

**Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group  
U.S Public Health Service  
Thursday, March 28, 2013  
2000-2100 EST**

| <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Rank</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>OPDIV</b> |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Present           | LCDR        | Klimp            | Scott             | DOD          |
| Present           | CAPT        | Carter           | George            | NIH          |
| Present           | CDR         | Keller           | Stephen           | IHS          |
| Present           | LT          | Sanchez          | Tracy             | IHS          |
| Present           | CDR         | Bryant           | Anthony           | BOP          |
| Present           | LCDR        | Thompson         | Jansen            | DHS          |
| Present           | CDR         | Rivero           | Josef             | BOP          |
| Present           | LCDR        | Goldstein        | Dan               | BOP          |
| Present           | LCDR        | Been             | Candace           | IHSC         |
| Present           | LCDR        | Licata           | Paul              | FDA          |
| Present           | LCDR        | McKinnon         | Mark              | HHS          |
| Present           | LCDR        | Burt             | Brian             | HRSA         |
| Present           | LCDR        | Olson            | Holli             | IHS          |
| Present           | LCDR        | Bishop           | Deborah           | IHSC         |
| Present           | LCDR        | Forster          | Jerry             | DOJ/BOP      |
|                   |             |                  |                   |              |
| Excused           | CDR         | Valdez           | Janet             | NIH          |
|                   |             |                  |                   |              |
| Absent            | LCDR        | Reid             | Jim               | IHS          |
| Absent            | CDR         | Morris           | Joe               | DHS          |
| Absent            | CDR         | Zagula           | Matthew           | IHS          |
| Absent            | CDR         | Pelkey           | Michelle          | NOAA         |
| Absent            | CDR         | Saini            | Parmjeet          | HRSA         |
| Absent            | LCDR        | Didonna          | Danielle          | FDA          |
| Absent            | LT          | McLellan         | James             | IHSC         |
| Absent            | LCDR        | Brooks           | Chauna            | BOP          |
| Absent            | CDR         | Meece            | Rebecca           | HHS          |
| Absent            | CDR         | Hager            | Paul              | IHS          |

**Liaisons:** CAPT Gary Cole (NA), LCDR Stephen Smith (NA), LCDR Billy Collins (NA), LCDR Pieter Van Horn (NA) NA=not available

**Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group  
U.S. Public Health Service  
March 28, 2013 Minutes**

**Chair Report/ LCDR Scott Klimp**

**PAPAG Chair report:**

Welcome to all! Thank you to those members who have been active in the past month, including our Awards Committee who have an update for us regarding the 2013 PAPAG Physician Assistant of the Year Award, the Communications Committee, and the COA/AMSUS Committees who have continued preparations for this year's conferences. Please ensure that you forward your most current contact information to CDR Valdez so that the PAG roster may be updated.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**Awards Subcommittee- CAPT George Carter/CDR Janet Valdez**

Thanks to those of you who took the time to nominate someone for the PAPAG PA of the year award. The number of nominees this year was very sparse. We need to do more to recognize fellow PA s for the outstanding work that they do to help promote our profession. The 2013 PAPAG PA of the year award goes to LCDR Billy Collins who currently works at Womac Army medical Center. His Bio and Picture will be posted on the website later. "Congratulations LCDR Collins"

**Communications Subcommittee- CDR Stephen Keller/LCDR Jim Reid**

No new information.

**Membership Subcommittee-LT Tracy Sanchez**

Changes that needed to be made on the website were sent to the communications committee. They confirmed receipt of the information and in the process of updating the website .

**Policy and Procedure Subcommittee- CDR Paul Hager/CDR Joe Morris**

No new information.

**Professional Development Subcommittee- CDR Anthony Bryant**

No new information.

**Readiness Subcommittee- CDR Josef Rivero/LCDR Dan Goldstein**

CDR Rivero and LCDR Goldstein contacted all 24 PAs who were not qualified during the December 31, 2012, quarterly readiness check. Twenty-two of the 24 PAs have responded back to us by email or phone acknowledging they were aware of the not qualified status. For many of the PAs, the items missing have been updated, and they now should be basic ready with the next quarterly check scheduled for March 31, 2013. Many of the PAs we contacted expressed gratitude that the PAPAG was looking out for their well being in regards to readiness. As mentioned last month, for 8 PAs it was unclear if they were still active duty or separated from the Corps because their names were not listed on the master list of all HSOs. We have determined at least one PA is retired, one is separated from the Corps, and it is still unclear about the other 6 PAs. Emails have been sent to 3 of the 6 and contact information is unknown for the remaining 3; we will hopefully have an update at next month's meeting about these PAs. LCDR Derrick Wyatt, who was the readiness officer at DCCPR, has left for a new

position and it is unclear who will be the new point of contact for readiness at DCCPR. We will contact CDR Castillo, the HSPAC readiness chair, for assistance. Our goal is 95% basic readiness for PHS PAs.

**Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee-CDR Matthew Zagula/ LT James McLellan**

No new information.

**Welcoming Subcommittee-LCDR Candace Been/LCDR Paul Licata**

No updates.

**Ad Hoc COF Subcommittee/ CDR Pelkey**

No new information.

