by **COB, Wednesday, July 1st** using the max.gov platform.
 - This is really important. It shapes our role, our responsibilities, and the future of MOLC.
 - This is a CMAG effort, so please ensure Chairs and Chair-elects are involved.
- PACE's Women's Health Lesson Plan is under review. Please provide feedback as it pertains to cultural competence and political consciousness expected in June on maternal health
 - This lesson plan is one of the three high priority SG lesson plans anticipated in 2020 because of the maternal mortality content.
 - MOLC's role of honing in on communication and effectively interacting with people across various cultures and groups is a critical aspect of alignment with the mission of PACE.
 - Please complete by **COB, next Tuesday, July 7th**.

BCOAG

- BCOAG's last General Body Meeting took place on June 11th.
- Principle Deputy Assistant Surgeon General, RADM Sylvia Trent Adams, was our guest speaker and delivered a special presentation for our Ubuntu series, entitled "I am, because we are."
- Our Community Outreach Committee's virtual events are on hold per guidance from PACE.
- A panel discussion entitled "Promotion Readiness" is scheduled for 13 August 2020 during the BCOAG General Body Meeting.
- The Health Disparities Committee released its June Fact Sheet on Sickle Cell Disease to the General Body

Vice Chair/HOAC:

MOLC

- LCDRs Thalia Vega and Cristina Graves will review the PACE Women's Health Lesson Plan with recommended edits sent to MOLC chairs by 7 July 2020.

HOAC

- HOAC's last General Body Meeting took place on 18 June 2020.
- LCDR Abraham Marrero presented on ASPR-related activities.

- The Education and Outreach Subcommittee is organizing special Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) webinar presentations; HHM is celebrated from 15 September through 15 October.
- The Nomination and Membership committee announced the 2021 voting member application window is open. HOAC is seeking to fill 9 positions. The application deadline is 13 July 2020.

Secretary /APAOC:

APAOC

- APAOC has received 15 applications for voting membership 2021-2023. We are anticipating the result by August.
- APAOC will host a 'writing for impact' education and training session in August to kick off the beginning of the promotion package preparation season, this will be presented by CAPT Maria Benke and LCDR Yvon Yeo from ICE Health Service Corps on Wednesday, August 17th, from 1200 - 1330 EST.
- APAOC will have our annual leadership summit in late September in virtual format. More details will be shared as they become available.
- APAOC also developed a COVID-19 Deployment Tip Sheet. This is a two-page tip sheet based on officers' experience with recent deployments related to COVID-19. If MOLC is interested, we can distribute this COVID-19 Deployment Tip Sheet.

Liaison/AIANCOAC:

AIANCOAC

- Voting member PAC due in July.
- Reviewing women's health.

VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

COA Liaison: CDR Hamet Touré (FDA):

- The Commissioned Officers Foundation (COF) awarded the first Mishoe Scholarship to a nominee in May 2020. RADM Helena Mishoe is a retired flag officer who worked at NIH and previously served as the MOLC Senior Advisor for several years. General information about the scholarship is located on the COF Webpage: <https://www.phscof.org/mishoe-believe-scholarship.html>.
- In May 2020, CAPT (Ret.) Jacqueline Rychnovsky officially assumed the position of Executive Director of COA and COF. Previously, we reported that Jacqueline Rychnovsky, PhD, CAPT, USN, Ret., was selected as the Executive Director of the Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service (COA) and the Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF).
- In May 2020, CAPT (Ret.) Jacqueline Rychnovsky participated in a regular call of the COA Local Branch Committee.
- A COA/COF Town Hall meeting was held on June 15, 2020. During this meeting, CAPT (Ret.) Jacqueline Rychnovsky, the new COA executive director, introduced herself and reiterated her commitment to COA's mission to advocate for our officers and advance our service.
- The current Board chair, CAPT Muñoz, acknowledged and thanked the outgoing members of the Board and welcomed the incoming Board members. RADM Brandon Taylor was introduced as the new Board Chair for the next COA fiscal year, July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, and he provided remarks. The Small and Large Branch of the Year, Civilian Support of the Commissioned Corps of the Year, and Retiree of the Year awards were announced. The event culminated with the awarding of the Distinguished Health Leader of the Year Award.

- The recording of the Town Hall meeting is available until July 14, 2020, via the following link. [Watch now!](#) Registration is required to gain on demand access.
- On another note, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) published an article about USPHS officers and the COVID-19 pandemic response in its June monthly issue. The article is available online: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/on-the-front-lines-usphs-officers-and-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.

AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA):

- AMSUS update: AMSUS meeting December 6 – 10, 2020, 6 topics/track, breakout sessions related to healthcare, pre-conference day is on Sunday, a very large leadership session. A Journeyman Speaker Series presentation on AMSUS awards and abstract submission process was presented on July 10th. AMSUS scholarships available in the amount of \$1000. New awards include innovation award and executive level award. AMSUS Planning Committee is working with HIV team and PACE regional officers. There will be PHS booths and 10 agencies. CCHQ sent out an email on Wednesday June 17th on training opportunities.
- RDB update:
 - Announcing the Suspension of Voluntary Retirements and Voluntary Separations: The United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is committed to serving the nation's healthcare needs during these challenging times. Now more than ever, America needs the expertise and skillsets of our Public Health Service officers. For this reason, the Commissioned Corps will temporarily pause both the acceptance of Voluntary Separations/Resignation of Commission and processing of any new (not previously submitted) Voluntary Retirements for officers between 20 to 30 years of active duty service. Thus, effective today, Thursday, July 2, 2020, Commissioned Corps Headquarters will no longer process any new requests for Voluntary Separation or Voluntary Retirement for officers who have between 20 to 30 years of active duty service. This means any separation/retirement paperwork (PHS-1373) with effective dates between August 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020 will not be accepted or processed. The Department has notified all Health and Human Service (HHS) and Non-HHS Human Resource Directors of this decision.
 - During the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, an extension was granted for certain 2020 readiness items (APFT, PHU, and Basic Life Support (BLS)) beginning March 20, 2020, until the present time. The extension for completing your APFT will expire on September 30, 2020. Thus, all officers must obtain their APFT by September 30, 2020. We will continue to extend the favor for PHU and BLS until further notice.
 - Announcing the Intermediate Executive Skills (IES) Training Opportunity for USPHS Officers: we would like to announce a new exciting training opportunity. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) and Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) continues to work with the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to provide training opportunities for officers of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps.
 - The Joint Medical Executive Skills Institute Intermediate Executive Skills Course (JMESI-IES) provides education and training on leadership and management skills necessary to successfully serve in an intermediate-level leadership position within a DHA medical treatment facility (MTF). The course is designed to facilitate attainment of selected Joint Medical Executive Skills core competencies as identified by a Tri-Service review board of MHS senior leaders. The course consists of 21 web-based training (WBT) modules available through Joint Knowledge Online (<https://jkodirect.jten.mil>) followed by a 3-day virtual course hosted on Adobe Connect.

JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA):

- **Upcoming Meet and Greet Event:** Virtual- **all officers are welcome to register**
 - Sunday, June 28, 2020: Honolulu, HI
Time: 1-2pm HST
Location: Zoom
Speaker: CDR Deloris A. Caldwell
Registration required. Limited to 100 participants.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlf-GuqTMsEtSpqXg1dfYomL7PAiznt0jQ>
- The [Spring 2020 Junior Officer Chronicles](#) was published through the JOAG listserv
- The next Journeyman Speaker Series (JSS) is planned for Friday, July 10th, 2020 at 1300 EST. The speaker is TBD and the topic will be AMSUS 2020 Meeting
- We are conducting a strategic assessment to revamp 5-year JOAG Strategic Plan. Received feedback from over 200 junior officers.
- We are planning Virtual Award Ceremony during our August General Meeting to recognize all the four major awardees and outstanding committee members. Please stay tuned.

