

# 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:** JANUARY 26, 2021; 1500-1600 EST

**Teleconference Call:** 1-877-465-7975 passcode: 199 348 3684

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### 2021 MOLC Voting Representatives/Members:

**Chair (HOAC):** LCDR Peng Zhou (FDA)/LT Adelaida Rosario (OASH)

**Vice Chair (APAOC):** CAPT Teresa Ramson (FDA)/CDR Honeylit Cueco (BOP)

**Secretary (AI/ANCOAC):** CDR Seneca Smith (IHS)/CDR Karly Lucero (DHS)

**Liaison (BCOAG):** CDR Chinyelum Olele (FDA)/LCDR Folaremi Adeyemo (FDA)

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	LCDR	Peng "Jeff" Zhou	Chair	HOAC	FDA
Present	LT	Adelaida Rosario	Chair	HOAC	OASH
Present	CAPT	Teresa Ramson	Vice Chair	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR	Honeylit Cueco	Vice Chair	APAOC	BOP
Present	CDR	Seneca Smith	Secretary	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR	Karly Lucero	Secretary	AIANCOAC	DHS
Present	LCDR	Folaremi Adeyemo	Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Chinyelum Olele	Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	Past Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Gayle Tuckett	Past Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Dustin Tran	JOAG Liaison	JOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Hamet Toure	COA Liaison	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CAPT	Aisha Mix (DHS)	Senior Advisor	Senior Advisor	DHS
Present	CAPT	David Lau (FDA)	AMSUS/RDB Liaison	APAOC	FDA

### MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – MOLC Chairs called the meeting to order 1504.
- II. Council Roll Call – MOLC Secretary conducted the roll call. Quorum met at 1506.
- III. MOLC meeting minutes – November 2020 minutes approved.
- IV. MOLC Senior Advisor Updates – RADM Aisha Mix

- Welcome to the new year and new opportunities for MOLC. It is my honor and pleasure to serve as senior advisor. In this capacity, I'm available to provide insight, information, and, most importantly support, in the work that you do.
- RADM Orsega was selected to serve as Acting Surgeon General and RADM Felicia Collins as Acting Assistant Secretary for Health.
- One of the areas of highest priority continues to be the COVID-19 pandemic with focus on COVID-19 vaccines. I encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the "National Strategy for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness" released by the White House. The document, and related executive orders, outline the strategic direction for the continued efforts in our collective engagement. Of note is Goal 6 which is to protect those most at risk and advance equity, including across racial, ethnic and rural/urban lines.
- Please advise if there are any questions that I can assist with.

## V. MOLC Executive Committee Updates

### 1. Chair / HOAC

#### MOLC

- MOLC followed up on the status of nine awards. Five Special Assignment Awards have been processed and four awards are still pending. We ask you for your patience and flexibility during this transition period.
- MOLC Chairs have met with RADM Mix this month to discuss a plan for this exciting calendar year and will have our monthly meeting in 2021.
- We have established five goals this year as previously listed in CMAG orientation.
- We strongly encourage you to begin your Honor Awards process as soon as possible.
- President Biden's Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. MOLC can definitely have an integral role.
- First PACE lesson plan due this Friday. Please send all of your comments/update to us.
- Gauge of interest: virtual meet and greet in June/December across all CMAGs to increase officer interaction due to cancellation of the Symposium

#### HOAC

- HOAC had its first executive committee meeting held on the first week of January.
- HOAC also had its first voting member meeting. Each subcommittee will submit goals set for this year.
- HOAC held its first general meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.
- HOAC completed review of first PACE lesson plan.
- HOAC is seeking a presenter for the Topics in Public Health Series.
- HOAC Executive Committee will have our first meeting with Senior Advisor this Thursday.

## 2. Vice Chair/APAOC

### MOLC

- Held both transition meetings with 2021 MOLC Secretary and 2020 MOLC Vice Chair in December 2020.
- Awaiting updates and discussions on the planning for the MOLC Awards Ceremony.

### APAOC

- APAOC had the first Executive Committee meeting and general meeting on January 15 and January 21.
- APAOC subcommittees and workgroups are working on developing the strategic plans for 2021.
- APAOC will be establishing the first 3-year strategic plans.
- APAOC will continue to collaborate with other CMAGs to support OSG's priorities and initiatives.
- APAOC will host a virtual social event to celebrate Lunar New Year on February 19, 2021.

## 3. Secretary / AIANCOAC

### MOLC

- Participated in transition meetings with 2020 MOLC Secretaries December 2020.
- 2021 MOLC Secretaries met to discuss duties/roles for 2021.
- Please send reports to secretaries preferably prior to the meeting but no later than the Friday following the meeting.

### AIANCOAC

- AIANCOAC held the first general meeting on January 21, 2021.
- AIANCOAC received introductions from new voting members and sub-committee appointees.
- AIANCOAC subcommittees and workgroups are working on developing goals and outcomes for 2021.
- Call for presenters for Topic in Public Health series.

## 4. Liaison / BCOAG

### BCOAG

- We are excited to share that our Senior Advisor has been promoted to RADM. Please join us in congratulating RADM Cedric Guyton.

