

SOCIAL WORK PAG Minutes
February 14th, 2006
1:00pm to 3:00pm

Attendees

SW PAG Leadership:	LCDR Janet Hawkins
CDR Gail Davis, Chair	LCDR Donna Rusch
CDR Wanda Finch, Chair Elect	CDR Laura Aponte
LCDR Jeasmine Aizvera, Secretary	LCDR Deloris Caldwell
	LCDR Jamie Seligman
Present:	LT Melanie Pedersen
CDR Wanda Finch	LCDR McGee
CAPT Rebecca Ashery	CDR Jay Seligman
CDR Dan Kavanaugh	LCDR Janet Hawkins
LCDR Jeasmine Aizvera	CDR Guy Mahoney
	CDR David Morrisette
Teleconference:	LCDR Emily Williams
CDR Gail Davis	LT Tracey Jackson-Weaver
LCDR Torris Smith	LCDR Thomas Hochberg
CDR Elise Young	LT Lampasone
CDR Michael Flood	CDR Barbara Olaniyan
CAPT Amy Barkin	LT Chris Miller
LCDR Dina Paul	

I. Welcome & Introductions

Roll call by officers attending the meeting

Meeting called to order by CDR Davis at 1:00pm EST

Motion to approve minutes by CDR Jay Seligman, second by CDR Elise Young

II. USSW Conference

Conference planned for 8/1-8/4/06 at the Doubletree Hotel in Arlington, VA. CDR Hawkins reports this is the last time EES will support the conference. CDR Kavanaugh reports that there is a proposal to link the USSW and AMSUS annual conferences – whichever uniformed service takes the lead in AMSUS would also lead the USSW conference – but this is not finalized. In 2007, we are scheduled to take the lead in the USSW conference.

Action Item: CDR Kavanaugh will provide further details about the future sponsorship of the conference and any news about AMSUS-USSW linkages. Lcdr Hawkins will provide further conference information and the call for papers.

III. Social Work Month

The theme last year was “Help Starts Here”, this year, this has been expanded with specific reference to social work service across the lifespan. CDR Davis has the banner and display board. CDR Kavanaugh reserved the table in the lobby of the Parklawn Building.

Action Item: LCDR Aizvera will e-mail PAG members inviting contributions of materials to display during Social Work Month; and coordinate with CDR Davis & CDR Kavanaugh re: table set up.

IV. Appointment and Licensing Standards

- White paper submitted by PAG was not incorporated in recent revisions to the standards published on 12/05. CDR Davis brought this up at the HSO PAC meeting
- Standards similar to those incorporated in the revisions are used by other services – but these are still problematic.
- Mental health services provided during deployment cover a broad range – deployment roles vary – there is a need to educate the PHS about this
- Valued services we provide on deployment include the ability to coordinate, collaborate, network, and link services on macro and clinical levels.
- HSO PAC would like to know how many officers are affected by current standards, i.e. # of officers who currently don't have independent licensure. Based on figures presented at the 2005 COA conference, there are 97 social workers and 67% are in administrative roles – Helen (Betsy) Darracott in OCCFM may be able to provide more up to date figures
- Some officers received calls re: ineligibility for promotion due to the lack of clinical licensure – CAPT Brown verbally stated that this should not happen
- CDR Finch described the proposal, in reorganizing the Corps, to create Mental Health as a multi-disciplinary group within the HSO category – many questions about what this would mean for appointment & licensing standards

Action Item: CDR Davis to put forth something in writing to CDR Weld, CAPT Brown & Ms. Darracott regarding the above concerns.

V. SW PAG Readiness Committee

CDR Finch reports the committee met on 2/7/06

- Can the inactive reserve be part of a rapid deployment?
- White paper re: MH provider role included suggestions & principles for how to include other disciplines in this deployment role; liability issues re: licensure; aligns with the PHS transformational agenda
- Final revisions to the paper were approved and sent to the CPO & PAC
- CDR Hastings developed a briefing packet for deployment provided to LCDR Hawkins & CDR Hunt
- Review OT as a discipline within the MH provider role – observation made that deployment opportunities are greatly enhanced by selecting this role, which in turn, has impact on promotions

VI. USUHS Social Work Graduate School

Goal of this program: to meet the need for clinical social work staff in uniformed services – to train & educate them. Part of the impetus for this is that some branches of the military are being asked to provide evaluation by a PhD social worker, within 30 days of return home from deployment. Another branch of the military has stated that they accept social workers with both types of licenses, i.e., admin and clinical, and that their family

advocacy work does not require independent clinical licensure. For the social work Masters level program at USUHS:

- Each service would put forth a PhD social worker to serve as an instructor
- Each agency to put up \$100k to help fund the program
- We're involved, but it's unclear where things will go given PHS structure: agency specific billets/funding and masters level requirement for appointment to PHS.
- Linkage with CUA (Catholic University) – as they have a history of high numbers of military in their PhD program – though their program is not clinical, more administrative.
- LCDR Smith pointed out exceptions to the rule: clinical social workers can provide the evaluation in absence of a PhD social worker; also other services – Navy – do have clinically licensed social workers
- Other services contracting out for clinical social workers but also trying to “grow their own”

Action Item: CDR Morrissette will lead the involvement of SWPAG on this issue.