VII. Old Business

VIII. Open Floor-No discussion

IX. Announcements and Adjournment: LCDR Asante adjourned the meeting at 1441.

Next Meeting: JULY 28, 2020, 1400-1500 EST

MOLC TELECONFERENCE LINE FOR 2019 OPERATIONAL YEAR VIA WEBEX:

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257



MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date/Time: JULY 28, 2020; 1400-1500 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257

[Join meeting](#)

2020 MOLC Voting Representatives/Members:

Chair (BCOAG) LCDR Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam (FDA) / LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA)
Vice Chair (HOAC) CDR Mizraim Mendoza (IHS) / CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz (CDC)
Secretary (APAOC) CAPT Teresa Ramson (FDA) / CDR Dipti Kalra (FDA)
Liaison (AI/ANCOAC) CDR Carol Cummins (IHS) / CDR Seneca Smith (IHS)

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	LCDR	Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
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Present	CAPT	Teresa Ramson	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Dipti Kalra	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Carol Cummins	Liaison/Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR	Seneca Smith	Liaison	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR	Janet Hayes	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Melissa Schossow	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR	Dustin Tran	JOAG Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CAPT	Kofi Ansah	Advisor	BCOAG	FDA
Present	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – LCDR Tuckett (BCOAG), MOLC Chair called the meeting to order at 1402.
- II. Council Roll Call - CDR Kalra (APAOC), MOLC Secretary conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1404
- III. MOLC meeting minutes – June 2020 minutes approved.
- IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates - RADM Brandon Taylor
 - Combined CPO, Liaison, and Assistant Surgeon General call held on July 15th. VP , Secretary, and ASH went to CCHQ to formally announce stand up of the Ready Reserve. Application for the Ready

Reserve positions will begin in the Fall of 2020. Commissioning to begin in Spring 2021 for the same categories and accession standards as regular active duty.

- New website, www.usphs.gov, has some materials for promotion of Ready Reserve.
- IHS requested hazardous duty pay dealing with COVID-19 in a decision memo. We will learn soon about the determination to authorize hazardous duty pay.
- OBC is ongoing with the July class finished this week. This and all future OBC will be virtual until further notice.
- Please adhere to standards for social media, we are officers 24/7 and your social media presence is important.
- Awards process changes has been posted on CCMIS website.
- Training opportunities area available including forced protection, contact tracing, and others.
- CCHQ positions are available for officers to consider. ADM Giroir would like to have 500 highly skilled active duty officers to recruit. We have responsibilities to recruit new officers, all categories are open and all efforts to on board are being made.

V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates:

1. Chair/BCOAG

MOLC

- MOLC Charter
 - Edits and comments to the were due on July 1st. The MOLC Chairs will work to create a clean version and work through any final questions or document changes either via email or on the August MOLC monthly call with a goal to finalize the updated Charter by the end of August/beginning of September.
- MOLC Strategic Plan
 - Obtained a copy of the plan and need to review for relevance and resubmit.
- Chief Diversity Officer Proposal
 - Request to review a position description and decision memo for BCOAG **by COB July 29th**.
 - The [documents](#) have been placed on max.gov for review and editing.
- PACE's Lesson Plans
 - With all LPs it is important to provide feedback as it pertains to cultural competence and political consciousness of the topic being covered.
 - Request to review the Community Opioid LP **by COB August 13th**.
 - Upcoming LPs
 - Healthy Eating and Prevention of Chronic Diseases
 - Healthy Habits for a Healthy Smile
 - This lesson plan is one of the three high priority SG lesson plans anticipated in 2020.
 - MOLC's role of focusing on communication and effectively interacting with people across various cultures and groups is a critical aspect of alignment with the mission of PACE.
- COA Frontline Article
 - Interest in MOLC writing an article on diversity in the Corps.
 - Would like to submit for next issue.

- Requesting participation from all MOLC reps; however, if unable to participate please work with CMAG leadership to identify another officer to participate on your behalf.
- More details to come.

BCOAG

- BCOAG's last General Body Meeting took place on July 9th.
 - Instead of the usual GBM, a Town Hall was held to discuss the state of the Black officer.
 - The event was moderated by CAPT Beverly Dandridge and CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith.
- A review of the selected Voting Members is underway with BCOAG's Executive Committee.
- The Behavioral Health Committee released a Tip Sheet on Grieving.
- The Health Disparities Committee released a July Fact Sheet on Group B Strep.
- A proposal was developed for a Chief Diversity Officer position in OASH. Sent to MOLC for review and input.
- Additional activities are underway to address diversity within the Corps.
- A panel discussion entitled "Promotion Readiness" is schedule for 13 August 2020 during the BCOAG General Body Meeting.

2. Vice Chair / HOAC

- Last general meeting was on July 16th discussed updating SOPs for subcommittees. Voting member applications due 7/31.
- Communication and outreach committee for Hispanic heritage month through Oct 15th building a webinar series for Hispanic heritage month and SG's priorities, 3 webinars.
- All members being certified for tobacco cessation.

3. Secretary / APAOC

MOLC

- Please continue to send written reports to us for inclusion in the minutes.

APAOC

- APAOC will be hosting our 4th Leadership Summit as a virtual meeting on Friday, September 25, 2020, with the theme of "Empowering Each Other" including topics on Cultural Competency, Public Speaking, and Conflict De-escalation Strategy. During this summit, APAOC will also celebrate our 30th anniversary since our establishment. WebEx information will be shared when available. All officers are welcome.
- APAOC received 15 Voting Membership applications for our 2021-2023 term, pending selection.
- APAOC's next Education & Training session on "Writing for Impact" workshop is scheduled for August 17, 2020 from 1200-1330 via WebEx: [Join meeting.](#)

4. Liaison / AIANCOAC

- APAOC has reached out to CMAGs to assist in participating in a Cultural Competency presentation for their Virtual Leadership Summit in September and AMSUS conference.
- Officer Spotlight: CDR Gordon Quam.