- Our first meeting of the operational year was held on Thursday, January 14th in which our 2021 Chair, LCDR Chelsea Bostic shared her goals with the general body.
- Some of these goals include a financial literacy series, virtual HBCU Initiative recruitment efforts, and addressing issues within the African American community regarding anti-vaccination.
- So far, we have held recruitment events at Grambling State University and recruited 25 Howard University Students.
- This year we want to strengthen existing mentoring and career/professional development programs among black officers.
- Our social committee will be hosting a bi-monthly virtual book club that will kick off next month and host virtual movie night for Black History Month which is in the month of February.
- Next month is Black History Month and we will be having a couple events with one of them being a presentation and panel discussion on African American contributions to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) on February 25th. More information to come. We hope to see you there.

## VI. Abbreviated Reports

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

- As MOLC Liaison to the Commissioned Officers Association, CDR Touré currently attends the COA Board meetings and reports relevant information back to MOLC. Similarly, while attending the COA meetings, he provides updates to COA regarding MOLC activities.
- A COA meeting was held on January 12, 2021. This gathering was an opportunity for Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., the outgoing Assistant Secretary of Health, to offer parting words to COA active duty and retired members.
- The next COA Board meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2021. CDR Touré plans to attend the meeting.
- Another COA gathering featuring RADM (ret.) Anne Schuchat is scheduled for February 23, 2021. RADM Schuchat is currently serving as the Principal Deputy Director of CDC.
- In other news, the COF Symposium has been postponed until May 23-7, 2022. For 2021, the Symposium Planning Committee is looking at one or more smaller, one or two-day in-person events to which local attendees can travel by car, combined with virtual events to maintain energy, camaraderie, and fellowship through 2021.
- There were questions at the end of 2020, about the role of MOLC Liaison to COA and whether the Liaison was a COA representative to MOLC or vice versa.
- The position of MOLC Liaison to COA has been an informal one. Initially, CDR Touré's understanding is that the intent was for the MOLC Liaisons, the voting members on the MOLC Council, to serve in the capacity of Liaisons to the Office of Minority Health and also COA. However, Captain Ansah served in the

capacity of MOLC Liaison to COA, for several years. Many times, he attended the Board meetings in person at the COA Headquarters in Hyattsville, MD. CDR Touré is happy to continue to serve as MOLC Liaison until the Council designates another officer or other officers to serve in this role. The MOLC Chairs and Voting Members could discuss this topic further in consultation with the MOLC Senior Advisor and advise at a later time. COA might require that the MOLC representative also be a COA member in order to attend the Board meetings. CDR Touré served as MOLC Representative to COA in 2020.

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

RDB

- Very important email was sent out on December 17, 2020 from CCHQ regarding 2020-2021 PHU requirements.
  - PHU requirement resumed in JAN 2021
  - Any PHU due in JAN 2021 must be submitted by 31MAR2021
  - Everyone required to submit a completed PHU checklist effective JAN2021
- COVID Vaccine
  - Highly recommended.
  - Predeployment questionnaire will inquire regarding COVID vaccination status and if pending 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine still deployable remotely or locally.
  - After 72 hours of COVID vaccine series completion, you are fully deployable.
  - Any issues use the RDB Readiness Assistance Form

AMSUS:

- Next AMSUS conference is 7-11 FEB 2022.
- Abstracts for poster and podium presentations will be solicited soon.
- CAPT Lau continues as USPHS AMSUS Advisor.
- Webinar available on AMSUS website for registration “**Leading the Transformation to HRO Web Series**”
  - [AMSUS web link](#)

3. JOAG: LCDR Dustin Tran (FDA)

JOAG

- JOAG releases 2021-2025 Strategic Plan  
[https://ccmis.psc.gov/Jarmanator/JOAG/documents/StrategicPlan\\_JOAG\\_FY2021-2025\\_508c.pdf](https://ccmis.psc.gov/Jarmanator/JOAG/documents/StrategicPlan_JOAG_FY2021-2025_508c.pdf)
- JOAG releases a new Call for Volunteers:
  - Communications and Publications, Website Subcommittee
  - Membership Committee
    - Meet and Greet Subcommittee Regional Leads

- Tucson, AZ
- Tuba City, AZ
- Eastern NC (Raleigh/Durham)
- Policy and Procedures Committee
  - Social Platform Coordinator
- Readiness & Deployment Committee
  - Deployment Committee
  - Website Coordinator
- Journeyman Speaker Series: The most recent JSS was on COVID-19 Vaccine on 1/8/21 by Amy Parker Fiebelkorn
- All previous recordings are available on max.gov  
<https://community.max.gov/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=945456386>

VII. Old Business-None

VIII. Open Floor

1. Question to Chairs regarding if MOLC Meet and Greets will replace the MOLC awards ceremony or if there will be the need to design a virtual MOLC awards ceremony.
  - i. Chairs will inquire.
2. Question regarding having a ceremony for previous Senior Advisor CAPT Taylor.
  - i. Discuss at next meeting.

IX. Announcements and Adjournment-meeting adjourned at 1552.

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**NEXT MEETING: February 23, 2021 at 1500-1600 EST**