VII. Transformation of the Corps

CDR Finch reported on the different working groups looking at transformation issues as they intersect these topics:

- Sizing - CDR Finch in this work group
- Readiness - CDR Morrissette in this group, led by ADM Babb
- Classification and position
- Assignment
- Recruitment

Intention of the transformation is to increase the numbers of officers from approximately 5900 to 6600 in 4 groups: Clinical, Applied Public Health, Research, and a new Mental Health Group. Goals include improving readiness:

- Increased organization of the deployment process
- Obtain rapid approvals pre-deployment
- TIER I Team: Tip of the spear type of team on the scene before disaster strikes (as much as possible), 12-18 hour response rate, able to set up medical/hospital services, include 4 MH providers
- Create teams in a way that mirrors DMAT: 5 teams – 1 Atlanta based; 2 DC; 1 NW part of the country; & 1 SW part of the country
- Define MH teams – pre-identified virtual teams
 - 5 teams of 20 officers on call every 5 months
 - 2 psychiatrists on every team
 - 2 psychiatric nurses
 - 5 social workers
 - 5 psychologists
 - Others also professionals but may not be clinically licensed for the many tasks that don't require clinical licensure
- TIER II Team: - like Tier I except a slower response rate (1-2 days, 24-48hrs)

VIII. HSO/COA Update

- Scheduled from 5/1-5/4/06 in Denver, CO with a CEU earning activity on 5/1/06
- CAPT Brown working on the possibility of a military flight for the conference
- CDR Davis pointed out that Southwest Airlines has a roundtrip rate of \$218 and they don't charge a fee for changes – word to the wise to arrange their own travel just in case the military flight doesn't work
- Opportunity to earn SW CEU's (3-4) on category day – this is being worked out by CAPT Deborah Dozier-Hall @ NIH. Patrick DeMarco will be doing a talk on Psychological Preparedness & Response for a Medical Team Deployed Following a WMD Attack
- There will not be an HSO “meeting” – just presentations and group-specific workshops in the afternoon
- CAPT Barkin reported on the social event planned on 5/2 that will be held at the Colorado History Museum from 7-11PM. For \$40 per person, food & drinks will be provided (including wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee & tea), and there will be a live DJ. There are only 350 spots, the event is open to all attendees & their guests, the registration form is on the COA website:
<http://www.coausphsconference.org/CATDAYRecep.cfm>

IX. RECENT DEPLOYMENTS

CDR Mahoney described his recent deployment to St. Bernard's Parish in LA, from 1/9/06-1/23/06. He worked with 120 patients in a medical trailer with 8 treatment rooms and lived on one of the ferry boats.

- The local council is already very worried about the next hurricane season as structural issues are far from resolved, and environmental concerns remain– petroleum products spilled in the water, snakes, spiders, etc.
- CDR Mahoney saw 10-12 patients/day for 12 days – they were referred by the MD or RN for stress reduction.
- Stress & depression inventories useful in triaging; took brief MH history, consulted with the psychiatrist when needed
- Issues related to stress, some panic attacks, PTSD, adjustment disorders, & depression. Four ambulances available to transport patients to a local inpatient facility if needed.
- Helped local MH providers transitioning back home to stay
- A lot of psychological first aid -highlighted the need for “go packs” – MH pamphlets & measures readily available for deployment
- Post-deployment analysis: 20% of the tasks required clinical licensure, 80% did not – information sharing, education, supportive counseling.
- Red Cross training – CDR Flood indicated how useful it is and easier to access than the 1x/yr training offered by OFRD where the 2-day ARC model is compressed into 1-day of training

Action Items:

- CDR Mahoney to gather & identify documents, measures, triage tools available – LCDR Smith & LCDR Paul offered to help

- CDR Morrisette – training plan submitted & pending through ADM Babb on psychological first aid – crisis intervention – to keep us abreast of progress

X. Committee Assignments

A. Appointment Standards: CDR Davis will lead. CDR Kavanaugh, CDR Flood, CDR Seligman, CDR Olaniyan, & LCDR Aizvera will work on this committee as well.

B. Recruitment & Retention: LCDR Hochberg, CDR Seligman, CDR Olaniyan, and Mr. Todd Lennon to work on this committee

Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by:
LCDR Jeasmine Aizvera
Secretary, SW-PAG 2006