- The communication subcommittee received several newsletter articles and the subcommittee is currently reviewing and editing the articles.
- Planning for guest speakers for Native American Month. Considering two separate speakers times at the beginning/end of the month.
- Honor Song- no updates at this time.
- AIANCOAC Nominations closed for 2021 VM and advocates on July 15th, 2020. We will be reviewing and sending nomination packets to our AIANCOAC executive leadership to review our candidates in the coming weeks.
- We are working toward a Mentoring Roundtable session for September.
- Community Outreach Subcommittee met with APAOC July 17, 2020 to discuss collaboration/brainstorm ideas to promote tobacco cessation and hypertension.
- Next Voting Member/Leadership Meeting: August 20, 2020 2:00 EST;1:00 CST;12:00MST.
- Next General Member Meeting:
 - Dial-In:1-855-447-5646
 - Participant passcode: 8728027

VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

1. COA Liaison: CDR Hamet Touré (FDA)
 - The next COA Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2020. COA is planning to include an article in Frontline highlighting the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the Commissioned Corps.
 - John E. McElligott, MPH, CPH, contacted MOLC through CDR Janet Hayes on behalf of the COA and requested any relevant data or information highlighting the current diversity of the Commissioned Corps and asked whether minority officer(s) would be interested in writing a one or two-page article on this topic. One of intent of the article is to appeal to the pipeline of professionals who might be interested in the Corps.
2. AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA)

AMSUS

 - 06 - 10 DEC 2020
 - USPHS is hosting this year and the US Surgeon General is honorary Chair
 - Poster Presentations abstracts accepted thru Midnight EST 03 AUG 2020
 - Hybrid conference with large virtual component – much increased chance of abstracts being accepted => SUBMIT SUBMIT SUBMIT !!!
 - USPHS Day 10 DEC 2020 – Tentatively similar to last year with USPHS Senior Leadership and CPOs presenting.
 - If live in person, Aide-de-camp opportunities for the numerous Flags attending
 - International Delegates networking - Senior Military Medical leadership in attendance – SGs or equivalent of our allied nations.
 - USPHS will have numerous exhibit booths, including USPHS booth, IHS, FDA, CDC, NIH, BOP, IHSC, USCG – and others – all tentative due to fluid situation of conference in person attendance.

AMSUS Session Highlights

- American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) session – DHA/DoD, VA, and Private Sector engagement – Pre – Conference Session

- Together, Ending the HIV Epidemic – A White House Initiative: A Panel Discussion between DHA/DOD, VA, and the USPHS .
- Updates on Recommendation for Smoking and Vaping during the COVID-19 Pandemic - DHA/DoD/USPHS-IHS/FDA/VA/CDC/OPM/Tricare Joint Presentation.
- HOSA – Future Health Professionals – Panel session of DoD/DHA/USPHS/VA Senior Leadership.
- Tentative Rx for Change training session.
- AMSUS Awards Banquet.

Readiness and Deployment Related Updates:

- Numerous deployments ongoing.
- Reminder of All Corps officers were placed on involuntary deploy or "alert" status effective Wednesday, March 25, 2020, irrespective of the 'on-call month' status.
- Officers not receiving Health Professions Special Pays (IP or RB) must submit their 2020 clinical hours by 31 December/2019 extension granted to 01SEP2020. Using Form PHS-7047.
- Refer to https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/documents/POM_821.77.pdf for those receiving HSPS.
- **John Hopkins University is offering a free contact tracing certificate.** It should take less than 5 hours. The final is 40 questions.
- <https://www.coursera.org/learn/covid-19-contact-tracing?edocomorp=covid-19-contact-tracing>

3. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA)

- JOAG Virtual Award Presentation
Friday, August 14, 2020, 1300 –1400 ET
POC: LCDR Neal Kimble/LCDR Emily Winans, JOAG Awards Co-Chairs
Nkimble@bop.gov, ewinans@bop.gov
- Call in: [+1-877-465-7975](tel:+18774657975); Mtg # (access code): 199 103 4112; password: bRpGKiEk762.
- In the process of preparing an ODU uniform presentation to be presented via webinar.
- JOAG Voting Membership applications have been received, redacted, and are being scored. The selection of new Voting Members is anticipated to be announced late summer.
- The [Spring 2020 Junior Officer Chronicles](#) was published through the JOAG listserv.

VII. Old Business

1. CMAG Honor Awards

- Agreed in May to present awards during AMSUS. A proposal was sent to OSG and we are awaiting a decision.

2. DSG Quarterly Meetings

- Discussed the purpose of the quarterly meetings and what is generally covered. Meetings occur between the DSG, or designee, and the MOLC Senior Advisor and Chairs. Let MOLC Chairs know if there are any policy issues of importance that MOLC should address during the meeting or anything to reiterate from CMAG quarterly meetings.

3. Promotion results came out. Congrats to CAPT Teresa Ramson and CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz.

VIII. Open Floor-No discussion

IX. Announcements and Adjournment LCDR Tuckett adjourned the meeting at 1445.

Next Meeting: AUGUST 25, 2020, 1400-1500 EST



MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date/Time: AUGUST 25, 2020; 1400-1500 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257

[Join meeting](#)

2020 MOLC Voting Representatives/Members:

Chair (BCOAG) LCDR Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam (FDA) / LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA)
Vice Chair (HOAC) CDR Mizraim Mendoza (IHS) / CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz (CDC)
Secretary (APAOC) CAPT Teresa Ramson (FDA) / CDR Dipti Kalra (FDA)
Liaison (AI/ANCOAC) CDR Carol Cummins (IHS) / CDR Seneca Smith (IHS)

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	LCDR	Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Gayle Tuckett	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Mizraim Mendoza	Vice Chair	HOAC	IHS
Absent	CDR	Eduardo O'Neill La Luz	Vice Chair	HOAC	CDC
Excused	CAPT	Teresa Ramson	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Dipti Kalra	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Carol Cummins	Liaison	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR	Seneca Smith	Liaison	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	CDR	Janet Hayes	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Melissa Schossow	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Excused	LCDR	Dustin Tran	JOAG Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	LCDR	Tenzin Jangchup	Alternate JOAG Liaison	JOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Excused	CAPT	Kofi Ansah	Advisor	BCOAG	FDA
Absent	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – LCDR Ogoegbunam (BCOAG), MOLC Chair called the meeting to order at 1403.
- II. Council Roll Call – CDR Kalra (APAOC), MOLC Secretary conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1405.
- III. MOLC meeting minutes – July 2020 minutes approved.
- IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates - RADM Brandon Taylor N/A
- V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates
 1. Chair/BCOAG
MOLC

- Reminder – CMAG SAA Awards are due to MOLC Chairs **by COB, Friday, August 28, 2020.**
- Will be submitting quarterly individual and group CMAG awards to OSG for approval by end of August.
- [MOLC Strategic Plan](#) – CMAGs please provide a review **by COB, September 11, 2020.**
- [MOLC Charter](#) – Edits are being incorporated and any major points or questions will be brought forth for additional input.
- PACE’s Lesson Plans
 - Focus on providing feedback as it pertains to cultural competence and political consciousness of the topic being covered.
 - Currently under review
 - “Healthier Food Choices and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases” due **by COB Thursday, August 27, 2020.**
 - “Falls Prevention and Opioids due **by COB Tuesday, September 15, 2020.**
 - Upcoming LP
 - Healthy Habits for a Healthy Smile

BCOAG

- BCOAG’s last General Body Meeting took place on August 13, 2020.
 - Panel discussion on Promotion Readiness hosted by LCDR Natasha Hollis
 - Panel consisted of CAPT Kimberly Langley, IHS; CAPT Sheila Merriweather, FDA; CDR Zewditu Demissie, CDC; CDR Chi-Chi Olele, FDA.
- Recognized LCDR Omoye Imoisili as Member of the Quarter.
- BCOAG’s Executive Committee finalized 2021-2023 Voting Members.
- The Health Disparities Committee released an August Fact Sheet on Hypertension.
- Thank you CMAGs for feedback on Chief Diversity Officer position in OASH. Proposal was submitted to the OSG.
- Next GB meeting is on September 10, 2020 and CDR Zewditu Demissie will be presenting on Marijuana in Minors.

2. Vice Chair / HOAC

- Communication and outreach committee for Hispanic heritage month through Oct 15th building a webinar series for Hispanic heritage month and SG’s priorities, 3 webinars.
- All members being certified for tobacco cessation.

