



U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee
Department of Health and Human Services

Minutes of Meeting
07 May 2009
Surgeon General's Conference Room
Parklawn Building
1400-1530

Members Present:

RADM Robert Pittman (CPO), IHS-Rockville, MD
CAPT Scott Giberson (Vice-Chair), IHS-Rockville, MD
CDR Christine Chung, DHS-El Centro, CA
CDR Jonathan Dando, IHS-Cherokee, NC
CDR Richard DeCederfelt, NIH-Bethesda, MD
CDR Jennifer Fan, SAMHSA-Rockville, MD
CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR Mary Kremzner, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR Josephine Lyght, HRSA-Rockville, MD
CDR Michael Shiber, BOP-Washington, DC
CDR Edward Stein, IHS-Phoenix, AZ
CDR Nate Yale, IHS-Gallup, NM

LCDR Karen Abraham-Burrell, CMS-Baltimore, MD
(alternate for CAPT Lia Prela)
LCDR Dan Brum, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
(alternate for CAPT Matthew Tarosky)
LCDR Michael Crockett, BOP-Pollock, LA
LCDR James Czarzasty, DHS-New London, CT
LCDR Cynthia Gunderson, IHS-Fort Totten, ND
LCDR Jeff Mallette, BOP-Pensacola, FL
LCDR Lori Hall (JOAG), CDC-Atlanta, GA
LCDR Peter Diak (Executive Secretary), FDA-
Silver Spring, MD

Members Absent: (* Member's alternate present)

CDR Patricia Garvey (Chair), FDA-Rockville, MD
CAPT Lia Prela, CMS-Baltimore, MD*
CAPT Matthew Tarosky, FDA-Rockville, MD*

CDR G. Brent Hobbs, IHS-Whiteriver, AZ
LCDR Joseph Zagame, OS-Rockville, MD

Guests:

CAPT Jim Imholte, OS-Kansas City, MO
CAPT Mike Long, BOP-Butner, NC
CAPT George Lyght, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CAPT Chris Watson, IHS-Rockville, MD
CDR Bill Bender, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CDR Postelle Birch-Smith, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CDR James Good, DHS-Tacoma, WA
CDR Dana Hall, OS-Kansas City, MO
CDR Terry Harrison, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CDR Patrick Romero, DHS-Opalocka, FL
CDR Jon Schuchardt, IHS-Aberdeen, SD
CDR Aaron Sigler, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR Deborah Thompson, DHS-Oakland, CA
CDR Teresa Watkins, FDA-Rockville, MD
LCDR Irene Ahlstrom, BOP-Dublin, CA
LCDR David Araujo, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Ida-Lina Diak, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Debra Emerson, FDA-Stoneham, MA
LCDR Jefferson Fredy, IHS-Rockville, MD
LCDR Sheryl Gunther, FDA-Silver Spring, MD

LCDR Jeff Haug, DHS-Pearsall, TX
LCDR Diem-Kieu Ngo, FDA-Rockville, MD
LCDR Rebecca McKinnon, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Ryan Nguyen, FDA-Rockville, MD
LCDR Keith Olin, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Mimi Phan, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Sonny Saini, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Roberta Szydlo, FDA-Rockville, MD
LCDR Christina Thompson, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Jerry Zee, BOP-New York, NY
LT Anne Marie Bott, IHS-Anchorage, AK
LT Glendolynn Johnson, FDA-Rockville, MD
LT Shary Jones, CMS-Baltimore, MD
LT Robert Kosko, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LT Liatte Krueger, BOP-Rochester, MN
LT Lisa Lee, BOP-Tallahadega, FL
LT Marisol Martinez, DOD TMA- Fort Sam
Houston, TX
LT Loan Nguyen, FDA-Rockville, MD
LT Stephanie Victor, FDA-Silver Spring, MD

**** New Procedures for PharmPAC Meetings:**

- 1) Held every-*other*-month (i.e. May, July, Sept., Nov.)
- 2) 90 minutes in duration
- 3) 1400 EST start time
- 4) Open Forum section after CPO report

The oral roll call for guests attending the meeting has been eliminated. Guests attending the meeting are requested to email their rank, name, agency, and location (city and state) to Peter.Diak@fda.hhs.gov, the PharmPAC Executive Secretary, to validate attendance.

Call to Order: CAPT Scott Giberson (scott.giberson@ihs.gov)

- CAPT Scott Giberson called the May 2009 Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee (PharmPAC) meeting to order
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CPO Report: RADM Robert Pittman

- **Updates from the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG)**
 - New appointments and nominations for senior positions in HHS include:
 - Kathleen Sebelius sworn in as Secretary of HHS
 - Bill Corr confirmed as Deputy Secretary of HHS
 - Dr. Howard Koh nominated for Assistance Secretary for Health
 - Dr. Yvette Roubideaux confirmed as the director of IHS
 - President's budget for 2010 was released to congress this week
 - The Surgeon General appeared on the CBS television show "The Doctors" to talk about the H1N1 flu
- **Updates from the Office of Commissioned Corps Operations (OCCO)**
 - Promotion boards have met – results will be posted in June
 - Regular Corps ceiling raised to 4,000 officers – Assimilation boards are expected take place later this summer
- **Updates from the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD)**
 - Readiness status for the Commissioned Corps is at an all-time high of 93.33% - Pharmacy category at 94.02% as of March 31, 2009
 - Officers have been selected to lead the new OFRD deployment teams and will take over team leader roles on June 1, 2009 for a 3 year term
 - Ship based deployment missions may be delayed due to the H1N1 flu outbreak
- **Consolidated Special Pay Program for Uniformed Services**
 - The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act consolidated all Uniformed Services health professions special pays into one new law
 - Law will allow more categories to offer special pays
 - Officers may have to sign contracts to receive their special pays as the dental and physician categories are currently doing
 - Looking at how to implement this new legislation
 - No changes in special pays are currently being made; however, there may be additional opportunities to receive special pays in the future
- **Meetings Attended Recently by RADM Pittman**
 - ASHP: Discussed ways to improve the ASHP mid-year meeting for federal pharmacists
 - Southwest IHS Quad Meeting: 200 pharmacists and technicians were in attendance
 - White Coat Ceremony in AZ: Spoke to pharmacy students about the opportunities for pharmacists in the future and what they should expect when they go on their rotations

