



BLACK COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ADVISORY GROUP (BCOAG)



General Meeting June 2012 Minutes

Call to Order

- CDR Morrissa Rice, BCOAG Chair, called the June 14, 2012 BCOAG meeting to order at 1100 EST.

Roll Call & Introductions

- LT Natalie Gibson, BCOAG Executive Secretary, conducted a roll call of voting members - a quorum was present.
- All non-voting members participating via teleconference were asked to submit their information via the online non-voting member roster.

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the May 2012 BCOAG meetings were approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee:

- The Awards Committee met on May 15th to discuss new BCOAG Awards activities and will continue these discussions at our July meeting.
- Awards Committee members CAPT Dandridge and LCDR Goodrich-Doctor also met with CDR Delia Jones-McHorgh on May 15th to discuss how our committees can collaborate to highlight great contributions made by BCOAG officers. Several ideas were presented and discussions will continue to move things forward.
- Annual BCOAG Award recipients have been notified and will receive their awards at the MOLC Awards Breakfast during COF.

Career & Professional Development Committee:

I. Committee Overview

The Committee utilizes a team centered approach to serves as a resource to BCOAG members to help manage their careers by:



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- sharing career development & training information
- identifying opportunities for mentorship
- strengthening recruitment and retention activities

II. TEAM Reports

1. Career and Professional Development

No report this month

2. Mentoring

1. There are currently 30 mentor-mentee pairings and an additional 6 senior officers available to serve as Mentors.

2. Mentoring Team still seeking Mentors, Mentees and Mentoring Team subcommittee members to assist with program development and to support future mentoring events.

3. Previously noted: Mentoring is now part of the 2012 Promotion Precepts under Professional Contributions and Services/Officership

4. No meeting held in June. Next Mentoring Team Meeting tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2012 at 1:00pm

Point of Contact: If anyone is interested in joining the BCOAG Mentoring Team or becoming a mentor or mentee, please contact CDR Robert Windom at 301.443.1607 or via email at rwindom@hrsa.gov

3. Recruitment

The BCOAG Recruitment Team continues to plan activities across the different regions to increase awareness of BCOAG among PHS officers and awareness of the Corps among healthcare professionals.

LCDR Toure met with the president of the University of Maryland chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) on June 6th to discuss possible opportunities for recruitment. SNPhA is an educational service association of pharmacy students who are concerned about pharmacy and healthcare related issues, and the poor minority representation in pharmacy and other health-related professions. From the discussion, many ideas for partnership were generated which can also be replicated at



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additional schools in the area. Ideas included attendance at meetings, career fairs, exhibits and informal gatherings of officers and students for career mentoring.

The Recruitment Team is poised for an update on PHS recruitment from the Recruitment Branch of the new Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness. A new website (<http://www.usphs.gov/>) was recently launched and all are encouraged to become familiarized with the information available. In addition, there's a You-tube video tutorial which provides a breakdown of how to navigate the site (<http://usphs.gov/newsroom/multimedia/>). A post-conference presentation is scheduled on the Friday after the PHS Symposium where recruitment will again be the topic of discussion.

OBC Group (OBC Open House & Graduation Activities)

The OBC Recruitment Team attended the May OBC graduation ceremony on Friday, May 25, 2012. This was an opportunity to congratulate new recruits on the completion of the OBC course and also welcome them into BCOAG. Five new officers joined BCOAG during the May Officer Basic Course. The OBC Recruitment Team attended the June OBC open house on Thursday, June 7, 2012, and recruited an additional four officers into BCOAG. The recruitment team made the new officers aware of BCOAG and encouraged them to become active members of the various BCOAG committees. New recruits were also encouraged to participate in the mentoring program.

The next recruitment opportunity, which is the June OBC graduation ceremony, is scheduled for Friday, June 15, 2012, between 10:30 and 12:00. The recruitment team will be in attendance at this event and is seeking the participation of other BCOAG members to attend the ceremony. Thirty nine officers from the OBC course have joined BCOAG since the beginning of 2012.

Please, see the BCOAG listserv call for volunteers or contact LCDR Hamet Toure via email at hamet.toure@fda.hhs.gov or LTJG Timothy at timothy.onserio@fda.hhs.gov for more information.

