

SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP



SWPAG Meeting Minutes 30 January 2013

Attendees:

CAPT Marinna Banks-Shields CAPT Wanda Finch CAPT Jay Seligman CAPT Emily Williams CAPT Elise Young	LCDR Latoya Belgrave LCDR Sean Bennett LCDR Sherri Bisci LCDR Kendall Bolton LCDR Tricia Booker LCDR Jennifer Burke LCDR Tarsha Cavanaugh LCDR Andrea Cunningham LCDR Deanna De Vore LCDR Ramon Font LCDR Malaysia Gresham LCDR Dana Lee LCDR Gina Ligonde LCDR Bethanie Parrish LCDR Renee Pleasanton LCDR Tracy Powell LCDR Angela Richardson LCDR John Stanson LCDR Brooke Wallace LCDR Caroline (Coffey) Zedella
CDR Teresa Baptiste CDR Tina Bryant CDR Dwayne Buckingham CDR Janet Cochran CDR Jeremy Combs CDR Scott Conner CDR Stacey Evans CDR Sonsy Fermin CDR Marivic Fields CDR Tracey Jackson-Weaver CDR Kristin Kelly CDR Barbara Olaniyan CDR Tim Pappalardo CDR Gerarda Persad CDR Dale Thompson	LT Tyson Baize LT Stephanie Felder LT Israel Garcia LT Kimberley Jones LT Michelle Sheedy

Chair Report: CDR Kristin Kelly

Opening Remarks & Focus of 2013:

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to attend the first SWPAG meeting of 2013. CDR Kelly is excited and honored for the opportunity to serve the PAG as Chair for 2013. Please feel free to bring any questions or concerns directly to CDR Kelly as the year progresses.

The main focus of 2013 will be around USSW/AMSUS as USPHS will be the hosting agency. CDR Kelly will be soliciting support from the PAG members as planning moves forward for this conference. It is also important to CDR Kelly to continue to foster an environment of support and cohesion among the PAG. Please consider volunteering for a committee or special project, especially if you are outside the DC metro area.

Licensure Update:

RADM Delany has expressed interest in revisiting the discussion of the need for clinical and non-clinical social workers in USPHS. The previous Chair, CDR Todd Lennon, has compiled a list of licenses that allow from independent practice by State. CDRs Lennon and Kelly have reached out to RADM Delany to try to get a meeting to discuss the list compiled by CDR Lennon and look into next steps. CDR Kelly would also like to bring the Chair-elect, CDR Buckingham, and the Policy Chair, CDR Pappalardo, into discussions.

Update of Bylaws:

As a carryover from last year, a review of the bylaws will need to be done. CDR Kelly will be engaging CDR Pappalardo and his subcommittee to assist.

Category Day at COF:

The SWPAG is soliciting presentations for its breakout session during Category Day at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium. The Health Services Category Day is scheduled for Thursday, 23 May 2013, in Glendale, AZ. Officers who would like to present at the breakout session should send an abstract and three learning objectives to CDR Todd Lennon at tlennon@hrsa.gov no later than COB on Wednesday, 6 February 2013.

Dental Provider Coverage:

CDR Kelly wants to make sure everyone is aware the dental coverage for Active Duty PHS Officers will change effective 31 March 2013. DCCPR has selected another provider and the level of benefits will remain the same. Please talk with MAB if your current coverage has been denied for any reason.

SWPAG Chair Elect Report: CDR Dwayne Buckingham

March is Social Work Month. Social workers believe that helping people navigate difficult environments, while respecting their innate strengths, improves lives. With that in mind, NASW announced the 2013 National Professional Social Work Month theme as "Weaving Threads of

Resilience and Advocacy". As social workers we take pride in helping people use their personal strengths to create a vision and plan for what life can be.

In recognition of National Professional Social Work Month, which occurs each March, SWPAG leadership would like to invite all PHS social workers in the Metropolitan D.C. area to join them for a luncheon to discuss and celebrate the important contributions that PHS social workers make to society. We also encourage fellow social workers outside of the Metropolitan D.C. to meet for a luncheon as well.