Open Forum

- **Q:** Do you have any updates on the new COER and its implementation date?
A: The new COER is undergoing testing. It will allow the rater to provide more detailed answers. Implementation of the new COER is planned for the next review cycle in October 2009.
- **Q:** Are there any updates in the selection of a permanent Surgeon General?
A: Many people anticipate that we may hear a nomination for the permanent Surgeon General position after the confirmation of the ASH is completed.
- **Q:** Any updates on assignment incentive pay (AIP) for pharmacists?
A: Yes, two pharmacists' applications for AIP have been approved. Agencies must designate which billets are eligible for AIP. Physician and dentist billets can be automatically approved for AIP; however, for the other category billets, the agencies need to provide justification for why these billets should receive AIP.
- **Q:** What is the funding level for student loan repayment for this year?
A: IHS is the only agency that currently offers loan repayment to pharmacists. We are in the process of making award selections for this year's loan repayments. Approximately \$3.4 million has been allotted for pharmacists' loan repayments for this year. Last year 87 loan repayment awards for pharmacists were granted, while 33 applications were unable to be funded. For this year, we anticipate being able to fund slightly more loan repayment awards.

Section Lead Comments:

Administration → CDR Mary Kremzner (Mary.kremzner@fda.hhs.gov) / CDR Jennifer Fan (Jennifer.Fan@SAMHSA.hhs.gov)

- **Honor Awards – CDR Kremzner**
 - Award recipients have been selected for this year and will be given at COA in June
 - Emphasized importance of the awards and the need to send in nominations for next year's honor awards to recognize deserving co-workers
- **Liaison Reports** – Please see attachment for report

Communication → CDR Richard DeCederfelt (rdecederfe@nih.gov) / CDR Josephine Lyght (Jlyght@hrsa.gov)

Public Health Pharmacist Work Group (PHPWG) Presentation → LCDR Diem Ngo

- **PHPWG Presentation on Safe & effective Use of OTCs (see attachment)**
 - Six PHS pharmacy officers gave three 1-hour presentations to the sixth-graders at Colvin Run Elementary School
 - The teachers and students were very interactive, inquisitive, and a pleasure to work with
 - Future presentations are currently being planned with other schools
 - The PHPWG is also planning to present public health topics to adults at senior centers

Recruitment (see attachment) → LCDR Jeff Mallette (jxmallette@bop.gov) / LCDR Joe Zagame (joseph.zagame@hhs.gov)

- **Pharmacist Vacancy Work Group – LCDR Mallette**
 - The mission is to create a document that lists pharmacy vacancies

- The document is to be used at recruiting events and will be updated monthly
- Still looking for a volunteer from the CDC
- **University Point of Contact (UPOC) – LCDR Mallette**
 - Officers are reminded to log in their activities on the website: www.phspharmacist.org
 - UPOC is a vital tool in the recruiting of students early in their education
 - The goal is to have on campus recruiting activities at every pharmacy school
 - UPOC program is an excellent avenue for officers to get involved in recruiting and have their efforts recognized
 - If interested in joining UPOC, please contact CDR Brent Hobbs at gary.hobbs@ihs.gov
 - If having technical problems with logging in your activities on the UPOC website, please contact CDR Peter Vermilyea at peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org
- **Associate Recruiter (AR) Program – LCDR Mallette**
 - No official kick-off date for the new associate recruiter program has been set
 - Associate recruiter memberships were NOT expired on March 31, 2009 and all associate recruiters in good standing are still permitted to wear their AR badges
 - Please refer all questions to our four AR pharmacy leads

Career Development → CDR Michael Shiber (MJShiber@bop.gov) / CDR Nate Yale (nate.yale@ihs.gov)

- **Assimilation - CDR Shiber**
 - Regular Corps ceiling raised to 4,000 officers – Assimilation boards are expected take place later this summer
 - Reminder to officers to maintain eligibility requirements for promotion and assimilation
- **Publishing Workgroup – CDR Birch-Smith**
 - The PharmPAC Publishing Workgroup published its second article - “US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps pharmacists: Making a difference in the advancing of the nation’s health”
 - The article describes how PHS pharmacists are advancing the nation’s health
 - The article was featured in the May/June issue of the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association
 - The workgroup has begun drafting their third article for publication – “What Pharmacists need to know about FDA’s new proposed Rule on Pregnancy and lactation Labeling”
- **Category Specific Class at the Officer Basic Training Course (OBC) – LCDR Crockett**
 - Development of pharmacy category materials/lecture to be used at OBC
 - Materials will focus on career development, mentoring, and the PAC
 - Goal is to implement this program for the June OBC
- **Readiness – CDR Yale**
 - Readiness for PHS currently exceeds DoD readiness status
 - Readiness status for the pharmacy category is at 94.02%

PharmPAC Chair Report → CAPT Scott Giberson (scott.giberson@ihs.gov)

- Collective privilege of being a member of the Commissioned Corps in times of national need
- Our Corps and category’s ability to help others in these difficult times (economic and/or H1N1) and advance the health of the nation
- Take pride in what you do and more importantly how you do it as a PHS Officer
- Be proud of the uniform and understand that at times you may be viewed by the public as the public health expert Let’s all try to live up to it...