4. **Retention**

Planned Activities Update

- 1) Post 9/11 GI Bill Seminar – was held on Tuesday, May 15th at 2 PM (Team is in the process of sending the presentation slides and recording out via the BCOAG Listserv)



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- 2) Engaging with retired BCOAG officers “Legacy Series” – September 2012
- 3) Engaging agency liaison to present webinars (Wednesday, September 12th @2pm {Capt. Wallace})
- 4) Annual report “Faces of the Corps” – Fall 2012
- 5) Topics for the 2012 Financial Series
 - June 26 - Refinancing: A Framework for Evaluating the Opportunity (Will announce on next conference call and will be posted on weekly email announcements)
 - July 24 - Building Your Investment Portfolio in Uncertain Times
 - August 28 - Are You Properly Insured?

Officers interested in working with the Retention Team should contact LT Lamar Henderson (Chair) at lamar.henderson@samhsa.hhs.gov and/or CDR Delia Jones - McHorgh (Co-Chair) at delia.jones-mchorgh@cms.hhs.gov

Health Disparities Committee:

The committee did not meet in May and has nothing to report. The next HDC committee meeting was moved to June 27 due to the COA Conference and officer attendance.

Communications and Public Relations Committee:

No report submitted.

Community Outreach Committee:

The next BCOAG Outreach Committee will be Friday, June 29, 2012 @ 2pm

COA Pre-Conference Outreach Activity

BCOAG Outreach continues to be actively involved in the COA Pre-Conference Outreach Activity



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COF Preconference Community Service Project Planning Committee
- A joint effort between BCOAG, JOAG and DC COA

Meeting Minutes June 11, 2012

Call to order: 1530

Attendees:

CAPT Sheila Merriweather- absent
CDR Postelle Birch-Smith - absent
CDR Vicky Borders-Hemphill – present
LCDR Samantha Fontenelle - absent
LCDR Latonia Ford - absent

LCDR Todd Johnson- present
LCDR Danielle Mills- absent
LT Ashlee Januszewicz - present
LT Filita Moore- absent

Project sites (Prince George's County):

1. New Hope Academy, 7009 Varnum Street, Landover Hills, MD 20784 (Principal Joy Morrow)
2. Charles Carroll Middle School, 6130 Lamont Drive, New Carrollton, Maryland 20784 (Guidance counselor Mrs. Yelva Washington)

Action Item: Contact schools

Background: Both schools have secured the date of Monday June 18th and have provided general descriptions of the outdoor/indoor and alternate projects. CDR Vicky Borders-Hemphill/LCDR Todd Johnson will be contacts for Principal Morrow from New Hope Academy who has shown interest in obtaining 20-30 volunteers to help with beautification of the Nature Outdoor Playground and/or to paint and clean inside/outside the building; materials will be provided. CDR Birch-Smith and LCDR Ford will be the site leaders for the Charles Carroll Middle School (Mrs. Yelva Washington – contact). The alternate project for Charles Carroll Middle School is to prepare books for next year and paint doors and walls; materials will be provided.

Discussion: CDR Borders-Hemphill and LCDR Todd Johnson conducted a site visit May 18th. Principal Morrow expressed interest in officers helping both indoors and outdoors. Principal Morrow envisions 6-8 officers helping to build a stepping stone labyrinth placing grasses between stones with the rest of the officers working to clean/paint the school indoors. The uniform of the day will be the black BDU t-shirt with jeans/shorts. Officers will be given the option to bring a smock or other cover to prevent paint adherence to the clothing if needed.

Status: Report from site visit for Charles Carroll Middle School was provided by LCDR Ford. The visit occurred on 6/8/12 and confirmed with Mrs. Washington at Charles Carroll Middle



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School that supplies will be provided for the outside project. We will be cleaning the flower boxes and greenery on the grounds of the school. There are 5 flower boxes in the front of the school, a garden of plants around the school's sign and the gazebo, a flower bed on the side of the school as well as two flower beds in the back of the school. The inclement weather or back up project will consist of officers organizing the school's book closets in preparation for the following school year

Action Item: Call for volunteers

Background: LT Natalie Gibson developed the registration/call for volunteer's survey. The registration/survey will be set to expire two weeks prior to June 18th with the option to extend the deadline as needed until we get the optimal number of volunteers. Tim O'Neill posted the announcement with registration link on the symposium website. It has been posted on the DC COA website as well. The following committee members are responsible for sending to each PHS entity: CDR Borders-Hemphill - DC COA; CDR Birch-Smith - MOLC; LCDR Latonia Ford – Nurse PAC and JOAG; LCDR Todd Johnson – BCOAG and Social worker PAC; LT Ashlee Januszewicz – PharmPAC.