3. Secretary / APAOC

MOLC

- Please continue to send written reports to us for inclusion in the minutes.

APAOC

- APAOC’s Education and Training Subcommittee hosted a “Writing for Impact” workshop on August 17th with over 100 officers in attendance.
- APAOC has selected 13 new voting members for the term of 2021-2023. The packages will be submitted to MOLC for OSG approval.
- APAOC will have our 4th annual Leadership Summit held virtually on Friday September 25. APAOC will be sharing more information with each CMAGs in the future weeks.

4. Liaison / AIANCOAC

- August 20, 2020 AIANCOAC Meeting
 - Voting Members Only Meeting
 - Bylaw Revision/Recommendations –Attendance & Absenteeism
- Preparing for Native American Month in November
 - Waiting approval from OSG for high profile presenters-Congresswomen from New Mexico and Kansas
 - AIANCOAC Senior Advisor CDR Dodson Frank has scheduled RADM Panel
 - One speaker has confirmed
- Special Assignment Awards (SAA)
 - AIANCOAC submitted the SAAs to MOLC on August 15th

VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

1. COA Liaison: CDR Hamet Touré (FDA)

- The Annual COF and COA board workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020. Board members gather annually to work on the main COA initiatives and discuss pertinent issues related to the Commissioned Corps. This meeting is generally held in person in Bethesda, MD. This year, the meeting will occur virtually.
- Retired RADM Lushniak has created a #IWearAMask slide and COA has invited its board members and staff to submit a slide with a picture of themselves wearing a mask. The slides will be combined to make a PowerPoint movie for social media.
- The last COA Board meeting was held on Wednesday, July 29, 2020. This was the kick-off meeting for the new board and RADM Brandon Taylor led the call as the new Board Chairman.
- COA continues its advocacy on behalf of PHS officers. For example, on July 3, 2020, COA sent a letter to Stephen Squeri, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of AMEX to request that USPHS officers be given the same benefit as DoD of a no-cost AMEX Platinum card while serving on active duty. It appears officers trying to get a new card are no longer given the same benefit. Officers who had previously received the card appear to be grandfathered into the benefit. In addition, on July 31, 2020, COA tweeted to American Airlines (AA) and CEO Doug Parker to request no-cost baggage allowances for active duty officers on orders. COA has sent over 15 letters to AA in the past 3 years regarding this request.
- In July, the COA Executive Director, Captain Jacqueline Rychnovsky (Retired) met separately with Assistant Secretary of Health, Admiral Brett Giroir, RADM Brandon Taylor, COA Board Chair, CPO Engineering representative RADM Ed Dieser, to discuss issues related to PHS Officers and/or COA.
- Captain Jacqueline Rychnovsky (Retired) also met with CAPT Paul Reed, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Medicine and Science), Director/Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (ODPHP - acting), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health to discuss Health Care System resilience and PHS topics of interest.
- Captain Jacqueline Rychnovsky (Retired) had a meeting with Commissioned Corps Headquarters regarding the “use or lose” leave situation facing USPHS officers. COA has drafted language to amend section 210 of title 42, United States Code, to restore annual leave lost by Commissioned Corps Officers in the U.S. Public Health System during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA)

AMSUS

- Please check AMSUS website for updated reduced fee schedule. Please check as there will be an even more reduced/updated one in SEPT.
- There will no longer be a live AMSUS Awards Ceremony but instead all the award winners will be highlighted on the AMSUS website
- Many podium and awards presentations will be accepted due to change over to virtual platform
- Senior Level keynotes will be streamed live. Times will be adjusted to be convenient for all CONUS and even OCONUS considered
- Presentation on Ending the HIV Epidemic with key leadership speakers. ***Together, Ending the HIV Epidemic - A White House Initiative: A Panel Discussion between DHA/DoD, VA, and the USPHS***
- Presentation on ***Updates on Recommendation for Smoking and Vaping during the COVID-19 Pandemic*** – Collaboration similar to last year by USPHS/DHA-DoD/OPM-Tricare/CDC SMEs
- Presentation between IHS and VA speakers on ***Providing Evaluation and Treatment to Remote Populations in the Era of COVID***
- ACHE – American College of Healthcare Executives pre-conference session
- **USPHS Day** – similar to last year with USPHS Senior Leadership
- USPHS AMSUS Planning Committee meets once a month for planning.
- More to come as planning continues.
- Expecting a large USPHS turnout this year, and much easier due to no travel costs and minimal conference fees. Presenters have an especially sweet deal.
- Please check AMSUS Website for updates.

Readiness and Deployment Related Updates:

- Reminder on the policy on Respite Leave Post Deployment.
For our officers, mainly:
 - 14 days but less than 30 days – 1 day
 - 30 days but less than 60 days – 2 days
 - 60 days but less than 90 days – 3 days
 Please refer to https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/documents/POM15_002.pdf for additional days.

3. JOAG: LCDR Tenzin Jangchup (FDA)

- There has been no general JOAG meeting since the last MOLC meeting.
- JOAG Virtual Award Presentation was held on 14 AUG, 1300-1400 EST. Congratulations to the officers who received the awards.
- The last Journeyman Speaker Series presentation was on July 10th, 2020. LT Pinder provided valuable information on AMSUS 2020. As always, you may access this presentation and previous presentations at the Journeyman Speaker Series (JSS) Max.gov site:
<https://community.max.gov/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=945456386>

VII. Old Business

VIII. Open Floor-RADM Sylvia-Trent Adams retirement ceremony on August 31, 2020.

IX. Announcements and Adjournment LCDR Ogoegbunam adjourned the meeting at 1434.

Next Meeting: SEPTEMBER 22, 2020, 1400-1500 EST



MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date/Time: SEPTEMBER 22, 2020; 1400-1500 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257

[Join meeting](#)

2020 MOLC Voting Representatives/Members:

Chair (BCOAG) LCDR Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam (FDA) / LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA)
Vice Chair (HOAC) CDR Mizraim Mendoza (IHS) / CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz (CDC)
Secretary (APAOC) CAPT Teresa Ramson (FDA) / CDR Dipti Kalra (FDA)
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Present	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – LCDR Tuckett (BCOAG), MOLC Chair called the meeting to order at 1403.
- II. Council Roll Call - CAPT Ramson (APAOC), MOLC Secretary conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1406.
- III. MOLC meeting minutes-August 2020 minutes approved.
- IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates - RADM Brandon Taylor
 - With regard to the recent Town Hall meetings, RADM Taylor was impressed with level of transparency and the feedback and questions shared. Hopefully this is a sign of things to come

and for us to continuing the dialog, communication, and sharing of information for our officers and for the Corps as we continue to change. Dynamics are bound to shift overtime, but the desire to have increased communication from headquarters alleviates concerns, monthly and quarterly meetings will continue.

- Grateful to CMAGS, MOLC leadership for our contribution to the CORPS
- Encourage officers to promote both COA and AMSUS as one event does not replace the other.

