

Social Work Professional Advisory Group Meeting

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

Meeting Minutes

12 December 2012

Members Present:

CDR Teresa Baptiste	CDR Todd Johnson
LT Tyson Baise	LT Kimberley Jones
LT Holly Berilla	CDR Kristin Kelly (Chair-elect)
LCDR Sherri Bisci	LCDR Kara Lampasone
LCDR Jennifer Bornemann	CDR Todd Lennon (Chair)
LCDR Heather Boyce-James	LCDR Lucio MacArthur
LCDR William Bolduc	LT Marlene Nicholson
LT Trisha Booker	CDR Julie Niven
LT Lorener Brayboy	LT Justin Peglowski
CDR Carlos Castillo (Readiness)	LCDR Anthony Perry
LCDR Tarsha Cavanaugh	CDR Gerarda Persad
CDR Janet Cochrane	LCDR Renee Pleasanton
LCDR Caroline Coffee	CDR Januett Smith-George
CDR Scott Conner (Recruitment and Retention)	LCDR Dan Stanley
CDR Scott Eppler (Secretary)	LCDR John Stanson
LCDR Valarie Gardner	CDR Willie Tompkins
LCDR Indira Harris	LCDR Chad Wheeler

I. Chair Updates - CDR Todd Lennon

- a. Mea culpa – CDR Lennon stated he had high expectations and wanted to get the white paper completed, but did not get that completed. Chair expressed his regrets.
- b. 2012 accomplishments – Quarterly newsletter (CDR Niven) continued to provide useful information to the SWPAG. The latest version will come out tomorrow. Congratulations to RADM Pete Delany who was awarded a second star. CDR Lennon encouraged SWPAG members to publish deployment experiences for the March 2013 newsletter. Quarterly teleconferences occurred and were designed to be helpful by providing useful information to the members of the SWPAG. LCDR Sonja Howard provided assistance to help officers prepare for clinical exam. Many USPHS social workers prepared for the Uniformed Services Social Work conference which fell through, but we maintained USPHS social work visibility. USPHS will have the lead for the USSW conference for 2013. Celebration of social work month took place in March 2012. Attended OBC graduation to represent and visit new social work officers to help them get a head start. Distribution list is effective; thanks to CDR Eppler for ongoing development. LCDR Pace, career development, saluted for keeping SWPAG members aware of career development opportunities. CAPT Kerima Gibbons acknowledged for working on mentoring sub-committee. Social work is the largest discipline with discipline-specific mentoring matches. Successful social work PAG break out session occurred for category

day in June 2012 at the COA conference. Planning is underway already for next year. Let CDR Lennon know if you wish to present at the 2013 COA conference. It will be May 2013 in Glendale, AZ. At category day this year, LCDR Jonathan White and CDR Dwayne Buckingham were both awarded. Thanks to all subcommittees and ad hoc groups.

- c. Please let CDR Lennon know if you did not receive a letter of appreciation for subcommittee chairmanship and work.
- d. Contact LCDR Pace or CAPT Gibbon for help with promotions concerns.

II. Subcommittee Activities - Subcommittee Chairs

- a. Policy (CDR Ivy Simmons) – No new information
- b. Awards (LCDR Christine Nemeti) – No new information.
- c. Career Development (LCDR Tracy Pace) – No new information noted.
- d. Communications (CDR Julie Niven) – CDR Niven thanked CDR Lennon for support on newsletter development. Next one will go out tomorrow morning. Keep articles coming on anything of interest to the listserv. Doesn't have to be long, even photos and captions. Thanks to LCDR Booker for updating our website.
- e. Membership (LCDR Kendall Bolton) – No updates noted.
- f. Mentoring (CAPT Kerima Gibbons) – No new updates.
- g. Readiness (CDR Carlos Castillo) – No new updates.
- h. Recruitment and Retention (CDR Scott Conner) No new updates.

III. Chair-elect Updates - CDR Kristin Kelly. CDR Kelly congratulated CDR Buckingham (chair-elect) and CDR Eppler on their selections to SWPAG office (secretary). CDR Kelly encouraged SWPAG members to use open-door policy and pass along concerns. She plans to keep the same format for our SWPAG quarterly tel-cons. There will be a big focus on USSW / AMSUS for 2013 which should go forward next year. SWPAG members were encouraged to get involved in subcommittees. In January 2013 a request will come out for what sub-committees need members. Consider social worker of the year nominations around March 2013 which will be split between junior and senior social worker of the year.

IV. Recent deployment stories – LCDR Indira Harris spoke to a recent deployment to Japan for direct care and generated a lot of interest in USPHS officers being assigned to Japan to provide assistance. LCDR Harris works with deployment care supervisor at Ft. Bragg for pre-post deployment screenings.

LCDR Jennifer Bornemann – deployed to Sandy SAT 3 and was assigned to New Jersey. Was not there as a social worker, but used social work skills to address whatever needs there were. Provided lots of staff support, but did whatever was needed to include assessments/intakes. Arrived Thursday after the storm and had some hurry-up and wait moments. Orders Wed. afternoon, notified leadership and flew out on Thursday.

CDR Todd Johnson - spoke of providing employee assistance programs to other agencies. Through FEMA they provide stress counseling to disaster workers by providing an on-site stress counselor and presentations. They provided 6 stress counselors for the New York area and across different shifts for federal agencies and volunteers for AmeriCorps, etc. Provided grief response when a person died in a vehicle accident.

LCDR Maylasia Gresham deployed as mental health liaison to the IRTC, a new subject matter expertise role.

LCDR MacArthur Lucio – deployed with MHT 1 and initially did needs assessments at 6 locations across New York / New Jersey area. Triaged over 100 patients using PsychStart application. Deployed for close to 2 weeks. Briefings for missions occurred on-site and evolved on an on-going basis. Most team members arrived on a Monday then deployed to sites.

LT Holly Berilla – deployed as Tier 3. Praised mentor who counseled her to be prepared for disorganization and “hurry up and wait.” Spent time with RDF 3 and other Tier 3 personnel. Eventually they were considered attached to MHT 1. Pleased to be a part of the FMS set up and to serve as a deputy liaison. Demobilization – MHT 1 lead was good at asking questions about coping and demobilizing in a healthy way.

- V. Open mike – CDR Eppler expressed thanks to CDR Lennon at helping him to integrate and operate in 2012 as SWPAG Secretary.

CDR Lennon noted RADM Delany continues to be supportive of SWPAG and our efforts. CDR Lennon stated he will not be going away....once a social worker always a social worker. CDR Lennon encouraged us to take pride in our social work and USPHS identity in whatever role, whether clinical or policy, in which we find ourselves.

LCDR Pleasanton – Expressed thanks to CDR Lennon for his service and support as SWPAG chair

- VI. Next SWPAG General Meeting set for 30 January 2013 @ 1400 Eastern Time.

- VII. Meeting adjourned.