

Social Work Professional Advisory Group Meeting

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

Meeting Minutes

14 March 2012

Members Present: LCDR Todd Lennon (Chair); LCDR Kristin Kelly (Chair-elect), LCDR Scott Eppler (Secretary), LCDR Christine Nemeti (Awards); LCDR Tracy Pace (Career Development); LCDR Julie Niven (Communications); CAPT Kerima Gibbons (Mentoring); CDR Ivy Simmons (Policy), LCDR Scott Conner (Recruitment and Retention), CDR Jean Plaschke, LCDR Tracey Powell, LCDR Jonathan Lewis, LCDR Kathleen Watkins, LCDR Amy Cason, LT Patrick Neubert, CDR Dale Thompson, LCDR Jennifer Bornemann, CAPT Elise Young, LCDR Deanna De Vore, CDR Tina Bryant, LCDR Kymberly Spady-Grove, CAPT David Morrisette, CAPT Gail Hamilton, CDR Tracey Jackson-Weaver, LT Aimee Williams, CDR Wanda Finch, LCDR Kari Harris, LCDR Jenny McCorkle, CAPT Jay Seligman, LT Lorener Brayboy, LCDR Jeremy Combs, LCDR Dan Stanley, LCDR Jamie Seligman, LT Marriah Lombardo, LCDR Dexter Pritchett, LCDR Todd Cesar, CAPT Lou Ann Rector, CDR Dwayne Buckingham, LCDR William Bolduc, CAPT Stella Jones, LCDR Todd Johnson, CDR Chris Cline, Tigisty Reda, LCDR Teresa Baptiste, CDR Barbara Olaniyan, LCDR Kendall Bolton, LCDR Sherri Bisci, CDR Gerarda Persad, LCDR Angela Richardson, LCDR Anita Glenn-Reller, LT Mayanti Nicholson, LT Indira Harris, CDR Wanda Finch, CAPT Laura Aponte, LT Justin Peglowski, CAPT Marinna Banks-Shields, LCDR Renee Pleasanton, LCDR Sarah Garrett, LCDR Gina Legonde, LT Valarie Gardner

I. CHAIR UPDATES – LCDR Todd Lennon

- a. Moment of Silence in memory of CAPT Deborah Dozier-Hall who recently passed away
- b. CAPT Dan Kavanaugh – Announced retirement
- c. White Paper – Purpose: To provide discussion to senior PHS leadership on what PHS social work has been, is presently, and will be in the future to help inform them in their decision making as senior leaders. Plan to have paper complete by mid-year 2012.
- d. Licensure-LCDR Lennon noted there were approximately 30 PHS social workers who do not hold clinical licensure. It was noted waivers are expected to be granted for those social workers to remain in PHS. LCDR Powell noted OFRD has a list of the names of those social workers falling into this category and will ensure those social workers are shown as “ready” for deployment.
- e. USSWC (Uniformed Services Social Work Conference) and UPSHS Symposium/COA Conference – LCDR Lennon noted that Category Day is scheduled for 21 June 2012. All were encouraged to try to attend the conference and to attend the SWPAG breakout session and panel discussions. LCDR Lennon recommended attendance at these conferences for CEUs, fellowship and networking. COA conference will be held in the Washington D.C. area on 19-21 Jun 2012. The USSW Conference will be held in Phoenix, AZ 11-16 Nov 2012. Please check the AMSUS.ORG website for more information. The USSW conference for 2013 will be held in Seattle, WA. Contact LCDR Kristin Kelly if you wish to help with planning.

- f. SWPAG e-mail communications frequency – LCDR Lennon noted the SWPAG had received some concern about the frequency or volume of e-mails coming out. He noted he would work to help to review these and if there was a need for change he would adjust as needed.
 - g. LCDR Lennon expressed appreciation to RADM Pete Delaney (SAMHSA) for his willingness to serve as SWPAG Senior Advisor.
- II. Social Work Month Activities – LCDR Kristin Kelly - LCDR Lennon noted March is Social Work Month and encouraged celebrations with fellow PHS social workers in respective areas. LCDR Kristin Kelly noted there would be a celebration of social work month in the Washington D.C. area on 28 Mar 12 from 1130 to 1300 at Oro Pormadero and requested RSVPs (Kristin.kelly@foh.hhs.gov) by 26 Mar 12.
- III. Subcommittee Activities
- a. Policy – CDR Simmons noted the Policy Subcommittee continue regular meetings and has completed review of bylaws of other PAGs and recommendations on changes to SWPAG bylaws will be submitted for standardization and movement toward a voting membership.
 - b. Awards – LCDR Nemeti noted there was a good response to request for nominations for Junior and Senior Social Worker of the Year Awards. The awards will be presented at the COA conference. LCDR Nemeti announced and congratulated the following winners:

LCDR Jonathan White – Junior Social Worker of the Year 2012

CDR Dwayne Buckingham – Senior Social Worker of the Year 2012
 - c. Career Development – CDR Pace noted there was no new information to present
 - d. Communications – LCDR Niven expressed thanks for the great newsletter submissions and announced a deadline of 11 May 2012 for submissions for the next newsletter.
 - e. Membership – LCDR Lennon noted there is no new information and that this subcommittee needs a new chair. Volunteers may contact LCDR Lennon (TLennon@hrsa.gov).
 - f. Mentoring - CAPT Gibbons noted there will be trainings offered on Officer mid-career and senior officer expectations April 10, 2012; April 24, 2012; May 8, 2012; May 22, 2012 from 1300-1400 and also at COA conference on category day. It was noted that training will take place on each day from 1300 to 1400 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). E-mails will be sent out with contact/RSVP information. Calls are limited to 30 participants so RSVPs are requested. It was also noted that O-6 and O-5 mentors are still needed. O-4 mentors are acceptable if they have had senior (O-6 and O-5) mentoring. More information may be found by visiting the HSO webpage and selecting the mentoring page (<http://usphs-hso.org/?q=pac/sub/mentoring>). The mentoring chair for HS PAC is CDR Iris Valentin-Bon.

- g. Readiness – LCDR Castillo noted there have been some concerns regarding the billet transformation process as may be displayed on a PHS officer’s PIR on CCMIS. You may direct questions to LCDR Castillo or contact your discipline liaison. It was noted the committee is working on a readiness checklist and officers were encouraged to continue to check CCMIS for the latest updates. It was requested that any deployment opportunities of which officers may be aware be submitted to LCDR Castillo (carlos.castillo@foh.hhs.gov).
 - h. Recruitment and Retention – LCDR Conner noted there were no updates.
- IV. Practice Brief – LCDR Scott Eppler, Evans Army Community Hospital, Ft. Carson, CO – LCDR Eppler provided a description of the nature of working as a PHS officer within the community behavioral health or “embedded” behavioral health team model noting it is multi-disciplinary in nature while being within a particular Army combat Brigade’s area of operations (aka “footprint”) on a given post. It was noted this model has significantly increased percentages of Soldiers ready to deploy for combat while decreasing serious incidents such as behavior issues to include inpatient admissions for suicidal thoughts. Questions regarding PHS social work within the Army DoD/TMA setting may be directed to LCDR Eppler at Scottie.eppler@amedd.army.mil.
- V. Next SWPAG General Meeting set for 27 June 2012 at 1500-1600 EDT
- VI. Meeting adjourned.