V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates

1. Chair / BCOAG

MOLC

- MOLC Charter & Strategic Plan
 - Reviewed and clean versions created – major changes and request for feedback on notable comments covered during Old Business of September monthly meeting.
- PACE's Lesson Plans
 - With all LPs it is important to provide feedback as it pertains to cultural competence and political consciousness of the topic being covered.
 - MOLC's role of focusing on communication and effectively interacting with people across various cultures and groups is a critical aspect of alignment with the mission of PACE.
 - Falls Prevention and Opioids LP review completed September 15th.
 - Request to review the Developing Healthy Dental Habits LP **by COB September 28th**.
 - No notification of any new upcoming LPs for the remainder of the year.
- Document Submissions to OSG
 - In order to check for officer readiness for those included in the following documents, SERNOs were requested – need as soon as possible to remain on track with possible approval.
 - 2020 MOLC VM Letters
 - 2020 CMAG Annual Honor Awardees
 - 2021-2023 CMAG VM Nominees
 - 2020 CMAG SAA Submissions
 - There will be another award submission in the 4th quarter, but there is no guarantee that those documents will be reviewed or approved by the end of 2020.
- Great American Smokeout (GASO 2020)
 - Involvement by all CMAGs is encouraged.
 - Presents a great opportunity to engage members in becoming trained and educating others.
 - We would like to challenge each CMAG to have the members trained by November 19th
 - CMAG with the most members trained will be highlighted to OSG
 - Another way to support a high-priority SG initiative: tobacco cessation.
 - CMAGs should consider having a representative participate on the GASO Ad-hoc Working Group.

- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Retirement
 - MOLC Award with the inscription, “RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams, thank you for a lifelong service dedicated to improving access to care for underserved communities,” presented to RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams on August 25th.
 - Special thanks to CAPT David Lau and CDR Hamet Touré in assisting with coordination.
- COA Frontline Article Reminder
 - COA expressed interest in MOLC writing an article on diversity in the Corps.
 - A submission is encouraged for the next issue.
 - Participation from all MOLC representatives is requested. If unable to participate, please work with CMAG leadership to identify another officer to participate on your behalf.
 - Authors must be current COA members or COF donors.
 - The article will need to be reviewed and approved by the DSG prior to submission.
 - Submissions due the 15th of the month prior to the next Issue.
 - Aim to submit to DSG for review by October 30th to meet November 15th deadline for inclusion in the December Issue

BCOAG

- BCOAG’s last General Body Meeting took place on September 10th.
 - Presentation given on Marijuana Use in Minors
- A complete VM package was submitted to MOLC.
- The Health Disparities Committee released two August Fact Sheet with one being on Childhood Obesity and the other on Colorectal Cancer bringing awareness to the disease responsible for the passing of Chadwick Boseman.
- Shadowbox presented to RADM Trent-Adams during her retirement ceremony.
- Recruiting for reviewers is underway for CV Review Program.
- 30th Anniversary will be held in October
 - Will host three webinars
 - October 1st – Improving Maternal Health Outcomes in Minority Communities
 - October 8th – Seeing Culture through Another Officer’s Eyes Townhall (will include MOLC’s Senior Advisor and other VIPs)
 - October 15th – Health Disparities and the Effects of COVID-19 on Minority Communities
- Annual Leader Within You, leadership workshop, is tentatively set for October 22nd

2. Vice Chair / HOAC

HOAC

- HOAC’s last General Body Meeting scheduled for 17 September 2020 was canceled and replaced with a Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) Webinar, Covid-19 and *Minority Health Disparities*.

- HHM activities continued through October 15th with two additional webinars, *Responder Resiliency* and *Working with Hispanic and Latino Populations: Understanding Disparities and Building Health Equality*.
- HOAC subcommittee SOPs are being generated and reviewed.
- Rx for Change Tobacco Cessatin Certificate: HOAC's goal is for 100% completion by VM
- The Nomination and Membership committee submitted 2021 voting member selections.
- The Deployment and Readiness committee is working on developing Spanish Language proficiency standards.
- HOAC leadership and the Recruitment and Retention committee are working on recruitment information to be disseminated with approval from the OSG.

3. Secretary / APAOC

MOLC

- Please continue to submit written reports to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes

APAOC

- APAOC hosted the 4th annual leadership summit today with topics on leadership, public speaking strategies, and cultural competency. During this summit, we also celebrated our 30th anniversary. Thank you so much for the support from all CMAGs.
- APAOC will host a tobacco cessation training in October. More details to follow.
- All SAA and VM packages have been submitted to MOLC.
- APAOC has reviewed and provided feedback to MOLC on the PACE Developing Healthy Dental Habits Lesson Plan.

4. Liaison / AIANCOAC

AIANCOAC

- Submitted Honor Awards
- Submitted Special Assignment awards on August 15, 2020
- Subcommittee of volunteers for upcoming Native American Heritage month
 - November 18th - 12noon to 1pm. MST Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) presentation. One presenter identified for NAHM.
- VM membership nomination packets were finalized and submitted to MOLC reps and MOLC leadership 9/16/20.
- RADM Leadership Roundtable Mentoring Session set for November 2020, date forthcoming
 - October AIANCOAC Mentoring Roundtable Session, date forthcoming
- PHS Athletics Event: Power to the People of Public Health with Annie Dodge Wauneka Virtual 5K Run
- Next Meeting:
 - October 15th, 2020- General Meeting
 - November 19th, 2020- Voting Member Meeting

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VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

1. COA Liaison: CDR Hamet Touré (FDA)

- The Commissioned Officers Association held its annual workshop on Saturday, September 19, 2020. A social was also held by COA on Friday, September 18, 2020, for members of the board to mingle and get to know each other.
- Both the social and the workshop were held virtually. The workshop focused on issues relevant to the Commissioned Corps, the advancement of our service, PHS Officers, recruitment of Officers into the Service, as well as outreach to officers to let them know about COA, its mission, and its support of officers and PHS.
- COA continues to advocate fervently for officers. As RADM Schwartz stated in the recent Commissioned Corps Town Hall, the House of Representatives released a 104- page Continuing Resolution, H.R. 8319, the "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act" this week. This bill contains a provision which will prevent USPHS Commissioned Corps officers from losing leave in excess of the current 60-day carryover and permits officers to carry over 120 days of leave through September 30, 2023. This provision aligns USPHS officers with the same leave accrual policies for personnel in the Federal government and other branches of the uniformed services. The rule passed the House on September 23, 2020. The bill must pass the Senate and be signed into law by the president for the provision to take effect.
- The next COA board meeting is planned for November 4, 2020.

2. AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA)

RDB

- Readiness Extensions - announced during this week's Town Hall sessions: PHU, BLS, and APFT will continue to be extended through MAR 1, 2021 readiness check, meaning the items will all be required for submission (at the latest) in March and before APR 1, 2021 readiness check.
- Officers are encouraged to continue making all efforts to complete and submit the above readiness items despite continued extensions.
- There is no need to email either RDB or MAB requesting an extension for PHU, BLS, or APFT during September or future months.
- For any officer who had an APFT extension which expired on 09/02/20, APFT records can now be created and documents uploaded via eDOC-U. The earliest date the system will allow for "APFT completion date" is 09/03/20, as prior to that officers were covered for the APFT under the APFT extension waiver.

