



Scientist

Professional Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, January 5, 2010
1100 – 1300 (Eastern Time)

Toll Free Numbers: USA 1-877-691-9937
 Participant Passcode: 4549026

Participants

SciPAC Executive Sub-committee 2009/10 Voting Members

Rank	Name	Role	X, if present
CAPT	Sharon Williams-Fleetwood	CPO	X
CDR	Diana Bensyl	Chair	X
LCDR	Matthew Newland	Vice Chair/ Rules and Membership	X
CDR	Timothy Nelle	Secretary	X
LCDR	Sally Hu	Awards/COF Liaison	X
CDR	Rachel Avchen	Ex-Officio	X
CAPT	Martin Sanders	Awards Co-Chair	
CDR	Karon Abe	Career Development	
LCDR	Tegan Boehmer	Category Day	X
CDR	Daphne Moffett	Historian	X
CDR	Boris Aponte	Mentoring	
LCDR	Wei Guo	Policy Review	X
CAPT	Michael Murry	Recruitment, Retention & Readiness/PSYPAG Liaison	X
LCDR	Paul Seo	Recruitment, Retention and Readiness Co-Chair	X
LCDR	Yi Zhang	Science	
CAPT	Christine Benally	Visibility	excused
LCDR	James Kenney	Visibility Co-Chair	excused
CDR	Danice Eaton	Website	X
LCDR	Judy Facey	Billets and Direct Access Liaison	X
CDR	Sara Newman	COA Liaison	
LCDR	Maleeka Glover		
Dr.	Monique Mansoura	Civilian Service Liaison	

Non-voting Members

Non-voting Scientist Participants

Participant	Agency
CAPT Kate Brett	CDC
CAPT Susanne Caviness	FDA
CAPT Jon Daugherty	FDA
CAPT Omar Hottenstein	OASD
CAPT Bryan Jones	OPHS
CAPT Kevin McGuinness	HRSA
CAPT Michael McLaughlin	FDA
CAPT Doug Thoroughman	CDC
CDR Laura Draski	FDA
CDR Mark Methner	CDC
LCDR Aditya Bhagwat	DOD
LCDR Marco Bennett	FDA
LCDR Chekeshia S. Clingman	FDA
LCDR Bryan Davidson	DOD
LCDR Dianna Densmore	CDC
LCDR Anne Dobmeyer	DOD
LCDR David Hess	DOD
LCDR Keisher Highsmith	HRSA
LCDR Victoria Ingram	DOD
LCDR Matthew Murphy	CDC
LCDR Ryan Novak	CDC
LCDR Ingrid Pauli	DOD
LCDR Michael Smith	FDA
LCDR Jackie Sram	FDA
LCDR John Stansberry	NIH
LCDR Scott Steffen	FDA
LCDR Robin Toblin	BOP
LCDR Fei Xu	FDA
LCDR Jeremy Wally	FDA
LT Jennifer Adjemian	BOP
LT Danielle Barradas	CDC
LT Jennifer Bodart	DOD
LT James Colborn	CDC
LT Jessica Cole	FDA
LT Theodore Garnett	FDA
LT Aimee Geissler	CDC
LT Jeffery Goodie	USUHS
LT Jaun Lacayo	FDA
LT Sara Lowther	CDC
LT Ashleigh May	CDC
LT Andrea McCollum	CDC
LT Cria Perrine	CDC
LT Anne Purfield	FDA
LT Loren Rodgers	FDA
LT Heather Silvio	DOD
LT Kanta Sircar	CDC

LT Charlene Sydnor	NIH
LT Matthew Steele	FDA

1) **Call to Order and Welcome**, CDR Diana Bensyl
 EMAIL: timothy.nelle@fda.hhs.gov for roll call

2) **Report from the CPO**, CAPT Williams-Fleetwood

- Dr. Regina Benjamin's swearing in ceremony is Monday, January 11th, 1:30-3:30 pm at the National Museum of the American Indian.
- There will be a Flag Officer/CPO Retreat on Tuesday, January 12th. Pertinent updates will be shared on the next PAC call.
- New contracts for Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP) are no longer being accepted. All current contracts will end in December 2010.
- Work continues on the 2011 Promotion Benchmarks. The CPO input was completed in December. Final changes now reside with the PAC Chairs.

