

***Social Work Professional Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes***

March 13, 2008

Attendance:

CAPT Amy Barkin	LCDR Elizabeth Hastings
CAPT Wendell Wainwright	LCDR Tom Hochberg
CDR Jeasmine Aizvera	LCDR Kristin Kelly, Secretary
CDR Gail Davis	LCDR Matt Kleiman
CDR Janet Hawkins, Chair	LCDR Todd Lennon
CDR Andy Hunt	LCDR Doug Mowell
CDR Erich Kleinschmidt	LCDR Tim Pappalardo
CDR Jean Plaschke	LT Dwayne Buckingham
CDR Jay Seligman, Chair Elect	LT Nicole Cyriaque
LCDR Chris Cline	LT Michael Leboe
LCDR Scott Conner	LT Renee Pleasanton
LCDR Robert Garcia	LT Christine Nemeti
LCDR Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan	LTJG Stacey Lesko

Approval of January 2008 Minutes:

CDR Hawkins called for approval of the January Minutes as revised. CAPT Wainwright moved and CDR Seligman seconded.

Committee Updates:

Awards Committee Report:

The Chair, LCDR Hochberg, provided a report to the SWPAG. The committee members are LCDR Chris Cline with DIHS, LCDR Scott Conner with BOP and LT Christine Nemeti also with BOP.

All members have been identified and contacted by the committee chair. The solicitation for the Social Worker of the Year Award for 2008 has been reviewed, modified, submitted, approved and sent out. The call for nominations will close on **Friday, March 28, 2008.**

The committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss the evaluation procedure and award announcements. Additionally the committee will discuss additional awards and activities for the calendar year.

Career Development Committee Report:

The Chair, CDR Erich Kleinschmidt, provided a report to the SWPAG. The committee members include CDR Katherine Manygoats, CDR Guy Mahoney, and LT Robert Garcia.

The subcommittee for 2008 met once thus far via conference call. After much discussion as to what the focus of the subcommittee should be, it was identified that the main priority should be to assist PHS social workers detailed to remote/hardship/hard to fill sites in their career progression. It was discussed that officers in these billets face multiple challenges in advancing their careers; examples include: low opportunities for networking, limited clinical billets, QuickHire system is faulty, PHS job website does not show number of positions actually available to Officers, Junior Officers often do not have mentor “on site” for guidance, etc.

The subcommittee decided it would be best to start with creating and implementing a survey to all PHS officers to gather information from Officers to understand the issues Officers face in their career progression. The committee is in the process of finding out more about web services such as “Survey Monkey”.

The committee also discussed the possibility of developing a web-based orientation for new PHS social workers. They also discussed some concerns that their work may overlap with other SWPAG subcommittees. This can be discussed with other committee Chairs.

The subcommittee will be meeting via conference call on a monthly basis.

Readiness Committee Report:

The Chair, LCDR John Maynard, could not participate in the today’s call. LCDR Kristin Kelly read the report submitted prior to the meeting.

The committee will be meeting on March 21, 2008 to review goals and objectives and make action/activity assignments toward the goals and objectives. CDR Gor Yee Lum (HSO Readiness Chair) will be joining the call to brief the committee on the HSO Readiness committee’s goals and objectives. Possible synergies and support actions related to HSO and SWPAG readiness efforts will be discussed. Additionally, agenda items for the call are still in process. The committee plans to meet again in mid-April.

Recruitment and Membership Committee Report:

The Chair, CDR Jean Plaschke, provided the report to the SWPAG. The committee members include CAPT Stella Jones, CDR Marinna Banks-Shields, LCDR Willie Tompkins, and LT Dwayne Buckingham.

Committee Chair sent out an e-mail on February 26, 2008 welcoming members to the committee. The e-mail included two samples of welcome packets, prepared by the BASPAG, that may be used as templates for the SWPAG to prepare our own welcome packets for new social work Officers. The main goal of the Recruitment and Membership committee for 2008 is to prepare the welcome packet and this committee is currently reviewing the samples. A call will be held in April (date to be determined) in order to provide feedback on the samples and share other ideas. A follow up e-mail was sent on March 10, 2008 to alter committee to plans for a conference call in April.

If any members of the SWPAG have samples of welcome packets from other Corps PAGs, please provide a copy to members of the committee.

Question: What will be the intended content of the welcome packet?