Discussion: LT Ashlee Januszewicz agreed to serve as the Survey data manager to report on how many people volunteered and how many at each site.

LT Ashlee Januszewicz provided volunteer data as of registration closing on June 10th from the survey. A total of 39 people have signed up to volunteer for the projects. Below is a breakdown of the numbers based on Project and time slot:

Registration numbers for

Project A (8-12:30) 11	Project A (12-4) 3	
Project B (8-12:30) 8	Project B (12-4) 9	Project B (11-2) 4
Project B (Full Day) 2	Project B (2-5) 2	

There were a few people from Project B (5) who have commented that they speak Spanish and are available for translation. Also another person said they would be interested in Project B as well as A, but only if they can wear their Service Khaki to the event. (Currently Project B's dress is the whites)

Status: Contact info and counts were sent to POCs. POCs will send email notification of pertinent information for event day to participants. We need to generate a common language message template to send to participants. Please note Project A POCs will have to divide the participants to go to Landover Hills site or New Carrollton site and then send the message to them.



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Action Item: Health fair at the Community Ministry of Prince George's County

Background: Dr Sandra Crouse Quinn, Associate Dean for Public Health Initiatives at the school of Public Health, University of Maryland, partnering with the Community Ministry who expressed interest in partnering with the Maryland Center for Health Equity (MCHE) in the School of Public Health and the Commissioned Officers Association to expand the café Monday, June 18th, to include a health fair. LCDR Fontenelle meets weekly with Dr. Quinn, and Community Ministries of PG County (Jimmie Slade and Dr. Thomas) to plan the event.

The health fair was changed from occurring at two locations to one location - the Community Place Cafe in Hyattsville. The Community Place serves mostly men; some are homeless and some are working with low-income and most are Hispanic and Spanish interpreters are needed. The health fair at the cafe would be open to others in the community as well. Services include BMI and blood pressure screenings, health education (nutrition class, fact sheets from BCOAG and brochures from various agencies on various topics, etc). LCDR Fontenelle recruited LT Christina Collins to assist with logistics.

Discussion: LCDR Fontenelle went for a site visit. Draft flyers and announcements have been developed. The Governor's Wellness mobile unit, PG county dept of public health, and Howard University's Oral Health Mobile unit will be on site for referral services. U of Maryland will prepare a press release and contact local radio station MAGIC 102.3 to simulcast the event. Seniors from the Senior Center (population of ~ 223 seniors) in Capital Heights, MD will be bused over to First United Methodist Church (Community Place Café).

Status: When final versions of the flyers are available, then DC COA (CDR Borders-Hemphill) and BCOAG (CDR Birch-Smith) Facebook pages and email distribution lists (BCOAG – LCDR Todd Johnson) will receive them. Recruitment of volunteers from various disciplines (nurses that deal with diabetic patients, dieticians for nutrition lecture, pharmacists for medication review and consultation) are needed for shifts 12-3 and 2-5 or 12-5.

Next meeting: June 15h 1300

NOLA Mission

BCOAG Outreach Committee continues to be actively involved in the planning of the NOLA Mission

Completed BCOAG Outreach Activities

- Career Day/South Lake ES Gaithersburg, MD-May 18, 2012/POC: CDR Kim McIntosh Little



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- Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Washington, DC-June 2, 2012/POC: CDR Kim McIntosh Little
- Tree of Life Christian Ministry Community Day and Health Fair Clinton, MD- June 9, 2012 /POC: Capt Joann Spearmon

Upcoming BCOAG Community Outreach Activities

2012 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium Pre-conference Community Service Projects

The Commissioned Officers Association Washington D.C. Area Branch (DC COA), Black Commissioned Officers Advisory Group (BCOAG), and the Junior Officers Advisory Group (JOAG) are pleased to present several community service opportunities in conjunction with the 2012 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium and University of Maryland School of Public Health. These service projects are designed to bring together USPHS officers from all categories with the Prince George's county community. This is an outstanding opportunity to reach out to the Prince George's community and, ultimately, contribute to the public health needs of Prince George's county.

The volunteer registration has closed. If you are interested in volunteering please contact LCDR Todd Johnson @ todd.johnson@foh.hhs.gov or 301-492-5734.

