

**Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group
U.S. Public Health Service
Thursday, January 26, 2012
2000 – 2155 EST**

Attendance	Rank	Last Name	First Name	OPDIV
Absent	CDR	Taylor	Shawn	NOAA
Present	CAPT	Walsh	Christopher	DOD
Absent	LT	Amaya	Lisa	IHS
Excused	CAPT	Cole	Gary	IHS
Excused	LCDR	Fideli	Ulgen	AMEDD
Present	LCDR	Bryant	Scott	BOP
Present	CAPT	Carter	George	NIH
Present	LCDR	Futch	Mike	IHSC
Present	LCDR	Garza	Suzie	IHSC
Excused	LCDR	Grove	Randy	DOD
Present	LCDR	Klimp	Scott	DOD
Absent	CDR	Pelkey	Michelle	NOAA
Present	LCDR	Sluss	Rodney	DHS
Present	LCDR	Smith	Stephen	FDA
Absent	LT	Witter	Lee	BOP
Present	LCDR	Van Horn	Pieter	BOP
Absent	LCDR	Rivero	Jose	BOP
Present	LCDR	Vladez	Janet	NIH
Guests:				
LT Paul Licata				
LCDR Branch				
LCDR Candace Been				
LCDR Brian Robb				

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 2005 by CAPT Walsh

Approval of Minutes

Sept 2011 minutes, approved through email distribution

Chair Report /CDR Christopher Walsh
PAPAG- JAN 2012 Chair Report

Welcome all to our first meeting for 2012.

The current backlog of applications into PHS that will be processed include 196 HSOs, 28 of which are PAs. At this time, the HS-PAC has no guidance regarding recruitment efforts, given that PHS is not accepting applications from any HSO category applicants. There are supposed to soon be some discussions soon about how recruitment is to be handled during this period. PHS has adopted the Coast Guard BDU to replace our current woodland BDUs. There is still some discussion at the Flag level about receiving additional pay as a PA comparable to the Armed Forces PAs. I'll believe it when I see it. The Psychologists seem to be pushing that issue the hardest, as Armed Forces psychologists also receive additional pay. PCS orders now must be justified by using 5 benchmarks. Need to elect PAPAG President-elect to begin serving in 2013. COA meeting in June, 2012, and potential PAPAG rendezvous. Our next PAPAG teleconference is scheduled for Thursday, March 29th at 2000 EST at (thanks to Rodney) 1-218-548-3569 Your Conference Passcode: 778730# we'll send out a reminder before then.

Subcommittee Reports

Awards Subcommittee /CDR George Carter:

Nominations for the PHS PA of the year award will be accepted until April 27th, 2012. All are encouraged to apply. Self-nomination or nominating someone else is encouraged. As per LCDR Valdez COA has over \$400.00 for funding to purchase plaque for award recipient. PAPAG coin that will be on recipient's plaque can be found on website.

Communications Subcommittee/ LT Rodney Sluss:

Update to the Roster submitted and complete. The Application Form for membership was updated. The PAPAG announcement on homepage was submitted for update and this was complete. HSPAC wanted their nomination information sent, and this was sent out. PAPAG Awards nomination was sent to HSO and JOAG for them to disseminate. PHSAPA Blast call sent. PAPAG Nominations Blast call sent.

Membership Subcommittee/ LT Amaya, LT Futch

New members were welcomed and will be assigned to a committee. We completed a very successful membership drive for 2012. If a member has not already emailed the secretary then please do so and give the needed contact information.

Policy and Procedure Subcommittee/ LCDR Russell, CDR Christopher Walsh: Nothing new to report for the Policy and Procedure subcommittee.

Professional Development Subcommittee/ LCDR Mark Bryant

Nothing to report

Readiness Subcommittee/ LCDR Scott Klimp,
NSR

Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee /LCDR Fideli
NSR

Welcoming Subcommittee/ LT Lee Witter, LCDR Randy Grove

Nothing to report

Ad Hoc COF Subcommittee/ LT Amaya, LCDR Fideli

Nothing to report

Ad Hoc AMSUS Subcommittee /CAPT Cole

AMSUS Update. Last year's meeting was held in San Antonio, TX. It was attended by RADM Elizondo and Denni Woodmanssee, Chief PA for the VA. The breakout session for PA's was held at a half-day in AM this year, despite original ambitions for a full-day. CAPT Cole and CDR Nora Perez (USN) organized the breakout this year. CDR Josef Rivero gave an excellent talk on Oncology in Corrections. He is your contact for all things oncology. Air Force was holding their annual Fiesta PA meeting crosstown and this competed with AMSUS this year. This hopefully will be a non-issue next year as they are the lead for 2012.

AMSUS 2012 will be held in Phoenix in November. The first General planning meeting kicked off last week and PHS Plenary planning yesterday. Under consideration, will be an IHS breakout session. We will be looking for speakers for PHS, PA's, and possibly IHS. Association of Military Surgeons Uniformed Service is in large respect a misnomer. This is an all-service conference that includes Officers and Enlisted, all medical disciplines, and international presence. That being said, we might see and almost expect cutbacks in Conference Budgets this year. CME seems to be the first thing to go. CAPT Cole will be assisted by CDR Rivero this year and will be hosting an open-invite Barbecue at his home.

Liaison Reports

BOP /LCDR Mark Bryant

Nothing to report

IHSC /LCDR Suzie Garza

IHSC is well staffed over all and mid-level wise. There was a re-alignment of positions recently in an attempt to bring in more federal workers. There is no cap on how many USPHS officers come on board.

DOD/ LCDR Ulgen Fideli

Nothing to Report

FDA/ LCDR Stephen Smith

Nothing to report

IHS /CAPT Cole

CAPT Placide and CAPT Cole have been in attendance at the NC4 Leadership this week and are traveling home tonight to their respective duty stations. CAPT Cole has been promoted to the IHS Clinical Consultant and is actively seeking a Deputy.

The big news for IHS PA's was announced by the IHS Director, Dr Yvette Roubideaux yesterday. IHS Civil Service PA's are now eligible for Market Pay! This salary increase is geographically dependent but in effect gives our Civil Service PA's a 14-24,000 annual pay raise. While not directly affecting PHS PA's, some have switched to Civil Service after retirement and most work alongside these folks in IHS Clinics. This will greatly aid in our recruiting and retention efforts and overall morale. CAPT

Placide presented this for the Clinical Consultants to Dr Roubideaux in 2010 with persistent followup effort. Many thanks to Dr Roubideaux for her persistence in kind and getting this signed off by HHS. With this news, our focus at IHS will be temporarily shifting to Civil Service and the Commissioned Corps PA applications on hold for the undetermined future.

I would like to recognize LCDR Tim McCreary for his ambitious and ongoing recruiting and retention efforts and LCDR John Cruz for his hard work on the PA Position Report. This report is an essential component for obtaining IHS, Tribal, and Urban service qualification for NSHC Scholarship/Loan and IHS Loan programs.

JOAG/LCDR Josef Rivero

Nothing to report

NOAA/CDR Michelle Pelkey:

There was an announcement for a position on a Hawaii ship, but one week later, we were notified that a Hawaii ship may be decommissioned so hiring has been put on hold.

PHSAPA/LCDR Stephen Smith

Nothing to report

Summary and Status of Action Items:

New Business:

Meeting was adjourned at 2155 hours EST.

Next teleconference: March 29 @ 2000 hrs EST.

Call-in number: 1-218-548-3569 and the passcode is 778730#

Minutes drafted by LCDR Fideli, Secretary

Finalized and checked by CAPT Christopher Walsh, Chair