3) **Report from the Chair**, CDR Diana Bensyl

- Reminder: We are expecting the benchmarks for the Corps to change slightly and are awaiting finalized materials so that we may change our category's benchmarks accordingly. These revisions will be in place for the 2011 promotion cycle.
- CDR Bensyl has passed our concerns about Direct Access to Corps leadership. We hope improvements will be made to increase the usability of the system.
- Billets Transformation is ongoing.
- GI Bill transferability will be discussed on the next call.

4) **Report from Vice Chair**, LCDR Matthew Newland

- Nothing new to report

5) **Subcommittee reports**

a) **Awards**, CDR Sally Hu, Co-chair: CAPT Martin Sanders

- Congratulations to CDR Dennis Ross Spears; he has been selected as the 2009 Scientist Responder of the Year. In turn, CDR Spears has been nominated for the 2009 Commissioned Corps Responder of the Year (which is for all categories). OFRD will announce the winner of this award at the 2010 USPHS Training Symposium in San Diego, CA.
- A draft protocol for standardizing our category's award selection process was submitted to SciPAC Rules and Membership Subcommittee. Once approved, it will be included in the SciPAC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- Calls for nominations for Junior and Senior 2009 Scientist of the Year Award will be announced very soon. Please consider submitting a nomination if you know outstanding scientist officers (including yourself) who deserve these awards.

b) **Career Development**, CDR Karon Abe

- Reminder: Please send job vacancy announcements to CDR Karon Abe (kga4@cdc.gov) to have them posted to the Scientist list-serve.

c) **Category Day**, LCDR Tegan Boehmer, Co-Chair: LCDR Matt Murphy

- Our final Category Day agenda has been turned in and approved by the conference planning committee.
 - Thank you to all the speakers for completing the online form for continuing education credits.

- Our draft budget for Category Day speakers has been submitted.
- The committee will begin planning the SciPAC Social Event.
- There was some discussion about whether APA continuing education credits will be available for psychologists at the conference. LCDR Boehmer will follow-up on this issue with the conference planning committee and report back next month.
- Please plan to attend the 2010 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium; May 24-27, 2010, San Diego, CA
 - Hotel reservations can be made now at the conference website (<http://www.phscofevents.org/>) under the “Locations” tab. Note: you will be responsible for a one night deposit (\$147), which is refundable if reservation is cancelled within 72 hours.
 - Registration will be available in early 2010, but officers must postpone registration until the HHS memo is approved.

d) **Mentoring**, CDR Boris Aponte; Co-Chair: CDR Mark Methner

- Please contact the Mentoring Subcommittee if you are interested in volunteering to be a mentor or would like to be assigned to a mentor.

e) **Policy Review**, LCDR Wei Guo, Co-Chair: LCDR Ryan Novak

- No new policies were reviewed last month.

f) **Recruitment, Retention, and Readiness**, CAPT Michael Murry, Co-Chair LCDR Paul Seo

- As of the beginning of Jan 2010, our category had a total of 297 officers on board
 - 45 Officers are listed as exempt
 - 16 Officers listed as “not qualified” as follows: O6=9, O5=1, O4=5, O3=1
 - Not including exempt officers our, category is 93.3% qualified!
- We're working on refining our retention focus. We are examining what we might do more specifically regarding retention.

g) **Rules and Membership**, LCDR Matthew Newland

- Currently reviewing revised SOPs for the processing of Awards.
- New Calls to Duty:
 - LCDR Coard
 - LCDR Pauli
 - LT Green
 - LT Watson-Harris
 - LT Lloyd
 - LT Miller
 - LT Perez
 - LT Phillips
 - LT Steele

h) **Science**, LCDR Yi Zhang

- No report

i) **Visibility**, CAPT Christine Benally, Co-Chair LCDR James Kenney

- The Visibility subcommittee is currently preparing the next edition which is schedule to be issued January 2010. If you would like to contribute, please contact CAPT Benally (Christine.Benally@hhs.gov)

