

**Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group  
U.S. Public Health Service  
Thursday, April 9, 2008  
1830 – 2000 EST**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>OPDIV</b>
Present	LT	Branch	Tracy	OS
Present	LCDR	Bonfiglio	Susan	BOP
Present	CDR	Hunter-Buskey	Robin	BOP
Present	LCDR	Pelkey	Michelle	NOAA
Present	LCDR	Hager	Paul	IHS
Present	LCDR	Zink	James	IHS
Present	LCDR	LaFleur	Phillip	BOP
Present	LT	Morris	Katherine	IHS
Present	LT	Bowens	Karla	BOP
Absent	LCDR	Buckser	Jeffery	NOAA
Present	CDR	Cole	Gary	BOP
Absent	LT	Carr	James	DHS
Absent	LT	Chuley	Michael	DHS
Absent	LTJG	Ruiz	Melinda	BOP
Present	LCDR	Wickard	Paul	BOP
<b>Guests:</b>				
	LCDR	Bunnell	Rebecca	ASPR
	LCDR	Forbes	Abnah	CDC
	LT	Sluss	Ronnie	BOP
	LT	Williams	Tiffany	BOP
	LT	Witters	Lee	BOP

**Call to order**

Meeting called to order at 1833

**Chair Report:**

LT Branch

- The HS PAC is performing a review and revision of the Appointment Standards at OCCOs request. A review of the PA standards was performed and the recommendations made included exchanging the term license for Certification. Also recommended was to allow a PA who has an Associates Degree to hold short term limited tour appointments, which would allow them to commission while completing a Bachelors Degree. An additional recommendation was made to provide partial credit for those PAs who have a PA Associates Degree then go on to complete a Bachelors Degree which is the qualifying degree for CC PAs. Under the current system PAs gain no credit for the experience of working as a PA prior to the completion of the Bachelors degree, while Nurses who hold a two year degree are granted partial T&E for work experience prior to obtaining a Bachelors Degree.
- PAG breakout sessions will be pushed back by half an hour to allow Former SG Richard Carmona to speak to the category.

- All RHAs have been given the additional title of Regional Commissioned Corps Outreach Coordinators. This means they will work with officers within their respective regions to encourage recruitment activities. All PA's are being charged with reaching out to professional degree programs within their respective geographical areas and assist in the recruitment of new officers. Additionally, officers are being encouraged to contact their Regional Health Administrator and offer their assistance with this project.
- Assimilation the recommendation of the HS PAC is that all Masters Degrees regardless of the area it is in should be allowed for Assimilation Purposes.
- Special Pays RADM Milner was just appointed to the Special Pay Workgroup. He is planning on introducing PAPAG recommendations on special pays which include sign on bonuses and retention bonuses for PAs similar to what the other services are offering.
- PAs are being encouraged to attend and participate in at AMSUS this year. U.S. PHS is the host of AMSUS this year and it would be wonderful to have a good PHS representation at this event. November 9 – 14, 2008 San Antonio, Texas  
<http://www.amsus.org/convention/attendees/>
- RADM stated during his report that PAs are expected to step up and volunteer for the upcoming international missions. Other services are mandated to deploy, while ours are voluntary officers (PAs) are expected to step up and volunteer. PAs expect him as the CPO to advocate for them and he has but you should not only be supportive when that advocacy is for special pays.
- HS PAC website will transition to the USPHS website in the near future. At that time there may be the capacity to add additional areas to the website that might be beneficial to the PAC or PAGs.
- PAG Chair will discuss the creation of a Treasury position with the PAC Chair CDR Austin, due to an old statute this position may not be allowed. If this is the case a new means for the management of the PAPAG funds might need to occur.

#### **Communications Subcommittee**

LT Morris, LT Carr

Monthly PAPAG Newsletter sent out to all PHS PA Officers.

#### **Readiness Subcommittee**

CDR Cole

#### **Professional Development Subcommittee**

CDR Hunter-Buskey, LTJG Ruiz

We will be contacting Senior and Junior Officers individually via email initially to determine if they are still in active duty status.

According to our list from 3/2008, there are 19 Senior PA's and 93 Junior PA's (Excluding PAPAG Officers and the 2 Rear Admirals). We estimate that each Senior officer will be assigned approximately 4 Junior PA's

#### **Membership Subcommittee**

LCDR Buckser

No Report

#### **Policy Subcommittee**

LCDR Bonfiglio

To date the Proxy Voting Form, Chain of Command, and Alternate Assignment Form have been

completed. Approval will be done by e-mail consent. Our first meeting for the Bylaws Subcommittee is set for April 17th and will meet every two weeks on Wednesday until revisions are complete. Timeline for approval by the PAPAG is August and submission to the HS PAC for approval at their October meeting. That will give a month's cushion for crunch time if needed.

**Recruitment & Retention Subcommittee**

LCDR LaFleur, LT Chuley  
No Report

**Welcoming Subcommittee**

LT Bowens  
No New PA Officers in March

**Awards Subcommittee**

CDR Pelkey, LCDR Wickard  
No report

**Ad Hoc COA Subcommittee**

CDR Pelkey  
No Report

**PHSAPA Subcommittee**

LTJG Ruiz

Attendance	Rank	Last Name	First Name	OPDIV
Present	CDR	Cole	Gary	BOP/DIHS
Present	LT	Carter	Alnissa	BOP
Present	LTJG	Ruiz	Melinda	DIHS
Absent	LT	Williams	Tiffany	BOP
Absent	LCDR	LaFleur	Phillip	BOP(JOAG rep)

Discuss the role of the PAPAG Liaison.

The overarching goal of the agency liaison is to provide news, information, and concerns of Agency PA's to the PAPAG and disseminate PAPAG information and news back to the Agency Physician Assistants.

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Serve as conduit between Agency PA's and PAPAG in addressing both general and specific concerns common to all and those unique to agency PA's.

The suggestion was made to increase liaison representation within each OPDIV starting with the FDA and USCG.

The next PHSAPA Liaison teleconference will be held at 4/17/08 @ 2000 (EST)

**The call-in number is 1-866-619-7571; Pass code number 4274208.**

**JOAG Liaison**

LCDR LaFleur  
No Report

**IHS Liaison Report**

LT Morris

1. Currently collecting PA Position Reports for 1st quarter 2008
2. Will be recruiting at AAPA conference in May (Kathy Morris, PA)
3. Kathy Morris will represent IHS at round table discussion
4. PA Standard of Practice is being reviewed by HQ
5. PA re-classification is just beginning
6. PA Business meeting 1000 to 1300 April 29- at Advances in Indian Medicine Conference, Albuquerque, NM
- 7) Annual Advances in Indian Medicine Conference April 29- May 2, Albuquerque, NM.  
CDR Placide will provide a CME session on Joint Injections

**BOP Liaison**

LT Carter, LT Williams

No Report

**DIHS Liaison**

CDR Cole

DIHS is beginning reorganization with Mr. Flanagan, the new Director.

San Pedro and Varick Street are being remodeled. Port Isabel opened a new Facility in March 2007. Jena, LA has just opened as a new facility built by GEO but medical being run by DIHS. Many clinical positions are available. Contact me for details on the hiring process as there is some navigation.

**The next teleconference will be held Thursday, May 8, 2008 @ 2030 hrs EST.**

**The call-in number is 1-866-619-7571; Pass code number 427- 4208.**

Meeting minutes draft prepared by LCDR Hager, PAPAG Secretary.