Membership:

1. Call for Nominations for Voting Membership. The application deadline is June 30, 2012. The voting membership term will be from Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2015. The application and details are available in the weekly BCOAG Announcements disseminated via the Listserv.

All interested officers are strongly encouraged to apply.

2. Hosted 1st annual "Lunch and Learn" session to provide information about the process for applying to become a voting member of BCOAG" on June 6, 2012 at 12:00 pm (EST). Due to low participation, Membership Committee requested permission from the Executive Committee to poll current BCOAG members/ potential applicants to determine how to increase participation in future sessions. Please email feedback to Committee Chair at lbishop@hrsa.gov.

- The next meeting will be: Wednesday, July 11, 2012



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Ad Hoc Committees:

Social Committee:

Planned Social Events

- The upcoming BCOAG social event at the USPHS Symposium will be held on Wednesday, June 20. Location: Busboys and Poets, Hyattsville, MD. Over 35 officers have RSVP'd. The event will honor retired and current officers. LT Avena Russell is the lead for this event.
- Atlanta End of the Year Annual Social (October 2012): LT Nicole Bell reported that the committee is discussing various venues and that they will visit Dobbins Air Force Base soon. An update will be presented during the July meeting.
- Atlanta social events will be held every other month on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 5:30-8:00 pm. Locations for upcoming social events will be determined close to the date of the event, announced at the social committee meetings and sent out on the BCOAG Listserv.
- No social events are planned for Atlanta, North Carolina, New York or New Jersey as we support the BCOAG social in MD.

BCOAG Social Events and Facebook

- Pictures from BCOAG events can be viewed on BCOAG's Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/media/albums/?id=154902697911674>.
- If you have any pictures of any BCOAG events, please submit them to LCDR Danielle Russell at danielle.russell@dc.gov.

Web Page Update

- The BCOAG Social Committee's webpage is now live. Please visit us at <http://bcoag.org/committees/social.html>.

BCOAG's Listserv

- If you would like to become a member of the BCOAG listserv to stay abreast of weekly announcements, please email: LCDR Charlene Sydnor charlene.sydnor@nih.hhs.gov or LT Nikkia Powell nikkia.powell@nih.hhs.gov.



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Social Lead Updates/Reports

- BCOAG Social Committee is still seeking **Social Leads** throughout the nation. If you are interested in becoming a social lead in your city/duty station, please send an email at zae0@cdc.gov. A weekly reminder will be posted in the BCOAG weekly announcements. **Participation is critical.**
- No reports from area social leads this month.

Reminder/Requirements for Social Events

- Social leads are responsible for providing the following during any planned social event: (1) agenda (2) after action report (3) sign- in (Excel) sheet to inform BCOAG's database.
- Please send copies to LCDR Zanethia Eubanks at zae0@cdc.gov or LT Chinyelum "Chi Chi" Umejei at cumejei@yahoo.com, **Co-Chair for Membership Committee.**
- Pictures from events should be sent to LCDR Eubanks and LCDR Danielle Russell (danielle.russell@dc.gov) to be uploaded to the BCOAG Facebook page.

Social Committee Participation

- The SOP states that you must participate in 3+ Social Committee meetings to be an active participant and receive a participation certificate. Calls count, attending socials does not. LCDRs Eubanks and Washington will send you an email if you made the requirement. The Social Committee thanks everyone for their participation on both calls and at events even if you did not make the active participant requirement.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 2:00 pm EST.**

Charter and Bylaws Committee:

The Bylaws & Charter Committee is awaiting feedback on a few issues related to updating the ex-officio section of the Charter and whether the Chair should be a voting member. Once feedback is received the proposals will be incorporated into the Charter and it will need to be voted on by the Voting Membership.

Office of Force Readiness Deployment:

No report submitted.