AMSUS

- AMSUS this year will be virtual with a large number of presenters and the fees will be reduced. Great way to earn up to 90 CE/CMEs
 - PHS Day-agenda planning ongoing
 - Live stream for high level keynotes along with recorded presentations, all presentations will be on demand over 10 days so can get CME (Updated)
 - Inter-service Nursing session- Federal Nursing Services Corps (FNCS)
 - HOSA -Future Health Professionals Session
 - American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Session
 - **The 2020 AMSUS Rising Star Award Recipient is CDR Qiao Bobo.** This very prestigious AMSUS Executive Level Award selected by the US Surgeon General (2020 AMSUS President) and AMSUS Executive Advisory Committee (the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Department of Homeland Security; the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs; the President of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; the

Surgeons General of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Public Health Service; Director of the Defense Health Agency; and the Department of Defense Joint Staff Surgeon). A list of 2020 AMSUS Award Recipients is available in the attached below:



2020-AMSUS-Award
-Recipients.pdf

- For more information on 2020 AMSUS, please see the attached below:



AMSUS 2020 Up to
90 CE.docx

3. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA)

- There has been no general JOAG meeting since the last MOLC meeting
- JOAG Virtual Award Presentation was held on 14 AUG, 1300-1400 ET. Congratulations to the officers who received the awards

VII. Old Business

VIII. Open Floor

IX. Announcements and Adjournment LCDR Tuckett adjourned the meeting at 1500.

Next Meeting: OCTOBER 26, 2020, 1500-1600 EST

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

United States Public Health Service

Office of the Surgeon General

Rockville MD 20857



MINORITY OFFICER LIAISON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: OCTOBER 26, 2020; 1500-1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257

[Join meeting](#)

2020 MOLC Voting Representatives/Members:

Chair (BCOAG) LCDR Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam (FDA) / LCDR Gayle Tuckett (FDA)

Vice Chair (HOAC) CDR Mizraim Mendoza (IHS) / CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz (CDC)

Secretary (APAOC) CAPT Teresa Ramson (FDA) / CDR Dipti Kalra (FDA)

Liaison (AI/ANCOAC) CDR Carol Cummins (IHS) / CDR Seneca Smith (IHS)

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	LCDR	Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Gayle Tuckett	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Mizraim Mendoza	Vice Chair	HOAC	IHS
Absent	CDR	Eduardo O'Neill La Luz	Vice Chair	HOAC	CDC
Present	CAPT	Teresa Ramson	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Dipti Kalra	Secretary	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Carol Cummins	Liaison/Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	CDR	Seneca Smith	Liaison	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR	Janet Hayes	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Melissa Schossow	Past Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Excused	LCDR	Dustin Tran	JOAG Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Excused	CDR	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Chinyelum Olele	COA Liaison Alternate	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CAPT	Kofi Ansah	Advisor	BCOAG	FDA
Excused	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – MOLC Chairs called the meeting to order 1503.
- II. Council Roll Call – MOLC Secretary conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1505.

- III. MOLC meeting minutes – September 2020 minutes approved
- IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates – RADM Brandon Taylor
- V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates

- 1. Chair / BCOAG

- MOLC

- Extension of MOLC Senior Advisor's term to December 2021, though RADM Taylor's term ended on September 30, 2020. New Senior Advisor to be selected by HOAC next year. Thank you, RADM Taylor!
- MOLC Charter & Strategic Plan
 - Received feedback from CMAGs on major changes to Charter, we are in the process of finalizing and will be sending out the Charter for votes this week.
 - Strategic Plan will be included in the MOLC Annual Report
- Quarterly meeting with DSG on **Wednesday, October 28, 2020.**
- PACE's Lesson Plans
 - Completed review of the Developing Healthy Dental Habits LP by COB September 28th.
 - No notification of any new upcoming LPs for the remainder of the year.
- Fourth quarter individual and group award nominations are due by **COB, Friday, November 15, 2020.** This will be the final submission for the year; however, there is no guarantee that they will be reviewed or approved by the end of 2020.
- Received and distributed approved documents from the OSG.
 - 2020 MOLC VM Letters (8)
 - 2020 CMAG Annual Honor Awardees (16)
 - 2021-2023 CMAG VM Nominees (32)
 - 2020 SAA awards (29)
- MOLC is collaborating with the AMSUS planning committee on the presentation of awards to Honor Award recipients, this year. Congratulations to our CMAG Honor Award recipients!
- Honor award recipients will have to register for at least the one-day attendance of the PHS day. More details to come on one day registration.
- Each CMAG is responsible for its CMAG Honor Awards. OSG is only providing plaques for the Junior/Senior Officer awards, and the Humanitarian and Intra federal service Awards.
- Discussions still underway on who will be presenting the award to the CMAG recipients, but it is assumed that we will have the leadership from the awarding body reading the citation and advancing the slides with pictures for awardees on the WebEx.

- Anti-smoking proposal submitted to OSG
 - Underwent name change and slight restructuring/reformatting
 - Undergoing OSG review and approval
 - Involvement by all CMAGs is encouraged.
 - Presents a great opportunity to engage members in becoming trained and educating others.
 - We would like to challenge each CMAG to have the members trained by November 19th
 - CMAG with the most members trained will be highlighted to OSG
 - Another way to support a high-priority SG initiative, Tobacco.
 - If approved, expect announcements early next week.
- MOLC Reps, please be sure to submit your meeting minutes by the timeline provided by our MOLC Secretaries. Doing so ensures efficiency in the provision of meetings minutes to the VMs for review prior to meetings. It also will minimize reminders that need to be send and modifications that need to be made.

BCOAG

- BCOAG's last General Body Meeting, in a townhall format, took place on October 8th
- BCOAG's 30th Anniversary was held in October
 - Hosted three webinars
 - October 1st – Improving Maternal Health Outcomes in Minority Communities
 - October 8th – Seeing Culture through Another Officer's Eyes Townhall [RADM Brandon Taylor, RADM Richardae Araojo, RADM Aisha Mix, CAPT Cedric Guyton, CAPT Maria Fields]
 - October 15th – Health Disparities and the Effects of COVID-19 on Minority Communities
- Annual Leader Within You, leadership workshop, is took place on October 22nd
- Health Disparities Committee distributed an October Fact Sheet on Breast Cancer, in line with October being Breast Cancer Awareness month

2. Vice Chair / HOAC

HOAC

- HOAC's last General Body Meeting was held on October 15, 2020
- HOAC successfully organized a Hispanic Heritage Month webinar series with three guest speakers who presented on topics to include health disparities, responder resiliency, and mental health/substance use.

- HOAC continues to maintain dialogue regarding Language Proficiency tools as CC leadership continues to support the dialogue language proficiency tool.
- HOAC is seeking nominations of current voting members to take on a leadership role as part of HOAC Executive Committee.
- A selection was made for the HOAC Senior Advisor position. A nomination packet has been forwarded to MOLC for OSG review/approval.
- Surgeon General's Call to Action report on hypertension was highlighted and recommendations for HOAC to brainstorm efforts to become force multipliers to communicate message were discussed.
- Recruitment efforts are ongoing, and OSG Communication Team has been identified. HOAC leadership is currently working on a recruitment campaign that aims to highlight diversity in the CC.
- HOAC subcommittee SOPs are being generated and reviewed.

3. Secretary / APAOC

MOLC

Continue to send reports to secretary in a timely manner

APAOC

- APAOC successfully hosted the 4th APAOC Leadership Summit on September 25, 2020 with over 115 officers attended the 4-hour virtual event. This is the first time the event was hosted virtually. The topics included leadership during times of crisis, public speaking, and cultural competency. Special thanks to all CMAG representatives who participated at the event as our panelists. Please feel free to share the attached combined presentation slides with your CMAGs.



APAOC's 4th
Annual Leadership S

- APAOC completed 13 new voting members package and submitted to MOLC for OSG's approval.
- APAOC will host the next Education & Training on Tobacco Cessation training on October 29, 2020.