**Ad Hoc AMSUS Subcommittee/ CAPT Cole**

CDR Rivero mentioned that AMSUS is still planned for Nov 3-Nov 8, 2013, in Seattle, WA.

**Liaison Reports**

**JOAG/ LCDR Pieter Vanhorn**

No updates.

**BOP/ CDR Anthony Bryant**

CDR Bryant would like to share this information from BOP update.

**\*\*\* See below a Copy of BOP Liaison report from CDR Durgin attached. \*\*\***

**Dr. C. Everett Koop, 13<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of the U.S.**

As the circle of life claimed Dr. Koop last month, it is with fondness that many of us will remember him. I had the great fortune to be his aide de camp at the Philadelphia COA/COF Symposium and listened to him for over an hour during dinner talking about his wife and how he grew up. Yesterday, VADM Benjamin advised that there will be a memorial for Dr. Koop on Saturday, April 6, at 2:00 PM, at the Tenth Presbyterian Church, 1701 Delancey St., Philadelphia, PA. The family would like as many USPHS officers attending from the local area or within driving distance. Additional details will be coming out from the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) this week. JOAG is looking for Side boys; contact CDR Cox, [Rhondalyn.Cox@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Rhondalyn.Cox@fda.hhs.gov) if you are interested.

**Coveralls & ODU**

The Spring/Summer 2013 Uniform Memo will be forthcoming. We are waiting for the Office of the Surgeon General to provide the date for the changeover. In the meantime, some of you are concerned of the phase out of the coveralls and the lack of inventory of the Operational Duty Uniform (ODU) by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). RADM Kendig has taken that into consideration and will be extending the phase out of the coveralls until the Fall/Winter 2013 Uniform effective date (roughly mid-September), so you have roughly six months to get your ODUs. Additionally, OSG is maintaining contact with USCG and will consider extending the wear out date (1 August) for the Battle Dress Uniform.

Authorized ODU and accessory information can be found at:

[http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/PPM12\\_002.pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/PPM12_002.pdf).

Details on ODU ordering are at: [http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/POM12\\_009.pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/POM12_009.pdf).

## **COF USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium & Sequestration**

On 7 March, the BOP Assistant Director for Administration provided additional guidance on Sequestration:

- Attendance at all conferences must be deferred until the sequestration ends.
- Previously approved attendance at non-DOJ sponsored conferences must be canceled.

At this week's Combined Surgeon General's Policy Advisory Council and Chief Professional Officers/PAC Chairs Meeting the Surgeon General (SG) reiterated that all USPHS Officers are expected to work as usual and step in to fill in for others that are furloughed. When the time comes and if necessary the SG will be providing written guidance. This month's COA Frontline talked about furloughs and unfortunately near the end on page 22 (middle column, bottom paragraph) Jerry Farrell said "actual decision about furloughs and an official announcement has not yet been forthcoming (it had not appeared yet at this writing)", which is true, but is causing undue concerns. Please do not worry and continue to do your mission and follow instructions as they are provided. Be sympathetic and supportive of your civilian colleagues that may be furloughed.

As Sequestration is in force and if you want to attend the symposium you will have to take Annual Leave or Administrative Leave unless Sequestration is canceled. The Deputy Surgeon General (DSG) will be covering the symposium for the SG as she and the Assistant Secretary for Health are tentatively scheduled to be at the World Health Assembly. The DSG said he has paid out of pocket for his attendance and since it is doubtful funding will be approved it is a personal decision for all to make although he sees value added as well as it is a morale booster.

We still have a BOP breakout planned, Wednesday, 22 May, 10:45-12:15, and will alter based on attendance. I still plan to attend, at my own expense if needed, and hope to see some of you there.

We are also still planning a tour for junior officers interested in the BOP at FCI Phoenix on Friday, 24 May. If you know of someone interested in joining our team and in order to attend the tour have them contact me.

## **OSG Update**

At yesterday's Combined Surgeon General's Policy Advisory Council and Chief Professional Officers/PAC Chairs Meeting and Agency Liaisons Meeting the following information was provided:

- Future policies under consideration or issuance:
  - o Breastfeeding
  - o Expecting Parents
  - o Involuntary Separation
  - o Telework
- Memorandum of Understanding in progress:
  - o Veterans Affairs to provide behavioral health providers
  - o USDA to expand USPHS throughout USDA not just FSIS
  - o Army Medical Research and Material Command
  - o USCG to expand Direct Access
- Regular Corps Probationary Period
  - o March 23 is the 3 year anniversary for the Affordable Care Act and the end of probationary period for all officers that were on active duty and converted to Regular Corps.
- DCCPR
  - o Should be fully staffed by next month

- o Announcement will be coming out for 30 day details (no travel and no reimbursement) to work in DCCPR to reduce backlog and learn about DCCPR functions.
- o The new Separations Team will be coordinating retirements in the near future and there will be a training presentation published on-line in the near future. Watch for an e-mail from DCCPR in the next week or two on retirements.