CDR Buckingham is currently in the process of selecting a date and location for the luncheon. More information to follow in the near future. Once a date and location is identified, CDR Eppler will send out an email.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact CDR Buckingham at 301-319-4223 or dwayne.l.buckingham.mil@health.mil

Subcommittee Goals for 2013:

CDR Kelly emphasized the importance of the subcommittee Chairs and members working together as many of the subcommittee goals for 2013 will overlap. It is important for the success of the PAG not to operate in silos.

Awards: CDR Kelly for LCDR Christine Nemeti:

- Solicit nominations for Junior and Senior Social Worker of the Year award
- Present the awards at COF Symposium in May
- Keep the PAG abreast of other awards for which members may apply
- Assist PAG with sending out year end awards to all committee members

Career Development: CDR Marivic Fields:

- Promote seamless and abundant information, trainings and resources to assist social workers in their career progression and career enhancement
- Build a relationship and connection among our peers to build a stronger and highly professional social work community within USPHS
- Outreach and engage social workers who are isolated and provide widest dissemination possible of career development resources

Opportunity for additional members to join the career development subcommittee. LCDR Jennifer Burke and LCDR Renee Pleasanton volunteered to join the subcommittee.

Communications: CDR Kelly for CDR Julie Niven:

- Deliver a quality newsletter that appeals and is useful to the readership
- Keep the website up-to-date

In order to assist CDR Niven in her goals, please participate by contributing articles of interest to the newsletter. **The deadline to submit an article for this quarter's newsletter is 18 March 2013.** Thank you to all who have contributed in the past and please consider making another submission.

Membership: LCDR Kendall Bolton:

Thank you those who have volunteered and the membership subcommittee consists of CDR Combs, LCDR Stanley and LCDR Darnell Miller. There is still an opportunity to join this subcommittee and please contact LCDR Bolton if you wish to join – Kendall.n.bolton@us.army.mil. LCDR Bolton is still in the process of coordinating the first subcommittee meeting.

- Obtain a solid point of contact that can provide information on new social work officers each quarter to maintain and coordinate outreach efforts.
- Monitor the SWPAG website to ensure a current roster is available
- Determine the benefits of implementing quarterly regional SWPAG teleconferences to address social work officer's needs.
- Administer a follow-up online survey identifying issues impacting SW officers and the PAG.

Mentoring: LCDR Malaysia Gresham:

- Represent PAG with HS PAC and address any common issues that arise
- Provide guidance to PAG leadership
- Solicit feedback from PAG on what has worked/not worked in the past
- Provide more resource materials and provide articles to the newsletter
- Set up meet and greets
- Develop a Category Day event
- Attend OBC

Policy: CDR Tim Pappalardo:

Thank you to those who have volunteered for this subcommittee and if anyone else has an interest in joining the subcommittee, please contact CDR Kristin Kelly (Kristin.kelly@foh.hhs.gov) who will move the emails to CDR Pappalardo. CDR Pappalardo is working to coordinate the first meeting.

- Review past minutes to see what items may still be unfinished that need to be addressed
- Offer support to RADM Delany regarding any potential changes to licensure
- Research clinical vs. non-clinical billets and deployment roles to further offer assistance to RADM Delany and the PAG
- Advise SWPAG leadership and put forward initiatives

Readiness/Deployment: CDR Kelly for CDR Carlos Castillo:

DCCPR has yet to finalize the readiness checklist, but the hope is it will be completed by the end of this week.

Recruitment & Retention: LCDR Sonja Howard:

- Monitor and administer the Associate Recruiter program and HSAAP
- Hold and attend monthly meetings and provide briefings to SWPAG leadership
- Maintain the Welcome Packet

New Business:

Question: Any updates on special pay increases?

Answer: CDR Kelly is not aware of any updates. No one on the PAG was aware of any updates either. CDR Kelly will research.

Question: Status of MOU with VA?

Answer: CDR Kelly was not aware the MOU has been signed. Some members of the PAG felt it had been signed. CDR Kelly will research.

Announcement: CDR Buckingham was selected for an interview with NASW regarding the initiative he works on to treat wounded warriors. This is a prime opportunity to highlight the Corps.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting will be 27 March 2013 at 1400 Eastern Standard Time.