



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

Minutes of Meeting
01 October 2009
Surgeon General's Conference Room
Parklawn Building
1400-1530

Members Present:

RADM Robert Pittman (CPO), IHS-Rockville, MD
CDR Patricia Garvey (Chair), FDA-Rockville, MD
CAPT Scott Giberson (Vice-Chair), IHS-Rockville, MD
CAPT Mary Kremzner, FDA-Rockville, MD
CAPT Steven Mazzella, FDA-Rockville, MD
(alternate for CDR Fritsch)
CAPT Lia Prela, CMS-Baltimore, MD
CAPT Matthew Tarosky, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR Christine Chung, DHS-El Centro, CA
CDR James Czarzasty, DHS-New London, CT
CDR Jonathan Dando, IHS-Cherokee, NC
CDR Richard DeCederfelt, NIH-Bethesda, MD

CDR Jennifer Fan, SAMHSA-Rockville, MD
CDR G. Brent Hobbs, IHS-Whiteriver, AZ
CDR Josephine Lyght, HRSA-Rockville, MD
CDR Jeff Mallette, BOP-Pensacola, FL
CDR Michael Shiber, BOP-Washington, DC
CDR Edward Stein, IHS-Phoenix, AZ
CDR Nate Yale, IHS-Gallup, NM
LCDR Michael Crockett, BOP-Pollock, LA
LCDR Yvette Waples (JOAG), FDA-Rockville, MD
LCDR Peter Diak (Executive Secretary), FDA-Silver Spring, MD

Members Absent: (* Member's alternate present)

CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch, FDA-Rockville, MD*
LCDR Cynthia Gunderson, IHS-Fort Totten, ND

LCDR Joseph Zagame, OS-Rockville, MD

Guests:

CAPT Alice Knoblen, FDA-Rockville, MD
CAPT George Lyght, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CAPT (ret.) James Minor, Durham, NC
CAPT Robert Steyert, FDA-Central Islip, NY
CDR Kofi Ansah, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CDR B. Nhi Beasley, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CDR William Bender, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CDR Bradley Bishop, IHS-Tucson, AZ
CDR Shayne Blackmon, BOP-Honolulu, HI
CDR Michelle Dillahunt, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR James Good, DHS-Tacoma, WA
CDR Tia Harper-Velazquez, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR Terry Harrison, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CDR Jeff Haug, DHS-Pearsall, TX
CDR Kristina Joyce, FDA-Philadelphia, PA
CDR Jacqueline Lea, HRSA-Baton Rouge, LA
CDR Laura Pincock, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CDR Theresa Porter, BOP-Ashland, KY
CDR Amy Rubin, IHS-Oklahoma City, OK
CDR Patrick Romero, DHS-Miami, FL
CDR Richard Schallick, BOP-Elkton, OH
CDR Aaron Sigler, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR Diane Smith, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR Todd Stankewicz, HCFA-Chicago, IL

CDR Jacqueline Thomas, CDC-Atlanta, GA
CDR Deborah Thompson, DHS-Washington, DC
CDR Jeffrey Tworzynski, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
CDR Peter Vermilyea, IHS-Winslow, AZ
CDR Thuyanh Vu, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR Chi-Ann Wu, FDA-Rockville, MD
CDR Rochelle Young, FDA-Alameda, CA
LCDR Irene Ahlstrom, BOP-Dublin, CA
LCDR Randy Anderson, FDA-Rockville, MD
LCDR Vicky Borders-Hemphill, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Anne Bott, IHS-Anchorage, AK
LCDR Ray Carter, BOP-Elkton, OH
LCDR Kavita Dada, FDA-silver Spring, MD
LCDR Matthew Febbo, HCFA-Philadelphia, PA
LCDR Jefferson Freedy, IHS-Rockville, MD
LCDR Robert Harkey, BOP-Butner, NC
LCDR Glendolynn Johnson, FDA-Rockville, MD
LCDR Shary Jones, HCFA-Baltimore, MD
LCDR Carmen Kelly, AHRQ-Rockville, MD
LCDR Michael Lee, IHS-Oklahoma, OK
LCDR Kristen Maves, IHS-Anchorage, AK
LCDR Aaron Middlekauff, DHS-Miami, FL
LCDR Mark Miller, FDA-Silver Spring, MD

LCDR Loan Nguyen, FDA-Rockville, MD
LCDR Kiesha Resto, BOP-Fort Worth, TX
LCDR Roberta Szydlo, FDA-Rockville, MD
LCDR Emily Thakur, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Christina Thompson, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LCDR Juliette Toure, FDA-Silver Spring, MD

LCDR Jerry Zee, BOP-New York, NY
LT Elizabeth Hoang, DHS-Taylor, TX
LT Diana Solana-Sodeinde, FDA-Rockville, MD
LT Stephanie Victor, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
LT Teresa Vu, FDA-Rockville, MD
Bradley Trimbath – Pharmacy Student

