

SWPAG Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2008

**Participant List:**

CAPT Amy Barkin	LCDR Kristin Kelly, Secretary
CDR Janet Hawkins, Chair	LCDR Matt Kleiman
CDR Andy Hunt	LCDR Kara Lampasone
CDR Jean Plaschke	LCDR Donna Rusch
CDR Jay Seligman, Chair Elect	LCDR Jaime Seligman
LCDR Chris Cline	LCDR Emily Williams
LCDR Janet Cochran	LT Nicole Cyriaque
LCDR Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan	LT Sonsy Fermin
LCDR Tom Hochberg	LT Tracy Pace
LCDR Tracey Jackson-Weaver	LTJG Stacey Lesko

Welcome by CDR Hawkins and a brief review of December Minutes with corrections submitted to LCDR Kelly. Motion to approve by LCDR Hochberg and seconded by LCDR Jackson-Weaver.

**Social Work PAG Goals & Objectives:**

CDR Hawkins reviewed goals & objectives sent out to SWPAG. The purpose of the goals & objectives is to give a sense of what can be accomplished in 2008, but each individual subcommittee can modify goals if it appears they are not achievable. This year there will be a limit of 4 people per committee (Chair + 3 participants). Further, the Chair will be responsible for providing a written report of status to LCDR Kelly prior to each meeting and reporting out to the entire PAG during the bi-monthly meetings. Everyone is encouraged to review items to determine participation in a committee as it is helpful when looking at promotion precepts. **Deadline to submit participation request to LCDR Kelly is January 25, 2008.**

**Question:** Are their current members assigned to the committees?

**Answer:** No, the leadership will review requests to participate and reassign this year. It is not automatic that you will be placed on the same committee as last year, so it will be important to express interest in either continuing on a specific committee or being reassigned.

**Question:** Will work completed in the previous year be forwarded to the new Chair?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Licensing Standards:**

During the December 7, 2007 HSPAC meeting, CDR Finch addressed the concerns surrounding the social work appointment standards in the presence of RADMs Shekar, Furman and Canton. CDR Finch pointed out if PHS is bringing on LPCs and other disciplines (which is great), we need to consider utilizing the assets we currently possess in our social work Officers who have an advanced license and who are trained to do the same skills as described. This would require a modification to the existing social work standard. Letters to RADMs Canton and Furman were written to reiterate the previous recommendations submitted by RADM Milner in April 2007. Await decision.

Further, RADM Milner understands the concern regarding language stating everyone will have an unrestricted clinical social work license by 2010. Some discussion occurred regarding grandfathering in current Officers and encouraging recruitment of new appointees with this licensure. RADM Milner hopes to eliminate the word “clinical” from the standard. The MOA with the DoD states we will provide licensed clinical social workers, which is a factor in this discussion. Work will continue on this concern.

**AMSUS:**

AMSUS meeting merged with USSW conference. PHS will lead the upcoming joint meeting in San Antonio on November 9-14, 2008. POC is LTJG Pleasanton (renee.pleasanton@ihs.gov) or LT Wilson (tarsha.wilson@samhsa.hhs.gov). LTJG Pleasanton will also send out a request to present at this conference by next week.

Benefits of attending the meeting include getting one on one time with leadership and CPO. Also get to meet social workers from across services and internationally. The VA also provides a one day workshop on the Sunday prior to the conference where you can receive approximately 30 CEUs.

**COA:**

Please send requests to present at the conference to CDR Hawkins. The call for abstracts has been extended. No word on HSO dinner. CAPT Barkin reports an SOP is being put together to request for a DoD plane to transport PHS Officers to COA. If anyone is interested in helping with the SOP, please contact CAPT Barkin (abarkin@hrsa.gov).

**“American Indian/Alaska Native Culture Card: A Guide to Building Cultural Awareness”:**

CDR Andy Hunt has finished the cultural cards and brought some to the meeting for distribution. The cards are a pocket guide the size of a breast pocket with information on front/back of each page and it folds together like a map. The purpose of the cards is to provide basic information for responders or those coordinating a response for AI/AN populations. It is designed to assist in building awareness of cultural norms and provide some tips on what to expect when serving this population. The cards were inspired by the

Iraq Culture Scorecard. Thank you to all the Officers who assisted CDR Hunt in developing these cards.

**Question:** Can we obtain the cards off a website or via e-mail?

**Answer:** Unfortunately, no. You can get a PDF version, but it is not in the format described earlier. There is a possibility it will be reformatted in the future to make it downloadable.

**Interested in obtaining the cards?**

Please contact:

CDR Hunt at SAMHSA (1 Choke Cherry Road, Rockville) in room 6-1054

CDR Hawkins in the Parklawn Bldg room 7A08

Send a self addressed stamped envelope (2 stamps to be safe) to:

LT Sonly Fermin, 5600 Fishers Lane Mail stop 15-99, Rockville, MD 20857

**SW-PAG Coin:**

We still need people to purchase coins to place the order. The order form will be sent out again after the meeting for those who would like to purchase a coin. Also, please contact LCDR Kelly (kristin.kelly@samhsa.hhs.gov) should you wish to receive an order form.

**New Business:**

1. Social Worker of the Year Award will be chosen by the end of March 2008. An e-mail will be coming soon to solicit nominations for the award. Self nominations are accepted.  
*Note:* Chair, Chair Elect, and Secretary are not eligible to receive the award.
2. Reminder the committee descriptions have been sent out and please volunteer for a committee.
3. Social Work Month is March and idea are being solicited for how to acknowledge this occasion.
4. There are CEU credits in Ethics available through NASW online.
5. Please note a change in the SWPAG meeting schedule ~ the meeting will be held on **May 8, 2008**, not May 15, 2008 as was sent in a previous e-mail. LCDR Kelly extends her apologies for any inconvenience this presents to members.

Meeting adjourned.

Recorded by LCDR Kristin Kelly, SWPAG Secretary

