

MINUTES, 01-20-2011 DRAFT  
Meeting via Teleconference

## **CALL TO ORDER**

CDR Paul Jung called the meeting to order at 1305 ET.

## **ATTENDEES (MEMBERS) & EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

See attached Attendance Roster

## **PARTICIPANTS**

See attached Attendance Roster.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 18, 2010 meeting were approved.

CDR Paul Jung introduced himself as the new PPAC Chair for 2011. He expressed his thanks to CAPT Tejashri Purohit-Sheth and CDR Sheryl Lyss outgoing Chair and Vice Chair, and to RADM Claire Helminiak and to current vice chair and sub committee chairs during the leadership transition. Corps medical officers should not hesitate to contact CDR Jung for questions. CDR Jung announced Susan Lukacs as new Vice Chair and Barbara Stinson as Executive Secretary. Roll call will be taken for voting members only during business meetings; other officers should email Barbara Stinson to record their attendance.

## **CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT (RADM CLARE HELMINIAK)**

Lots of items to discuss today, particularly concerning the recruitment initiative. RADM Helminiak will be asking the recruitment subcommittee to meet next week about requests made from the Division or Commission Corps Recruitment (DCCR).

- 1) Lifting of "the Pause" is imminent, likely prior to next SG PAC / PAC Chair meeting.
- 2) Forming of new Accountability Workgroups - 270 officers volunteered to be on these workgroups. These groups will flesh out the concept of what new Corps management system looks like. 150 chosen. 12-15 officers for each work group will be notified shortly. Department staff will be ex-officio; officers will be able to access these staff.
- 3) Billet review process for medical category has been identified but not begun. Important to note that other categories have had difficulties with supervisors getting them in a billet; in turn officers could go under disciplinary action if standard billet not identified
- 4) Global service award – procedures for nominations being finalized. This award should be actualized and nominations accepted by OCCO by mid-spring
- 4) Rumors about President's Challenge going away are currently unfounded. At this time President's Challenge remains an acceptable option for recording physical fitness.
- 5) CPO Board working with OCCFM and OCCO to help categories process applicants once pause is lifted. Expecting a flood of applicants and need for an accelerated process; at same time OCCO and OCCFM are understaffed. Plan is for PACs to assist in this critical function.

Officers can volunteer for a short detail at OCCFM and OCCO offices or remotely from duty station. Will behoove us to support them.

- 6) CC Advisory Board is being revitalized. This Board deals with physician pay issues and brings issues to the Compensation Board. Need to set up a meeting next week with Compensation subcommittee to identify necessary changes for modifications of physician pays.
- 7) New leave policy re: paternity and adoption leave will be announced soon.
- 8) Uniform Advisory Committee report not available publicly yet but should be available shortly.
- 9) Flag promotion billets –Corps will not seat a promotion board until new policy is signed and implemented. Not sure how long delay will be.
- 10) Readiness is at 92% but with flu shot factor down to 60%, flu shot problem should be resolved shortly.
- 11) COERS – promotion boards start in 5 weeks. Appears that COERS from this year had a higher level of sensitivity. Across Corps 40% had at least one 7, 17% had all 7s, (however some agencies would not approve COERS with all 7s), 7% had all 6s, 39% of all officers had at least a 6 or 7; officers with higher rank, more years of service had higher scores, certain agencies had higher scores (CDC). OCCFM will give broader analysis at meeting on Feb 15 & 16 and then can give guidance to promotion boards.
- 12) Recruitment – PPAC Recruitment SC needs to meet, discuss, and reply to DCCR about issues below by next Friday.
  - DCCR – standardizing products that recruiters can use. Taking best from all categories and put into one package that officers can have available to recruit at any opportunity. Have the medical officer version. Need to submit changes by next FRIDAY. Need input from PPAC Recruitment SC.
  - Recruitment Branch has 9 medical conferences planned for recruitment activities. RB will be present but 3 will be PAC alone. We need to identify the key conferences (conferences w/ medical students/residents etc.). RB will not pay for officer travel but will ship material. We need to provide persons for 6 conferences; we need to independently staff 3 more conferences. Do not yet have list of conferences available.
  - Requested to identify a Speakers Bureau to represent the Corps professionally; list will be sent to all of our stakeholders, specific speakers for specific topics of their expertise. Will give presentation to whatever audience is requested by stakeholder.
  - Request a series of bios to be used to promote the category, nomination or self nomination, either on paper or video profile; for video, looking for those in unique or underserved area. But doesn't exclude others.
  - Requests a physician to serve as a university point of contact to a university that has a medical school, could also be a rep to a university where officer is an alumni even if no medical school. Available to provide speeches.
  - Request a fast response team of medical officers in next couple of weeks to look over web content material, need 5 people
  - In next couple weeks 5 people to respond to Facebook inquiries. Want Drs to answer questions from Drs.

George Ceremuga and Sylvie Cohen from PPAC Recruitment SC will set up meeting/call with Clare.

