

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

**Attendees**

<b>SW PAG Leadership:</b>	<b>Teleconference:</b>
CDR Thomas Costello, Chair	CDR Thomas Costello
CDR Gail Davis, Chair Elect	CAPT Pete Delany
CDR Wanda Finch, Secretary	CAPT Ilze Ruditis
	CAPT Richard Whitmire
<b>Present:</b>	CDR David Morrissette
CDR Barbara Olaniyan	CDR Guy Mahoney
LCDR Tarsha Wilson	CDR Jay Seligman
CDR Gail Davis	LCDR Janet Hawkins
	LCDR Jeasmine Aizvera
	CDR Andy Hunt
	LCDR Deloris Caldwell
	LTJG Renee Pleasanton
	LT Briscoe
	LCDR Monta Breeden
	CDR Jean Plaschke

Roll Call by officers attending the meeting.  
Meeting called to order by CDR Costello at 1:00pm EST  
Minutes approved with Second by CDR Gail Davis.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Social Work PAG Nominations**

CDR Davis announced that there are two candidates running for each social work PAG position -- for Chair-Elect, CDR Elise Young and CDR Wanda Finch and for Secretary LT Tarsha Wilson and *LCDR* Jeasmine Aizevera. Candidate statements will be sent out by Chair –Elect CDR Davis. The PAG will be asked to vote by December 6 and the Election results will be announced by December 13. All votes should be returned to CDR Davis and copy CDR Costello.

**HSO Responder of the Year**

CDR Finch will resend the announcement for the Responder of the Year Award today.

**US PHS COA Call for Papers**

The PAG is reminded to consider submitting papers for COA.

### **Health Services Officer Category Day at COA**

CDR Davis announced that there will be joint mental health training with the Psychology PAG during COA on deployment, mental health services and readiness. Four CEUs will be offered for the workshop by the Maryland Board of Social work. *CDR Deborah Dozier Hall at NIH is the contact person on CEUs.*

## **ONGOING DISCUSSION**

### **Social Work Award Development**

CDR Costello notes the criteria for the awards is established but request a written process be developed that indicates who has the authority to approve additional awards. For the SW-PAG it is the Chair but the development of the process is sought by the end of the year. The Social of the Yea award has been selected by a committee of past recipients and past officers. One question posed is if a committee member nominates someone, should that officer recuse him/her-self from voting. Officers discussed a variety of ways to develop the committee to select the SWOTY. Examples included the following:

- Awardee selection should be at the Chair's discretion;
- Committee members should recuse self from voting if they nominate a potential awardee;
- More nominations need to come from others and not the same people; and
- PAG needs to decide if committee members can not nominate or if convictions to nominate supercede service on the committee.

Other matters discussed included committee response to falsified information and proposed character reference. The consensus derived that character references were too much and if any falsification known by committee, it should be noted during review of awardees. CDR Costello summarized the discussion by planning to draft rules on the SWOTY for SW-PAG consensus to include the following:

- The SWOTY committee should consist of at least five officers (Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary and the past and current year recipients).
- Include the last five years when possible
- Consider a proxy for a vote if a committee member nominates a potential awardee.

### **Award Development Ad hoc Committee**

CDR Costello requests an update from the Awards Development Ad hoc committee. Specific information is requested on the type of awards and the type of presentation that reflects the officer's achievement. Examples included letters from the Chair; CDR Finch will follow up with the committee about a sample letter that can accompany plaque awards with the CPO.

## USSW

CDR Hawkins announced the USSW Conference date is in the works; March 13, March 20 or April 10 are prospective dates. The location will be DC; San Diego and San Antonio are also being considered. CDR Kavanaugh and CDR Hawkins are gathering information about our sponsorship of USSW in 2007.

## Readiness Subcommittee

CDR Finch provided review of committee meeting. A white paper will be written to focus on reason mental health providers should be licensed and after action plan to disseminate the paper. Also, all officers are encouraged to seek assist from the committee through CDR Finch is having difficulty meeting basic readiness standards.

## Social Work Deployment Survey

CDR Morrissette presented the results o the social work deployment survey using a power point forwarded to each officer prior to the meeting. All respondents held a practice license in at least one state with 24% of the group holding a license in more than one state. In addition, 29 PHS social workers (69%) also hold one or more advanced certifications such as Board Certification, ACSW, and DCSW. A majority of respondents maintain more than 20 hours of continuing education credits per year. In addition to continuing education and training, OFRD requires mental health providers to maintain currency hours of practice as a clinical practitioner, not a substitute for the non-clinically licensed officer who happens to work in a mental health setting. Several officers commented that the results certainly reflected they deployment experience. The consensus was that the survey results can be used as a component o the white paper the Readiness' Committee will draft. CAPT Delany was acknowledged for his work on another project related to the outcomes of the deployment survey.

## Recent Deployments

Officers shared their experiences from the deployments. Several issues were noted in the discussion and included the following:

- 1) How do we prepare for other responses we may go through?
- 2) Concerned about inequity in mental health assignments for social workers.
- 3) Continuous training is needed if nothing occurs
- 4) How can we incorporate ideas with structures of disaster response?
- 5) Debriefing offered by the Corps is good and believes something more systematic needs to be done

CDR Mahoney – Incident Commander for Camp Phoenix in Port Allen

CDR Dave Morrissette – awaited survivors in field hospital, no one came; then Incident Commander for 150 officers in Baton Rouge, LA

CDR Hunt – member of ten person tem under CAPT Wainwright in Mississippi

The next Social Work PAG Meeting will be held on December 13, 2005.

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