4. Liaison / AIANCOAC

AIANCOAC

- The American Indian & Alaska Native Commissioned Officers Association presents Native American & Alaska Native Heritage Month, NOVEMBER 2020 Virtual Intercultural Diversity series:
 - Webinar ONE: Impact of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation & Challenges faced and Collaboration efforts
 - November 4th 1200 to 1300 MST

- Speaker: Roselyn Tso, Area Director, Navajo Area Indian Health Service
 - Webinar TWO: RADM Native American Speaking Panel
 - November 10th 1200 to 1300 MST
 - Speakers: RADM Michael Weahkee, IHS Director (Zuni Tribe); RADM Chris Buchannan, Deputy IHS Director (Seminole Nation); RADM Brandon Taylor, Chief of Staff (Seneca-Cayuga Nation); RADM Travis Watts, OKC Area Director (Choctaw Nation); RADM Francis Frazier, Office of Public Health Support Director (Cheyenne River Sioux); RADM (ret) Kevin Meeks (Chickasaw Nation)
 - Webinar THREE: American Indian Health Equity in the 21st Century
 - November 18th 1200 to 1300 MST
 - Speaker: Donald Warne, MD, MPH, Director, Indians Into Medicine (INMED) Program Director, Public Health Program Associate Dean, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion School of Medicine and Health Sciences University of North Dakota

VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

1. COA Liaison: CDR Hamet Touré (FDA)

- The next COA board meeting is planned for November 4, 2020. There has not been a board meeting since the annual workshop on Saturday, September 19, 2020.
- Throughout September, CAPT (Ret.) Jacqueline Rychnovsky, PhD, RN, CPNP, FAANP, the COA Executive Director, was advocating fervently for officers, and actively engaged in the expiring leave issue with various stakeholders, in the Senate, House of Representatives, and with The Military Coalition, which is comprised of 35 organizations representing more than 5.5 million members of the uniformed services. This resulted in the inclusion of a provision to prevent USPHS Commissioned Corps officers from losing leave in excess of the current 60-day carryover and permits officers to carry over 120 days of leave through September 30, 2023, into the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act”. The Bill passed both Chambers and was signed into law by the President on October 1, 2020.
- The COA Executive Director had separate meet-and-greet events in September with two CPOs to discuss general issues related to officers, recruiting, and retention.
- The COA Executive Director met with The Military Coalition to discuss its 2021 priorities and goals.
- The COA Director also met with the Veterans Day National Committee to prepare for the remembrance at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans’ Day. A representative from COA will attend the event to honor Veterans from all Uniformed Services.

2. AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA)

RDB

- Readiness Extensions:
 - The PHU, BLS, and APFT will continue to be extended through the March 1, 2021 readiness check. These items will all be required for submission (at the latest) in March and before APR 1, 2021 readiness check. There is no need to email either RDB or MAB requesting an extension for PHU, BLS, or APFT during September or future months. Extensions do not include immunizations, professional licensures, weight standard requirements.
 - RDB has transitioned from former RedDOG email inboxes to new inboxes with CCHQ re-organization. Please use the following to reach the RDB team regarding non-readiness requirements and Weight Standards inquiries: PHSReadiness@hhs.gov

- Weight Standards:
 - [POM.821.66](#) outlines weight standard requirements. Officers must report height and weight annually with the APFT. The form calculates BMI based on the information you type. If BMI is between 19.0 kg/m² and 27.5kg/m², complete and submit [PHS-7044](#) only. If BMI is over 27.5kg/m², complete [PHS-7044](#) and [PHS-7044-1](#) with Sections A and B. If BMI is 18.9kg/m² or less, contact Medical Affairs Branch within 30 days with supplemental documentation.
 - Officers not compliant with Retention Weight Standards must meet individualized target weight loss goals and report information quarterly. Visit the [Corps Retention Weight Standards webpage](#) for more information.

AMSUS: 09-10 DEC 2020 – Over 200+ breakout sessions to learn from anywhere/anytime: Sessions will be on demand.

- AMSUS will be virtual; up to 90+ CME/CEs available; Registration fees are very low;
- All presentations will be on demand post conference online so all registrants can continue to earn CME/CEs up to 90+
- Several PHS/Joint Service Sessions:
 - “Updates on Recommendations for Smoking and Vaping in the Current Environment” – USPHS (IHS/FDA), Defense Health Agency (DHA), Veterans Administration (VA), Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Joint Session.

- PHS day Planning still ongoing – Senior PHS Leadership engagement similar to last year’s AMSUS:
 - HOSA -Future Health Professionals Session
 - American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Session – Postponed to a virtual series in 2021
 - **The 2020 AMSUS Rising Star Award Recipient is CDR Qiao Bobo.**

3. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA)

- The first meeting of the OY was on Friday, 10/9/20, consisting of introductions of new committee leads.
- The next general meeting is Friday, 12/11/20 at 1300-1400 ET.

VII. Old Business-None

VIII. Open Floor- Please volunteer to man the booths for AMSUS

IX. Announcements and Adjournment-meeting adjourned at 1531.

Next Meeting: NOVEMBER 24, 2020, 1400-1500 EST

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

United States Public Health Service

Office of the Surgeon General

Rockville MD 20857



MINORITY OFFICER LIASION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: NOVEMBER 24, 2020; 1400-1500 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-877-465-7975; Passcode: 906 945 257

[Join meeting](#)

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Vice Chair (HOAC) CDR Mizraim Mendoza (IHS) / CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz (CDC)

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Present	LCDR	Tenzin Jangchup	JOAG Liaison Alternate	JOAG	FDA
Excused	CDR	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Chinyelum Olele	COA Liaison Alternate	BCOAG	FDA
Present	RADM	Brandon Taylor	Senior Advisor	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – MOLC Chairs called the meeting to order 1503.
- II. Council Roll Call – MOLC Secretary conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1505.

III. MOLC meeting minutes – October 2020 minutes approved

IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates – RADM Brandon Taylor

- Please listen to the Town Hall sessions as they have valuable information
- We do not know if VADM Jerome Adams will finish his term as SG
- President-elect Joe Biden has appointed former SG VADM Vivek Murthy to his COVID task force

V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates

1. Chair / BCOAG

MOLC

- New Senior Advisor appointed by OSG: RADM Aisha Mix
- MOLC Charter sent out for vote
 - 3 out of 4 CMAGs voted to approve revised Charter
 - Additional edits were made for clarification to include:
 - Reference to Roberts Rule's of Order for those who may not be familiar
 - Addition of Senior Advisor Position description
 - Timing of when
 - Submitted for OSG review and approval on November 24th
- HOAC Senior Advisor selection sent to DSG and received approval on November 23rd
- 4th Quarter Award Submission
 - Received 4 MOLC SAAs
 - No other individual or group awards received
 - Sent to the DSG and forwarded to the COAP on November 23rd
- Overall accomplishments:
 - SG Priorities and Calls to Action supported:
 - Tobacco
 - Oral Health
 - Maternal Health
 - Hypertension
 - 6 PACE Lesson Plans reviewed for cultural competence and political consciousness.
 - Women's Health
 - Naloxone Training
 - Vaccines
 - Community Opioid
 - Healthy Habits for a Health Smile
 - Healthy Eating and Prevention of Chronic Diseases
 - All awards (75) have been accounted for, including 19 awards from 2019 (full update will be included in Annual Report).
 - 16 – 2020 CMAG Annual Honor Awardees
 - 40 – SAA awards
 - 1 pending for AIANCOAC

