

# SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP



## SWPAG Meeting Minutes 27 March 2013

### Attendees:

CAPT Marinna Banks-Shields CAPT Jay Seligman CAPT Elise Young	LCDR Sherri Bisci LCDR Tarsha Cavanaugh LCDR Valerie Gardner LCDR Anthony Johnson LCDR Gina Ligonde LCDR Christine Nemeti LCDR Renee Pleasanton LCDR Dexter Pritchett LCDR Kymberly Spady-Grove LCDR Aimee Williams LCDR Caroline (Coffey) Zedella
CDR Carlos Castillo CDR Scott Conner CDR Scott Eppler CDR Betty Hastings CDR Todd Johnson CDR Kristin Kelly CDR Jerry Mahlau-Heinert CDR Jenny McCorkle CDR Julie Niven CDR Jennifer Nussbaum CDR Barbara Olaniyan CDR Tim Pappalardo CDR Gerarda Persad CDR Cynthia Spells	LT Tyson Baize LT Holly Berilla LT Stephanie Felder LT Israel Garcia LT Kimberley Jones LT Patrick Neubert LT Marlene Nicholson

### Chair Report: CDR Kristin Kelly

#### COA:

The Commissioned Officer Association (COA) meeting will convene in May 2013 in Arizona. There will be a SWPAG breakout session which will occur in the afternoon and not in the morning as previously reported. Further details will be forthcoming.

CDR Barbara Olaniyan asked if there would be approved CEUs for social workers attending this conference. Approval of any CEUs is pending.

AMSUS:

The U.S. Public Health Service is the lead agency in coordinating the 2013 AMSUS which will be held in Seattle, WA in November 2013. Please note the deadline for abstract submissions has been extended. Guidelines will be forthcoming through the SWPAG Secretary, CDR Scott Eppler.

Memorandum of Agreement between USPHS and the Veterans Administration:

CDR Kelly attended the last liaison meeting. The MOU is not signed. The MOU is presently with the Veterans Administration for their consideration. It is expected the MOU will be mental health PHS officers only. It is uncertain when the MOU will be finalized.

CCMIS website:

Please see this website as there will be posted a change to the telework policy. There will no longer be a 2 day limit, but it will be at supervisory discretion.

**SWPAG Chair Elect Report: CDR Dwayne Buckingham**

No report. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact CDR Buckingham at 301-319-4223 or [dwayne.l.buckingham.mil@health.mil](mailto: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: LCDR Christine Nemeti:**

- Congratulated the winners of the Junior and Senior Social Worker of the Year Awards. The winners are LCDR Tarsha Cavanaugh for Junior Social Worker of the Year and CDR Stacey Evans for Senior Social Worker of the Year.

**Career Development: CDR Marivic Fields:**

- No report

**Communications: CDR Julie Niven:**

- Please see the most recent newsletter which went out to SWPAG by e-mail and provide submissions for the next newsletter as the next deadline will be coming soon.
- Thank you to LCDR Tricia Booker for her assistance with the SWPAG website.

**Membership: CDR Scott Eppler for LCDR Kendall Bolton:**

Please contact LCDR Bolton if you wish to join or have questions related to the Membership subcommittee – [Kendall.n.bolton@us.army.mil](mailto:Kendall.n.bolton@us.army.mil)

- Membership subcommittee met on 6 Feb 2013
- LCDR Dan Stanley will continue to maintain and update the SWPAG membership roster monthly.
- LCDR Darnell-Miller lead tasking for Social Work month March by sending out an e-card to the SWPAG to say thank you for the efforts of our PHS social workers.
- Ongoing goals include:
- Obtain a solid point of contact who can provide information on new Social Work officers each quarter to maintain and coordinate outreach efforts.
- Continue efforts to coordinate social work roster with PHS SW website.
- Assess the need for a quarterly regional SWPAG teleconference to address officers needs by region and increase networking ability for Social Worker's in the field.
- Continue discussion regarding the 2012 request for establishing a protocol for selecting applicants for SWPAG voting membership, as guided by CDR Kelly.
- Next meeting is scheduled for 10 Apr 2013.

**Mentoring: CDR Jerry Mahlau-Heinert for LCDR Malaysia Gresham:**

- Reviewed and finalized members' roles.
- Committee is focusing on a tool to assist PHS social worker mentees and mentors in the process of identifying career paths to assist the mentoring process.
- Committee plans to engage a mentor/mentee meet and greet at the COA conference.

**Policy: CDR Tim Pappalardo:**

- Committee met February 2013
- Committee focused on update of SWPAG bylaws which were presented to the SWPAG leadership in 2011, but were not finalized. Review will be completed and the updated bylaws will be re-submitted to SWPAG leadership for approval and subsequent submission to the HSPAC final approval. Once final approval is granted the updated bylaws will be posted to the SWPAG website.

**Readiness/Deployment: CDR Carlos Castillo:**

- DCCPR info: Officers need to check their readiness status quarterly. The next readiness review will be done on 31 Mar 2013.
- Officers should submit any updated immunizations to the Medical Affairs Branch (MAB). A link should be sent out later today. The fax number for faxing in updates to immunizations is 301-427-3433.
- CDR Castillo noted he also chair for Readiness for the HSPAC and has submitted a request to CAPT Beck for a roster of those PHS officers who are presently in ready status and those who are not presently in ready status.
- CDR Castillo reminded officers they should log onto Direct Access and upload their Basic Life Support (BLS) re-certification and their Annual Physical Fitness Test (APFT) results. It was also noted the hardcopy of the APFT form should be mailed to MAB. Officers were reminded when uploading their information to Direct Access to click the "Save" button to insure proper

storage of their information on Direct Access. Officers may e-mail CDR Castillo for the link on the information discussed. CDR Castillo's e-mail is [carlos.castillo@foh.hhs.gov](mailto:carlos.castillo@foh.hhs.gov).

- CDR Castillo requested officers who may be aware of deployment opportunities to notify him.

**Recruitment & Retention: LCDR Sonjia Howard:**

- No report.

It was noted the ODU is still in short supply on some sizes and that suppliers are diligently working to provide quantities of those sizes in short or no supply at this time.

**New Business:**

Question: Can the SWPAG committee send a meeting invitation to SWPAG members via Outlook to enhance scheduling of the next SWPAG?

Answer: Yes, CDR Kelly and CDR Eppler will address this request.

Announcement: CDR Niven noted she and other social workers viewed a film of social workers who helped save Jews in occupied Poland during the Holocaust of WWII. It was recommended for your consideration as follows: "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler" was a Hallmark movie that documented the work of this remarkable social worker during WWII who helped save the lives of hundreds of children. It is available through Amazon and may also be available through Netflix. You can also look up information about Ms. Sendler on Wikipedia or view smaller clips about Ms. Sendler on Youtube if you are not able to watch the movie, but I would highly encourage the movie if you are able to watch it. Please contact CDR Niven at [Julie.a.niven@us.army.mil](mailto:Julie.a.niven@us.army.mil) if you have questions.

Announcement: CDR Kelly noted a number of PHS social workers in the Washington D.C. metro area met for luncheon and fellowship at a local restaurant in honor of social work month of March.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Next meeting will be 29 May 2013 at 1400 Eastern Standard Time.**