

SOCIAL WORK PAG Minutes
February 8, 2005
1:00pm to 3:00pm

Attendees

SW PAG Leadership:	Present:
CDR Thomas Costello, Chair	CAPT Rebecca Ashery
LCDR Gail Davis, Chair Elect	CAPT Peter Delaney
LCDR Wanda Finch, Secretary	CDR Dan Kavanauh
	LCDR Janet Hawkins
Teleconference:	LCDR David Morrisette
CDR Thomas Costello	Ms. Isadora Hare
LCDR Gail Davis	LCDR Wanda Finch
LCDR Jean Plaschke	

Meeting called to order by CDR Costello at 1:00pm EST
Minutes initially taken by LCDR Davis until LCDR Finch arrived

Welcome by CDR Thomas Costello to First Meeting for 2005. LCDR Davis assisted by announcing agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Work Month

All officers reminded that March is Social Work Month and plans to set up display in the Parklawn building will be coordinated by LCDR Davis and LCDR Finch. CDR Jean Plaschke volunteered to share some black and white photos for the exhibit. The three officers will connect to obtain the photos. LCDRs Davis and Finch will arrange a time to secure display area in Parklawn.

USSW Conference

LCDR Hawkins reported that the committee handling the workshops will make selections in the next week. The revised agenda and registration will also be forthcoming. Officers serving on the subcommittee include CAPT Wainwright, CDR Gearhart and CDR Jean Plaschke. LCDR Hawkins also noted that an invitation to the Surgeon General is forthcoming and she will follow up on the status of the invitation this week. All Surgeon Generals get invited. An email on registration will be coming from LCDR Hawkins when it is available. The 2004 PHS Social Worker of the Year Award will be presented during Announcements. LCDR Davis noted organizing a panel for USSW.

COA

CDR Costello noted that on Category Day there will be a panel presentation moderated by CAPT Ashery and himself with (CDR) Emily Williams, CAPT Michael Flood and LCDR David Morrisette as some of the panelists. A total of five to six officers will serve on the panel.

Awards

CDR Costello noted that social workers should nominate candidates and indicated that the announcement for Social Worker of the year will go out next week. He encouraged officers to consider nominating themselves or other colleagues for awards. CAPT Delaney suggested that that Social Worker of the year be named after CAPT Bob Bacchus He also encouraged a discussion of a potential name for the award be on the next agenda and seek ideas of other names of this award from other officers.

Discipline Liaison Program

CDR Costello described the program started with social workers identified to take on applicants and assist them to identify jobs for new officer/social workers coming into the Corps. Several Social Worker Officers have been identified as participants. The term for the role is two years however the door is closed now. Names were selected via a process coordinated with LCDR Michelle College, JOAG. Suggestions from the fellow officers including shared knowledge of who applicants are, update information on our website and including discipline of the officer for assistance with job matching.

ONGOING DISCUSSION

Appointment Standards

CDR Costello has proposed a meeting with CAPT Morris-Brown and CDR Ken Weld regarding social work licensing standards, with the idea of improving the language. The current standards (2003) removed the traditional three year period to obtain an unrestricted license. Officers involved in the appointments standards subcommittee have been CDR Costello, CAPT Stokes, CAPT Delaney, CAPT Ruditis, CDR Young and LCDR Finch.

Deployment Standards

LCDR Morrissette described the work by a deployment subcommittee to look at deployment roles and one questions cam up was about the necessity of clinical hours for deployment. As a result, a survey was developed by his intern Sara Fleury about social work deployments in the past few years. The survey was created on survey monkey.com and includes about 1-2 minutes of demographic info; identify deployments in the past 2 to 3 years; info about deployment experience(s). if an officer has two deployments, a second window will pop up when you finish the first one. A pilot was conducted with a test candidate to determine the length of time to complete he survey and estimated about 20 to 30 minutes total depending on the person. CAPT Delaney provided some history on where the 112 clinical hour requirement evolved from doctors' requirements. His raised the question whether need 112 hours to go out in the field given our roles and the roles we really undertake when deployed. Also so if we do not do clinical hours then what; can we use the new ARC training just offered in August. It is added that if the clinical hours are removed (which is highly unlikely but maybe a consideration by OFRD to reduce them) we have to have something else, e.g. utilize training and experience. LCDR Morrissette suggested the PAG prepare a statement and make a recommendation to ORFD reflecting the results of the survey.

Clinical Hours

LCDR Finch inquired about the process to establish clinical hours at Fort Meade. The general response was the completion of HHS Form 520 for Outside Activity. An MOU is usually not needed. Walter Reed would perhaps be the credentialing point and go out to all other clinics.

COSTEP Issues

CDR Costello noted he is receiving inquiries about COSTEP. Last year, CDR Flood had an immediate opening and the information was provided to the SWPAG to fill the placement. The process usually is applied to COSTEP and the person finds a position. LCDR Plaschke noted that she attend the Career Day for the University of Maryland last year in a booth. She found that many students were not interested in the Corps. She disseminated cards but no one called. CAPT Delany recommended that some applicants try JRCOSTEP before SRCOSTEP to gain the experience.

NEW TOPICS

Award Development

CDR Costello and LCDR Davis explored the idea of expanding the awards given by the SWPAG to officers. Among the issues discussed were multiple Social Worker of the Year recipients, based on junior v. senior officers, different categories of social work (i.e., direct practice v. research, etc.).

CAPT Ashery recounted her view of the SWYA as a senior officer, with a longtime in the Corps in SW outside corps and well rounded person. The Officer should be an model to other social workers, be involved in activities and at least an O-4 and above. LCDR Morrissette added his experience in two award reviews in which one person made the mark as and administrator and the other for involvement in systems of care.

CAPT Delany plans to research what NASW and other Social Work organizations offers for SW awards; LCDR Hawkins will pull form what HSO Category des. CAPT Ashery will also join the committee. The committee will develop other awards ideas that do not duplicate PHS Awards. Current Award committee consists of the Chair, Chair Elect, Past recipients. The floor opened for other discussions that followed.

Deployments

CAPT Ashery was in New York all summer working on Special assignment to the Republican national Convention in area of metro emergency preparedness. This was arranged through her agency and she had a resource for her lodging.

An email came from CAPT Brown about need for five mental health providers to go to the Asia in response to the Tsunami disaster. CDR McMurtry is heading the team. The information did not get out to all agencies; some officers noted that HRSA did not receive. The agency had to pay the officer's transport to the Navel Ship but there were some glitches such as some people did not have passports and some were not deployment ready.

LCDR Jean Plaschke noted that the civilian union representative noted some problems with deployments, specifically not able to process deployments due to transformation and lack of organization in the process.

OCCFM requests help with processing paperwork. An email will be forwarded to all officers from PAG leadership.

LCDR Hawkins also noted follow up needed with OCCO with needs and helping to get system in place.

The next Social Work PAG Meeting is on Tuesday, April 12, 2005 at 1:00pm to 3:00pm, in the Parklawn building, Room 3A-35. The call in number is 1-877-795-5087; passcode is 804187.

Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by:
LCDR Wanda Finch
Secretary, SW-PAG 2005