Answer: The packet will be for all new social workers in the Corps. It will focus mostly on being a social worker in the Corps, the PAG and its role.

Comment: SAMHSA is currently developing a welcome packet for incoming Officers. CDR Plaschke will follow up.

Comment: It may be important to include something about mentorship in the welcome packet and try to figure out a way to complement what is going on in the Retention/Mentorship committee.

Retention and Mentoring Committee Report:

The Chair, CDR Elise Young, could not attend today's call. The report was read by LCDR Matt Kleiman. The committee includes CAPT Amy Barkin, LCDR Todd Lennon and LCDR Matt Kleiman.

The committee has met twice via conference calls. The focus of the committee is on developing a mentoring program for newly commissioned social workers. The intent is to compliment the existing HSO mentoring program. CDR Young has had conversations with CAPT Laura Aponte (Chair of HSO mentoring program) and she is in agreement. In the next week, a short survey will be e-mailed to everyone on the SWPAG list asking for information on their interest and experiences as a mentor/mentee. The information garnered from the survey will be used to assess interest, focus efforts, and assist in partnering of mentors with mentees. The committee greatly appreciates responses and participation as a mentor. The next committee call is scheduled for April 10, 2008.

Comment: It is important to not reinvent the wheel and we should look at building on the HSO model (or other PAGs) with adaptations for our needs.

Public Relations/Web Call for Volunteers:

LCDR Kelly stated the current Chair of this committee has resigned, leaving only two people on the committee. We request anyone who is interested in chairing the committee or just being a participant contact LCDR Kelly as soon as possible.

CDR Hawkins reiterated the fact March is Social Work Month and it would be nice to have the committee put together something to acknowledge the month.

HSO Meeting Items:

CDR Seligman discussed the importance of participating in the HSO appointment boards. OCCO is looking for Officers 0-5 or higher who are basic ready to participate in the boards. If you are interested please contact CDR Seligman: jay.seligman@hhs.gov.

Mental Health Response to Rosebud:

LCDR Hastings gave a status report to the SWPAG on the MH response to Rosebud. The community at Rosebud experienced 15 completions of suicide in 14 months. The President of the Tribe declared a State of Emergency and requested assistance from IHS/HHS. Teams of three will be deployed on 15 day rotations to assist in seeing patients and providing interventions and outreach services. SAMHSA has worked to develop a "Go-Bag" for those being deployed. As of this report, outreach activities were provided to 13 communities, 260 patients seen and 53 suicide interventions completed.

Social Work Billet Updates:

CDR Hawkins gave an update on the status of social work billets. Twenty three templates were developed by the previous administration and the process has been completed on assigning 0-2 to 0-6 status to each of the templates. It appears there is a nice distribution among the ranks. Still working out the details on how this process will be implemented.

Licensing Standards:

CDR Davis reports a detailed discussion was held with OCCO/OCFM regarding the licensing standards. Those social workers who joined as of December 2005 will be "grandfathered" in and should receive letters.

AMSUS:

LT Pleasanton reports there is a call for presentations/papers for the conference in November 2008. PHS is the lead agency for the AMSUS conference this year in San Antonio. The themes includes building the next generation and collaboration to build partnerships. Please contact LT Pleasanton with any questions and the due date for proposals is April 25, 2008.

COA Update:

CAPT Barkin reports the agenda for Social Work day during the conference has been set. The agenda includes discussions on both disaster planning and immigration health. Please attend if possible.

New Business:

1. Board Certification Pay: CDR Seligman

There is special pay for obtaining either your Diplomat in Clinical Social Work from NASW or your Board Certified Diplomat in Clinical Social Work from American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work. Please see links below for more information.

Monthly Special Pays for Health Professionals

http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCPM22_2_1.pdf

National Association of Social Workers

<http://www.socialworkers.org/credentials/credentials/dcsw>

American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work

<http://www.abecsw.org/about-abe.php>

A suggestion was made to place this information on the SWPAG website and will be forwarded to the Public Relations Committee.

2. Navy Deployments: CDR Hawkins

CDR Hawkins discussed how an e-mail went out regarding PHS supporting the Navy in Humanitarian missions. As of now, there is not a call for social workers to attend these missions, but she feels strongly about the fact there is a role for mental health on these missions. She states this is currently being addressed.

Meeting Adjourned 3pm.

Minutes Submitted by LCDR Kristin Kelly, SWPAG Secretary