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: CDR Patty Garvey (patricia.garvey@fda.hhs.gov)

- CDR Patty Garvey called the October 2009 Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee (PharmPAC) meeting to order
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CPO Report: RADM Robert Pittman

- **USPHS Commissioned Corps Continued Growth**
 - There are currently 6,482 officers in the USPHS CC
 - Including 1,055 pharmacy officers (highest ever) of which, 501 are assigned to IHS
- **Surgeon General Update**
 - RADM Steven Galson acting Surgeon General has retired
 - Awaiting confirmation hearing by the Senate for Dr. Regina Benjamin to be confirmed as the next Surgeon General
- **Commissioned Officers' Effectiveness Report (COER) for 2009**
 - Anticipated release date is October 7, 2009
 - Will use the same format as last year
 - A new COER format is being tested and could be available for use in 2010
 - Officers who were in the lowest quartile during the last promotion cycle are required to receive career counseling from their supervisor with documentation of counseling entered into the officer's eOPF
- **Billets**
 - Pharmacy billet updates are expected to be made available for officers to begin work on in February 2010
 - Tutorial on new billets can be found at http://dcp.psc.gov/Billets_Tutorial.aspx
- **Promotions**
 - Notification for officers up for promotion is posted in officers' eOPF
 - Review the Promotion Year 2010 checklist
 - Submit documents early
- **Recruitment Service Ribbons**
 - Awarded to over 500 officers – check eOPF for status of your awards
- **Officer Intermediate Course (OIC)**
 - Mid-level course for officers (See Open Forum Section for more details)
 - First course anticipated to be held in the Spring of 2010
- **Recognition of PharmPAC Members**
 - RADM Pittman thanked the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Section Leads for their outstanding job they did during the year

Open Forum

- **Q:** What is the intended audience for the Officer Intermediate Course (OIC)?
A: The intended audience for the OIC will be O-4 to junior O-5 officers. There will be required training prior to attending the OIC. The OIC will be a capstone course for mid-career officers. There is also a plan for the development of a senior level course in the future.
- **Q:** Will the assimilation boards be held during the regularly scheduled February review cycle?
A: The assimilation boards will be held during a fall 2009 cycle with an estimated less than 1,000 officers being assimilated. This will allow for available spots for next year's assimilation boards. The timeline for the 2010 assimilation boards has not been determine as the fall assimilation boards have not been completed. However, applications for assimilation should be sent in according to the regular schedule.
- **Q:** Request for clarification of the 2010 Pharmacy Category Benchmarks for T-O5/P-O4 on admission and partial completion of a post entry level degree?
A: In order to meet this benchmark, the officer would need to be formally enrolled in a postgraduate program. Some postgraduate programs allow students to take classes without being formally enrolled in a postgraduate degree program, which would not meet the benchmark. Postgraduate degrees completed prior to entering the USPHS CC are acceptable for meeting the benchmarks. However, RADM Pittman was not sure at the time of the meeting if a postgraduate PharmD was one of the eligible degrees.
- **Q:** Any updates on the new special pay implementation?
A: RADM Pittman doesn't anticipate any updates on the new special pays until at least the summer of 2010. The new special pays will be contractual payments instead of being part of our standard salaries.

Section Lead Comments:

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

- **Pharmacy's Best Kept Secret (PBKS) – CDR Mallette**
 - The PBKS recruitment tool has received minor revisions (see attachment)
 - Changes included adding annual salary figures, more TSP info, and new photos
- **Website Subsection –CDR Mallette**
 - The Website subsection has a new lead – CDR Chi-Ann (Ruby) Wu
 - Tasks of subsection include: 1) Website Posting Protocol, and 2) Review the current content of the PharmPAC Recruitment section to determine if the information is relevant to today's recruit and recruiter
- **Student Programs –LCDR Kavita Dada**
 - This subsection provides information to the over 600 subscribers that receive the student listserv messages
 - Targeting students with a majority of the information taken from the PharmPAC website
- **Pharmacy Vacancies Workgroup – CDR Mallette**
 - The October vacancy report is available on the PharmPAC Recruitment section website
 - The pharmacist vacancy document is being updated monthly

- **University Points of Contact (UPOC) Updates – CDR Mallette**
 - Accepting articles on UPOC recruitment activities for the Fall 2009 UPOC Newsletter
 - Please send your article to CDR Vermilyea at peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org
 - Contact information and status of our volunteer pharmacy recruiters are being confirmed and updated
 - Training on inputting UPOC activities into the website tracking tool is being planned
 - The schools without an assigned UPOC volunteer recruiter are: Butler University, North Dakota State University, Touro-New York, University of Toledo, South Carolina, East Tennessee State University, Lipscomb University, Union University, Texas Tech University, University of Dallas, University of Wyoming
 - All PHS pharmacists are encouraged to participate in this program
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Career Development → CDR Michael Shiber (MJShiber@bop.gov) / CDR Nate Yale (nate.yale@ihs.gov)

