

MINUTES, 7-29-10 DRAFT
Meeting via Teleconference

CALL TO ORDER

CDR Tejashri Purohit-Sheth called the meeting to order at 1305

ATTENDEES (MEMBERS) & EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

See attached Attendance Roster

PARTICIPANTS

See attached Attendance Roster.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 20, 2010 meeting were approved.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT (RADM CLARE HELMINIAK)

- RADM Helminiak commented on the recent passing of CAPT Carol Freedman, a long time CDC medical officer who had contributed substantially to the Corps.
- RADM Helminiak will keep medical officers apprised of new CMS policies and medical review issues.
- OMB has expressed concern about “mission creep” in the Corps, both domestic and international, and has been given our mission statement so that they may work with the ASH to reinforce the assets of the Corps.
- A new funded proposition in the Affordable Healthcare Act is that of a public health sciences track. Funding of 120 million dollars annually will allow 850 officers to be commissioned into the USPHS every year. Multiple public health areas such as medical, dental, nursing, and pharmacy will be involved. There is a workgroup preparing an implementation plan, possibly in the form of loans or scholarships. The goal is to have PHS officers at multiple institutions to recruit students via this pipeline.
- The physician pilot program will end on 8-11-10. RADM Helminiak has requested renewal of this program through the Surgeon General. All inter service transfer officers will now be able to retain rank since all PHS officers are now regular corps and may come into the PHS with up to 15 years of service if they will serve for a suitable time period. The program will be restructured to have an age waiver for civilians ages 44-51 who would now come into PHS as senior 04s and compete for the 05 positions.

SG-PAC MEETING UPDATE & PAC CHAIR REPORT (CDR TEJASHRI PUROHIT-SHETH)

- CAPT Purohit-Sheth noted that PPAC voting members were recently given 3 policies with a short turnaround time-promotions, involuntary separation, and force management.
- Military decorations are now allowed to be awarded to PHS officers. Officers need to obtain the paperwork from the command issuing the decoration. The policy is retroactive to 8-2-90.
- RADM Williamson is retiring, CAPT Davis to replace him as acting Chief of Staff. Gladys Mells from the appointment board is also retiring.

COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

AMSUS (CDR Linda Ulrich & CDR Gerald Taylor)

- No report at this meeting

Awards (CDR Paul Jung)

- No report at this meeting.

Billets, Officer Profiles and Selection Systems (CDR Rochelle Nolte)

- The new billet collection process transformation activity will be launched for medical officers on November 1st. Volunteers are needed to help with this process.

Career Development and Training (CAPT Barbara Stinson and LCDR Milton Irizarry)

- The committee held a meeting on 5-17-10.
- The committee continues to develop/formalize the mentoring program. The intent is to match all new officers with a mentor at the time of commissioning. Any officer may request a mentor, for any reason. Annual thank you letters to mentors will be sent out shortly.
- The committee members will act as “Rapid Responders” providing assistance with the new COER to officers who have questions. The expected time line for the new COER is the same as in the past.

Category Coin (LCDR Mark Morgan)

- There is new information on how the coin may be ordered on line.

COF/COA Report (LCDR Sylvie Cohen)

- The 2010 COF/COA Category Day Chairperson for Medical will be CDR Dana Thomas
- Committee meetings will start in September.

- The theme of the conference is unknown at this time.

Communications Committee (CDR Susan Lukacs and LCDR Trent Janda)

- No report at this meeting.

Compensation Committee (LCDR Sylvie Cohen and LCDR Jeffrey Sherman)

- CDRs Cain and Miller separated from PHS, new co-chairs as noted above.
- No report at this meeting.

Membership (CDR Sheryl Lyss)

- The call for voting members is continuing. There will be at least 7 vacancies for 3 year term voting members. Instructions for nomination are on the PPAC and CCMIS websites. Basically, a nomination statement, supervisory concurrence, and a CV are needed. Applications are also solicited from officers wishing to become affiliate members and to be involved with meetings and committees.
- Nominations should be sent to CDR Lori Newman len4@cdc.gov or to CAPT Sheryl Lyss sml8@cdc.gov, by August 15th.

Mental Health (CAPT Marc Safran)

- CAPT Safran thanked all who participated in the morale and mental health survey. Results are currently being collated.

OFRD (CDR Reed)

- OFRD is halfway through missions and is currently rostering the Continuing Promise for a 30 day mission.

Outreach Committee (CAPT Joannie Shen)

- CAPT Shen reported that on October 28th at 10:00am EDT the committee will host a special PPAC forum on PHS officers stationed overseas. The forum will consist of an informal panel discussion describing officer duties, how the officer got to the duty station, and the best and worst aspects of being stationed overseas.

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

- Nothing to report at this meeting.

Readiness Committee (CDR Kevin Nolan & LCDR Paul Kruszka)

- LCDR Kruszka reported readiness at 58%. This will be reassessed by MAB as officers are continuing to fax in results to meet updated requirements such as proof of immunizations.

Recruitment (CDR George Ceremuga & CAPT Nancy Sahakian)

- The Medical Applicant Placement Program is seeking an administrator for a 3 year term. This program involves placement of applicants into positions. At agencies, working with applicants from the time of application through to placement. Information for applicants, such as pay, will be put on line. It is anticipated that 80-90 MDs will need to be placed. If interested, please send a CV and letter of intent to Nancy at Nancy.Sahakian@foh.hhs.gov.
- This work is regarded as a collateral duty.
- CDR Thomas Pryor may be able to speak to the PPAC in September or October about the associate recruiter program.

Retention (CDR Marc Osborn)

- Focus groups are finished and data is being evaluated.
- The group plans to survey the medical category about retention issues.

Retention, Medical Officer Liason to OCCO (CAPT Carlos Plasencia)

- No report at this meeting.

Retirement (CDR Lana Shiu)

- CDR Shiu presented information from Mr. Tom Berry about the 5 year retirement credit given to officers who were on duty prior to 1980 and discussed retirement pays, (87.5% of base pay), if you came on duty after that time. Essentially, officer retirement pays depend upon which program was in effect when they entered on to duty.

Uniform (CDR Lana Shiu and LCDR Ken Norris)

- The committee is still awaiting results about the consideration for category insignias.

JOAG Report (LCDR Rajal Mody)

- No report at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

CDR Tejashri Purohit-Sheth adjourned the meeting at 1450.

FUTURE PPAC MEETINGS

The next PPAC meeting will be on 9-23-10. Meetings are held via Teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,
CAPT Barbara Stinson
PPAC Executive Secretary
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