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Minority Officer's Liaison Council:

- Additional volunteers are still needed to staff the MOLC booth at the COF Symposium next week, details were sent out on the BCOAG listserv; each CMAG will have the opportunity to sell their esprit de corps items and hand out brochures.
 - 2012 MOLC Awards Event during the COF Scientific Symposium will be held on Wednesday, June 20th from 0730 to 0900 in the Atrium, seating is limited.
 - MOLC requested an additional \$150 from each CMAG to cover the expenses related to the MOLC awards event.
 - MOLC has requested two challenge coins from each CMAG to be presented to the keynote speaker at the awards event, CDR Diane Adams (ret) and to RADM Boris Lushniak who will represent the SG's office.
-

COF Liaison:

1. Account information:

BCOAG COA account balance as of 6/14/12 is \$3,364.27, which does not include the following pending items:

*Withdrawal(s): \$192.80

*Deposits:

- BCOAG Coin Sales: \$69.75

Balance once transactions above are processed: \$3,241.22 (*subject to change based on additional orders/requests made*)

**Petty cash: \$210.00 is being held by the Chair and not included in the above calculations*

2. Coins/Lapel Pin Sales:

BCOAG rank and challenge coins are now available -- \$10.00 each.

BCOAG lapel pins are available for purchase-- \$5.00 each.



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Rank coins are available for purchase at the following locations and by mail order:

Parklawn

POC, LCDR Tracy Pace tpace@hrsa.gov

FDA White Oak

POC, LCDR Hamet Toure hamet.toure@fda.hhs.gov

CDC Atlanta

POC, LCDR Zanethia Eubanks zae0@cdc.gov

BOP Butner

POC, CDR Robin Hunter Buskey bibihunter@earthlink.net

The order for 100 LT/O-3 and 100 LCDR/O-4 coins were received in time for the COF Symposium.

LT Alicia Sherrell- alternate for COF Liaison.

If anyone else is interested in becoming a POC, please contact COF Liaison LCDR Julia Bryan at jbryan@hrsa.gov.

Old Business/New Business/Open Floor

- NOLA Mission Update
 - Mission is scheduled for October 6th – October 12th
 - A flyer promoting the mission was distributed at the 2012 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium.
- Donation to MOLC
 - MOLC petitioned for financial assistance (contribution) from each CMAG to assist with the awards breakfast and booth at the 2012 Symposium.
 - BCOAG contributed \$150.00



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- To date: 40 officers have signed up for the 2012 BCOAG Social to be held during the symposium; a prize will be given to the first officer to attend.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1150 EST.
- Officers whose duty station is outside of HHS (i.e. BOP/DHS) may send an email to bcoag.org@gmail.com to record their attendance. This exception is due to access/firewall barriers. All others will need to complete the sign-in roster. Attendance must be submitted within 24 hours of the meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 12th, 2012 at 1100 EST.

BCOAG meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 11:00 – 12:30 (EST).

If you are unable to attend and wish to participate via teleconferencing, please call:

Dial: 1-877-798-6354
PIN: 129733

Respectfully Submitted,

LT Natalie Gibson
Executive Secretary

CDR Morrissa Rice
Chairperson



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Attendance for 14 June 2012

Voting Members

CDR Karen Beckham	LCDR Michelle Haamid
CDR Lynda Lee Bishop*	LCDR Pilgrim Spikes
CDR Morrissa Rice	LCDR Shary Jones
CDR Postelle Birch-Smith	LCDR Tarsha Cavanaugh
CDR Terry Harrison*	LCDR Todd Johnson
LCDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor (excused)	LCDR Zanethia Eubanks (excused)
LCDR Charlene Sydnor	LCDR Zewditu Demissie
LCDR Jemekia Thornton (absent)	LT Chinyelum (Chi Chi) Olele*
LCDR Jennifer Jones (absent)	LT Natalie Gibson
LCDR Julia Bryan (absent)	

* Represented by alternate

Non-Voting Members

CAPT Marinna Banks-Shields	LT LaMar Henderson
CAPT Michelle Dillahunt	LT Nikkia Powell
CDR Abraham Maekele	LT Paula Murrain-Hill
CDR Cedric Guyton	LTJG Mekeshia Bates
CDR Corey Palmer	
CDR Delia Jones-McHorgh	
CDR Kimberly McIntosh-Little	
CDR Kofi Ansah	
CDR Rhondalyn Cox	
CDR Stephanie Burrell	
CDR Trellis Adams	
LCDR Allison Adams-McLean	
LCDR Antoinette Percy-Laurry	
LCDR Diana Solana-Soleinde	
LCDR Felicia Watts	
LCDR Ieshia Jones	
LCDR Jyl Woolfolk	
LCDR LaJeana Howie	
LCDR Latasha Allen	
LCDR Makeva Rhoden	
LCDR Tracy Pace	
LT Ayana Rowley	
LT Gregory Dawson	
LT Kendra Bishop	
LT Kimberley R. Jones	