- 7 pending for MOLC
 - 4 – CM awards
 - 1 pending
 - 6 – AM awards
 - 1 pending
 - 3 – Citations
 - 2 pending
 - 1 – UC pending
- Documents submitted for OSG approval:
 - 8 – MOLC VM Appointment Letters
 - 32 – 2021-2023 CMAG VM Nominees
 - MOLC Charter – pending
- CMAG Honor Awardees to be recognized on PHS Day during the 2020 AMSUS Annual Conference.
- Contributed to a just-in-time training on cultural competency for officers who are about to deploy developed by HHS Office of Minority Health.
- Development of a timeline for the year for present tasks/responsibilities.
- Reviewed, collated, and presented key points regarding COVID-19, which included statistics, concerns, programs, and a wish list, for the communities represented by each respective CMAG to the Surgeon General.
- Creation of templates to assist incoming MOLC VMs*.
- AMSUS Virtual MOLC Social
 - All CMAGs expressed interest, but additional details needed.
- SG SCI-Five Event distributed to all CMAGs to encourage involvement
 - Although outside of 5-day window stated in toolkit, officers can still participate throughout the remainder of November.
 - Event Reporting Form must be submitted by December 7th to LCDR Tuckett.

BCOAG

- Annual Leader Within You, leadership workshop, did not take place on October 22nd – canceled for 2020
- BCOAG's last General Body Meeting held on November 12th
- Incoming VMs announced – 7 new VMs
- Currently, undergoing elections
- LT Casmir Ogbonna received BCOAG's Member of the Quarter recognition
- 10 officers submitted their OS and CV for review this year through BCOAG's CV Review Program
- Membership Committee's SOP has been updated and approved. The Charter and Bylaws Committee is currently reviewing the BCOAG Charter and MOLC Liaison SOP.

- Health Disparities Committee distributed two fact sheets for November:
 - Diabetes among African Americans
 - Alzheimer's and COVID-19

2. Vice Chair / HOAC

HOAC

- HOA HOAC's last General Body Meeting was held on 19 November 2020
- This month's Officer Spotlight was LCDR Andrew Felix
- CDR Luz Rivera, Region 6 PACE Director, presented "Ending the HIV Pandemic: A Plan for America".
- HOAC is seeking nominations of current voting members to take on a leadership role as part of HOAC Executive Committee.
- A selection was made for the HOAC Senior Advisor position. A nomination packet has been forwarded to MOLC for OSG review/approval.
- HOAC subcommittee SOPs and end of year reports are being generated and reviewed.

3. Secretary / APAOC

MOLC

Continue to send reports to secretary in a timely manner

APAOC

- APAOC hosted the tobacco cessation training for our members on October 29, 2020. Special thanks to LCDR Gayle Tuckett and CDR Tori Welker for providing this training.
- APAOC will host a leadership transition virtual event on Friday, December 18, 2020.
- APAOC is soliciting input from all members through a survey to understand how the organization can better serve our members and support the SG's priorities.
- APAOC would like to express our gratitude to all the CMAGs, especially the chairs, in being open to collaborate with APAOC this year. Look forward to more collaboration with the 2021 CMAG chairs and MOLC chairs.
- APAOC MOLC Reps would like to reach out to current MOLC Vice Chairs for a transition meeting and to learn more about the roles and responsibilities as MOLC Vice Chairs

4. Liaison / AIANCOAC

AIANCOAC

- AIANCOAC hosted a 3 part Virtual Intercultural Diversity Series in November to honor Native American & Alaska Native Heritage Month.
 - November 4
Topic: Impact of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation & Challenges faced and Collaboration efforts

- Speaker: Roselyn Tso, Area Director, Navajo Indian Health Service
- November 10
 - Topic: American Indian/Alaska Native RADM Leadership Roundtable
 - Panel: Lessons and Perspectives
 - Speakers: RADM Michael D. Weahkee, RADM Travis Watts and RADM (ret) Kevin Meeks
- November 18
 - Topic: American Indian Health Equity in the 21st Century
 - Speaker: Donald Warne, MD, MPH

The series was a great success.

- AIANCOAC is in the process of voting for new positions

VI. Abbreviated Reports (written reports must be sent to MOLC Secretary for inclusion in Minutes)

1. COA Liaison: CDR Hamet Touré (FDA)

- CAPT (Ret.) Jacqueline Rychnovsky, PhD, RN, CPNP, FAANP, the COA Executive Director, attended the monthly meeting of The Military Coalition (TMC) on October 1, 2020. This organization is comprised of 35 organizations representing more than 5.5 million members of the uniformed services. There were many uniformed services-related topics discussed including TRICARE Select.
- The COA Executive Director had a call with RADM Schwartz, the Deputy Surgeon General, in early and late October to discuss the Symposium, community engagements, Frontline newsletter articles, and other topics of interests to Commissioned Corps Officers.
- The COA Executive Director attended The Military Coalition Personnel Committee where 2021 goals were discussed, including the TMC's advocacy on the au pair visa ban issue, of concern to officers in all uniform services who deploy and need that support for their families.
- On October 20, 2020, the COA Executive Director conducted a video interview with [Nobel Prize winner Dr. Harvey Alter](#) from NIH for Frontline. Dr. Alter served as a Commissioned Corps Officer for more than 30 years. He won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus
- The COA Executive Director participated in the 2020 final planning meeting of the Veterans Day National Committee on October 21, 2020. RADM Brandon Taylor, COA Board Chair, attended the Veterans Day event at Arlington Cemetery on November 11, 2020.
- The COA Executive Director met with Admiral Brett Giroir (ASH) and Vice Admiral Jerome Adams (SG) to brief COA after the October 27, 2020, USPHS Town Hall.
- In October, COA also engaged or attended meetings with following entities: the Nursing Community Coalition, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) on World Statistics Day, House Ways and Means Committee, Office of

Personnel Management to discuss FEDVIP Dental and Vision Coverage, APHA for its annual meeting, and former U.S. Senator Tom Daschle for a discussion on “Operation Warp Speed”, the public-private partnership to facilitate and accelerate the development of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.

- The last COA board meeting was held on November 4, 2020. The meeting focused on the COA strategic priorities and its Committees’ reports. A MOLC report was provided during the meeting.
- The next COA board meeting is planned for January 13, 2021.

2. AMSUS/RDB Liaison: CAPT David Lau (FDA)

RDB

- Officers are being deployed

AMSUS:

- Please join AMSUS 2020 Annual meeting virtually December 6-10

3. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA)

- The first meeting of the OY was on Friday, 10/9/20, consisting of introductions of new committee leads.
- Call for Award Nominations for the VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award is due Wednesday, 12/2/2020. Send nominations or questions to LCDR Salvatore Pepe (Salvatore.pepe@fda.hhs.gov) and LCDR Ryan Presto (ryan.presto@fda.hhs.gov).
- JOAG is still looking for volunteers in the following committees: Awards, Communications and Publications, Membership Committee, Policy and Procedures Committee, Professional Development Committee, and Public Health & Community Service. Contact LCDR Beth Wittry, JOAG Chair (xks5@cdc.gov).

VII. Old Business-None

VIII. Open Floor- Please volunteer to man the booths for AMSUS

Proposal of “Conversation in Equity” series was discussed

IX. Announcements and Adjournment-meeting adjourned at 1531.

MOLC November Meeting is the last meeting for OY 2020.