## **SG/PAC MEETING UPDATE & PAC CHAIR REPORT (CDR Paul Jung)**

- 1) PAC Chairs recommendations to CPO Board to update PAC model charter
  - PACs can increase voting member cap from 20 to 30
  - Voting member tenure can increase from 3 to maximum of 4 yrs
  - Change (or remove) requirement that sub committee must be chaired by voting members

Approval is likely but these are changes to model charter and will be optional for each PAC.

- 2) Category benchmarks for 2012 PAC Chairs are recommending:
  - removing assimilation benchmark portion of Precept 3 (career progression)
  - Remove precept #5 (readiness precept) which requires placing 5 points elsewhere
  - Add permanent O2 set of benchmarks for senior COSTEPS who came in as O1
  - Change the term benchmark to guidelines
- 3) OFRD continuing deployments to Haiti, 56 officers to be deployed to State of the Union, anticipates deployments in 2011 to Operation Continuing Promise in the Pacific and South America
- 4) Repeal of “don’t ask don’t tell” law. Awaiting decision from the Office General Counsel about how this repeal affects Corps benefits for same-sex partners. As of now, Corps is still governed by the Defense of Marriage Act, which requires the federal government to only acknowledge marriages between one man and one woman.

## **COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

### ***AMSUS (CDR Linda Ulrich & CDR Gerald Taylor)***

No update.

### ***Awards (LCDR Will Sherman)***

No update.

### ***Billets, Officer Profiles and Selection Systems (CDR Laura St. Martin)***

Discussed billets. adding a billet for regulatory review/applied public health for officers of FDA. No new news on billet collection process.

### ***Career Development and Training (CAPT Barbara Stinson and CDR Milton Irizarry)***

No update.

### ***Category Coin (LCDR Mark Morgan)***

No update.

### ***COF/COA Report (CDR Dana Thomas)*** Everything on track for category day

***Communications Committee (CAPT Susan Lukacs)***

Welcomed new Co-Chair Juliana Grant who is also the webmaster. Website updates in progress and forthcoming.

***Compensation Committee (LCDR Sylvie Cohen and LCDR Will Sherman)***

No updates.

***Membership (CDR Sheryl Lyss)***

Special welcome to newest voting members; and explanation of new rotation of term lengths to balance on-rotation and off-rotation officers.

***Mental Health (CAPT Marc Safran)***

Subcommittee focuses on issues related to mental health. Presents at category day. Generate ideas for what PHS can do in the area and share with leadership. Working on a brief report that will be a follow up of survey and submit for publication. Second step - would like to do a follow-up survey this year. Categories explore issue of accessing mental health for family members.

Working on factors that affect PHS physicians and the population that we serve. There are many factors that need to be addressed and input is welcome.

***Outreach Committee (LCDR Tai-Ho Chen for CDR Alyssa Finley )***

20 officers and plan a call in February, welcome other officers if interested in participating.

Will host a domestic deployment forum for officers in February, following up on issues raised at international deployment forum

***Promotion Guidelines Committee (CAPT David Goldman and CDR Laura St. Martin).***

Had 3 meetings since November - also represent on Corps-wide discussion about benchmark precepts 1-4, as a sub comm. have NOT recommended changes to precepts 2 and 3. Benchmarks need to be finalized but if have suggestions please email. Additional issues for the year, draft documents on guidance to officers and promotion boards will be revised, updated, and posted on website.

***Readiness Committee (CDR Paul Kruszka)***

New Readiness numbers pending.

If officer has a problem can contact OFRD or Readiness Committee.

Question about immunizations not being recorded and therefore not able to be compliant with readiness -- officers should not send multiple faxes, should try to find out issue and resolve; recommend contacting readiness committee or OFRD. OFRD has added staff to help with filing. Make sure officers check status on Direct Access.

***Recruitment (CAPT Nancy Sahakian and CAPT George Ceremuga)***

See above.

***Retention, Medical Officer Liaison to OCCO (CAPT Carlos Plasencia and CDR Osborne)***

completed survey, beta testing with full Retention Committee.

***Retirement (CAPT Joann Mican or CDR Lana Shiu)***

No update.

***Uniform (CDR Lana Shiu and LCDR Ken Norris)***

Ongoing issues – proposal that officers have a device to where on deployments, brought to PAC chair meeting and other PAC chairs were not on board. Will talk to uniform committee in OCCFM Uniform Advisory Board.

***JOAG Report (LCDR Rajal Mody)***

No update.

***COA Report (CAPT Steven Rosenthal)***

Latest victory on GI Bill, early plans for annual meeting, welcome to receive issues to take to COA.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

A discussion about retirement pay and 5 year add on after 20 years. As of now per HHS OGC, if joined after 1980 you get 5 year add on which accumulates only up to 30 years total. RADM Helminiak has elevated to RADM Lushniak. Discussion about support for not elevating this issue further. RADM will ask for follow-up at next CPO Board meeting.

## **CDR Paul Jung ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1435.

## **FUTURE PPAC MEETINGS**

***The next PPAC Forum on domestic deployments is Wednesday, February 16; next business meeting Tuesday March 15, 1:00 PM EST.***

***Please forward topics for future Forums to CAPT Susan Lukacs.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
CDR Paul Jung  
PPAC Chair