#### Readiness

- o OFRD remains understaffed and they have not been able to provide readiness status to PACs and Liaisons.
- o All officers up for promotion must be readiness qualified and it is up to each officer to know their own status, which can be found in Direct Access.
- o March 31 is the next cutoff date for readiness status that will impact officers up for promotion and awards.
- o For any questions please use the on-line OFRD Readiness Assistance Form ([http://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ofrd/readiness\\_assistance\\_form.htm](http://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ofrd/readiness_assistance_form.htm)).
- o Tier 3 officers must respond to availability survey e-mail. The month before you are on-call you will get an e-mail to list your daily availability during your on-call month. Last month 10% of the officers did not respond. Make sure your e-mail addresses are correct in Direct Access.
- o Is a Web site (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>) provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center that offers sponsors, spouses, and their children (18 years and older) access to their personal information, health care eligibility, personnel records, and other information from a centralized location.
- o Soon you will only be able to access milConnect with a CAC reader, which is used to read your data from you USPHS ID (CAC). You must know your PIN, so if you forgot it you will need to go to a DEERS office (<https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/default.aspx>) to have it reset.
- o You can purchase a CAC reader at any Exchange or on-line. I purchased mine from a major on-line retailer, it was inexpensive, and works just fine on my personal computer at home. The CAC reader provided for my BOP computer works as well. You cannot use your BOP (PIV) ID card to access milConnect or DEERS.

#### CBS Pilot, "Surgeon General"

- o CBS is developing a drama pilot about a fictional Surgeon General (<http://www.cinemablend.com/television/awake-jason-isaacs-star-cbs-drama-surgeon-general-52579.html>) and if anyone is contacted for information for the show they should contact OSG immediately and refer all questions to OSG.

#### Who are you?

Although a great song by The Who if you a crime scene investigator, I am running into this question as I receive many e-mails from many of you. I notice that most do not have signature blocks in their e-mails or identify themselves as a USPHS Officer. As we are a proud Service, I hope that you discretely show that pride in your e-mail signature block. Should you decide not to have a signature block at least let me know you are a USPHS Officer as I receive e-mails from Wardens, human resource managers, regional staff, and a variety of BOP offices making it difficult to tell the difference between civilian staff and USPHS Officers. With 856 USPHS Officers in BOP, I am still working on knowing all of you and this will help.

## Resources

Daily I am asked questions about uniforms, pay, travel, policies, and many other topics. As “your” Liaison Officer and with 856 of you I need a little help and initiative by you. If it is a USPHS issue your first place to look is CCMIS (<http://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/>) as many hot topics are on the home page. If you do not find what you are looking for check out your Professional Advisory Committee page (<http://dcp.psc.gov/CCMIS/LinksofInterest.aspx#pacs>) or search on CCMIS by using the drop down menus for common topics. If you are looking for a policy, instruction, or manual you can run a search (<http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/CCISToc.aspx?ShowTOC=N>) for your topic and generally get what you are looking for.

If it is a BOP issue then Sallyport (<http://sallyport.bop.gov/>) is your entry point. Being new I am regularly going to Sallyport and searching topics with generally good results.

## Welcome

A warm welcome to the following officers:

CAPT Pedro Perez, Dentist, Seagoville, TX, 20 April 2013

LCDR Eduardo Cua, Psychologist, Honolulu, HI, 24 March 2013

Welcome aboard to our conversion to active duty new officers:

LT Julie Smoot, HSO, Lexington, KY, 5 April 2013

## Promotions

LT Jamie Cass, HSO, Pollock, LA, 1 April 2013

LT Siamak Sahand, HSO, Lompoc, CA, 1 April 2013

LT Micaela Smith, Nurse, Lexington, KY, 1 April 2013

## Farewell:

Transferring from BOP:

LCDR Randy Collins, Schuylkill, PA, to NOAA.

LCDR James McEntee, Memphis, TN, to NOAA

Good luck for the future for the following officers that are retiring and may they have fair winds and following seas: CAPT Ada Rivera, Guaynabo, PR, and 1 June 2013

CDRGeorge Durgin, CDR USPHS  
Commissioned Corps Liaison Officer  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
Health Services Division  
Staffing & Recruitment  
320 First Street, N.W., #432  
Washington, DC 20534  
(202) 353-4129  
Emergency Cell (202) 598-1591  
FAX (202) 353-4153  
[gdurgin@bop.gov](mailto:gdurgin@bop.gov)

## IHSC- LCDR Bishop

There is a new National PA for the IHSC, LT Darrin Smith. Most travel has been frozen and USPHS officers cannot mobilize.

**IHS- CAPT Gary Cole**

No new information.

**FDA/ LCDR Stephen Smith**

No new information.

**NOAA/ CDR Michelle Pelkey**

No updates.

**PHSAPA/ LCDR Pieter Van Horn**

No updates.

**DOD/ LCDR Billy Collins**

No updates.

**Summary and Status of Action Items:** none

**New Business:** none

**Meeting adjourned at 20:45 hours EST.**

**Next teleconference: April 25, 2013 at 20:00 hrs EST.**

**Call –in number: 1-218-548-3569 Pass code: 778730#**

**Minutes prepared by: CDR Janet Valdez, Secretary**

**Reviewed and approved by: LCDR Scott Klimp, Chair**