- **Readiness – CDR Yale**
 - Officers are reminded to maintain readiness and check the OFRD website often
 - Readiness status for the pharmacy category is 94.7% - the highest ever
 - **Clinical Pharmacy Programs**
 - Sites with clinical pharmacy programs are requested to have their programs displayed as a Best Practice Model on the Clinical Pharmacy website
 - Please contact CDR Nate Yale (nate.yale@ihs.gov) for more information
 - **Assimilation – CDR Shiber**
 - Assimilation boards will be held this year in the fall
 - **Pharmacy Based Immunization Training - CDR Shiber**
 - OFRD will be coordinating the FOH flu clinics this year
 - Officers will be selected from the OFRD On-Call roster of the month
 - Please send CDR Laura Pincock (laura.pincock@fda.hhs.gov) APhA immunization certificates
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Administration → CAPT Mary Kremzner (Mary.kremzner@fda.hhs.gov) / CDR Jennifer Fan (Jennifer.Fan@SAMHSA.hhs.gov)

- **Website – CAPT Kremzner**
 - Membership documents on website are being updated
 - New PharmPAC Members are reminded to select their alternate and send in their alternate's required documents (i.e. CV and supervisor endorsement letter)
 - Liaison report will be sent out later on the listserv
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PharmPAC Vice-Chair Report → CAPT Scott Giberson (scott.giberson@ihs.gov)

- **Health Reform**
 - Pharmacist officers function in public health and health leadership roles as one of the most utilized and dynamic professionals in the health system
 - We are a pharmacy model to emulate and *should* be a key element within health reform
- **New Leadership**
 - Anticipation of a new Surgeon General
 - Pharmacist officers need to step in and work to find 'solutions' when challenges arise
 - Exciting time for pharmacy - one teeming with opportunity

- CAPT Giberson thanked CDR Garvey (Chair), Section leadership, and the PharmPAC members for their dedication to the category
- CAPT Giberson thanked all the PHS pharmacists for their involvement on the PAC and for allowing him to serve as their Vice Chair this year

PharmPAC Chair Report → CDR Patty Garvey (patricia.garvey@fda.hhs.gov)

- CDR Garvey will be completing her term as PharmPAC Chair and completing her second 3-year term as a PharmPAC voting member effective Nov 1, 2009
- CDR Garvey was successful in meeting her goal of encouraging and increasing participation
- Examples of this year's PharmPAC accomplishments included:
 - Reviewed and provided recommendations to 8 polices and issuances to the Office of the Surgeon General
 - Pharmacy officer representative on the Appointment and Leave WIPT
 - Feasibility assessment of a potential new pharmacy school at USUHS, which will be presented to DoD Chief Pharmacists
 - Conducted and reviewed PAC assessment survey and reassessment survey
- CDR Garvey acknowledged the section leads and highlighted the major accomplishments from each section over the past year
- CDR Garvey acknowledged the six PharmPAC members completing their 3-year terms on Nov 1, 2009: CAPT Kremzner, CAPT Tarosky, CDR DeCederfelt, CDR Fritsch, CDR Shiber, and LCDR Zagame
- CDR Garvey acknowledged the outgoing PharmPAC Executive Secretary, LCDR Peter Diak
- CDR Garvey acknowledged the outgoing PharmPAC Vice-Chair, CAPT Scott Giberson
- CDR Garvey acknowledged RADM Pittman for his continued support and guidance as CPO

Old/New Business → CDR Patty Garvey (patricia.garvey@fda.hhs.gov)

- Chair and Vice-Chair Selections for the PharmPAC Operational Year 2010
 - CDR Mike Shiber will be the new Chair effective Nov 1, 2009
 - CDR Ed Stein will be the new Vice-Chair effective Nov 1, 2009

The meeting was adjourned @ 1450 by motion from CAPT Scott Giberson and second from CDR Brent Hobbs

Next Meeting Date: 05 November 2009, from 1400 to 1530 EST, Surgeon General's Conference Room; Agenda and call-in information will be distributed prior to the meeting

Useful Links and Contact Info:

- ◆ Emails: PharmPAC@list.nih.gov
PHS-Pharmacists@list.nih.gov
PHS-RX-JOBS@list.nih.gov
PHS-Rx-Students@list.nih.gov
- ◆ Listservs: PHS Pharmacists <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-pharmacists.html>
 PHS Rx Students <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-students.html>
 OFRD <https://list.nih.gov/archives/ccrf.html>
 RPh Job Vacancies <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-jobs.html>
 CCMIS <https://list.nih.gov/archives/ccinformation-1.html>