- The next edition of SciPAC Newsletter is almost ready for press; CAPT Benally is waiting for a few more promised articles prior to final formatting - look for it soon.
- CAPT Benally organized a team of Scientist Officers to participate COA Holiday Party Bowling Tournament on 17 December. Six scientists showed up - including RADM Mishoe. The Scientist Team almost won the category event and our team picture can be viewed at the following link: <http://albums.phanfare.com/6999475/4497581#imageID=89276938>. We had a great time and there is talk of making bowling a regular scientist get-together event for fun and so we can practice for next year; interested officers in the DC area should email CAPT Benally or LCDR Kenney.
- Volunteers are still needed to work at the 17th Annual NBC-4 Health & Fitness Expo to distribute USPHS related materials, provide information about the Corps, and provide specific information about their work; such as information on substance abuse, mental health, nutrition, or other areas in which they have expertise that would be of interest and benefit to the public. Location: Washington DC Convention Center, Halls B & C; 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW Washington DC 20001. Date: January 16-17, 2010.
 - Volunteers are still needed for the following time slots: Saturday from 1430 to 1700; and Sunday from 1230 to 1430 and 1430 to 1700.
 - Interested officers should email LCDR James Kenney james.kenney@fda.hhs.gov and LCDR Sally Hu at hus@mail.nih.gov. Please provide the following information: name, rank, category, agency, area of expertise, health service provided (e.g., blood pressure screening, etc), cell phone number, and the day and time slot you prefer to volunteer for. The volunteer uniform will be Service Dress Blues.
 - This free to the public event is expected to draw tens of thousands of attendees and is a great opportunity for us to inform the public about the Corps and increase the visibility of USPHS.
 - The SciPAC visibility subcommittee is collaborating again with the COA-DC branch for this endeavor, as the experiences from other categories increased our ability to promote the Corps' diverse mission and lead to a very successful event in January 2009.
 - All officers who help with the booth will receive a certification/appreciation letter for his/her participation.

j) **Website**, CDR Danice Eaton

- Please send any updates or corrections for the website to CDR Danice Eaton at dhe0@cdc.gov.

6) **Liaison Reports**

a) **Billet Transformation Review**, LCDR Judy Facey

- Nothing new to report

b) **COF Liaison**, LCDR Sally Hu

- Our current balance as of December 31, 2009 is \$2,384.28. We have an inventory of 166 coins and 62 T-shirts. We processed four orders by mail. After the approval from SciPAC executive committee, we donated a SciPAC coin to the officer who asked the first question for our newsletter.

c) **COA**, CDR Sara Newman

- An update on GI Bill Transferability will be discussed during the next SciPAC call.

d) **JOAG**, LCDR Robin Toblin

- JOAG Journeyman Series: CDR Ross Spears, PHS Awards Coordinator for CDC, will be speaking on Friday, 8 JAN at 1300 EST. The topic is Commissioned Corps Awards Overview.

Call in:1-219-509-8111 (note that this is a toll line and long distance charges apply); Participant Access Code: 864814

- JOAG is soliciting ideas for articles to be featured in the winter 2009 issue of The JOAG Journal. Initial ideas for articles are due by Wednesday, January 6th, 2009 with final drafts will be due by Wednesday, January 27th, 2009. Please submit ideas for articles to LTJG Tracy Tilghman at tracy.tilghman@foh.hhs.gov and LT Christina Coriz at corize@niddk.nih.gov.
- JOAG Meet and Greets: if officers would like to set up a lunch time meet and greet with other junior officers in their region, please contact LCDR Robin Toblin at rtoblin@bop.gov.
- JOAG is soliciting for three awards — the nomination process was sent via the SciPAC listserve.

e) **PSYPAG**, CAPT Michael Murry

- PsyPAG has worked to greet and offer mentoring to each new psychologist assigned to a DOD position. Psychologists who are senior Scientist officers are encouraged to volunteer to be mentors through the Mentoring Subcommittee to ensure we have enough mentors to assist these new officers.
- The Army has announced the selection of the first PHS post-doctoral fellowship recipient, LT Seth Green. He has begun his residency at Brooke Army Medical Center. It is important to note the Army's significant contribution to the Commission Corps by funding this training.

7) **Closing Remarks**, CDR Diana Bensyl

NOTE: Next meeting: February 2, 2010; 1100-1300