

THERAPIST PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Place: Physical Therapy Conference Room, US Naval Hospital, Bethesda, MD

Date: May 17, 1990

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Present: CAPT W. Fromherz (PT/CPO/DCP); CAPT N. Hartman (PT/HCFA); CAPT G. Hunt (PT/BOP Representing CAPT G. Diullo); CAPT R. Nelson (PT/Chairperson/NIOSH); LCDR F. Oakley (OT/Secretary/NIH); CDR G. Schofield (OT/Field Representative/CMHS); LT M. Smith (PT/NIH); CAPT D. Swett (PT/IHS)

I. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 10:00 a.m.

II. The Agenda (Attachment A) was accepted as published.

III. The minutes of the March 15, 1990 meeting were adopted as published.

IV. Open Forum:

A. TPAC welcomed CAPT Gary Hunt (BoP) from Springfield, Missouri. CAPT Hunt, Chairperson of the Therapist Recruitment Committee served as an alternate for CAPT Gene Diullo.

B. TPAC Minutes

1. TPAC reviewed the purposes of the minutes:

a. To promote communication within the therapist category, and

b. To keep the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), the Chief Professional Officers (CPOs), and Professional Advisory Committees (PACs) informed of therapist category activities.

NOTE: *The OSG receives the entire TPAC minutes package while the CPOs and PACs receive the minutes without reports. CAPT W. Fromherz (CPO) noted that he has received positive feedback regarding the minutes from the OSG, CPOs, and PACs.*

2. TPAC reviewed the size and format of the minutes. The conclusion reached was that both the minutes and appendix materials have become too large. In an effort to reduce the amount of paper transmitted, a standard format for reports was adopted.

ACTION ITEM: CAPT Nelson has prepared a standard format for the future TPAC minutes using CAPT Swett's report as a model. Future reports should use this model. (Attachment B). *Please review CAPT Swett's report (Attachment C) for items to include under each main heading.*

3. TPAC is interested in highlighting therapist publications. A section devoted for this purpose appears at the end of Attachment B. A complete citation followed by the abstract should be reported in Attachment B.

ACTION ITEM: TPAC invites all therapists to submit a complete citation and abstract of their publication for inclusion in future TPAC minutes.

V. REPORTS:

A. Chairperson: CAPT R. Nelson

1. CAPT Nelson will retire effective December 1, 1990. His new address will be:

Roger M. Nelson, PhD, PT
Professor and Chair
Physical Therapy Department
Thomas Jefferson University
Edison Building-Room 830
130 South 9th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

(215) 955-8025

2. The chair has had the pleasure of working people who serve on the TPAC. Thank you for keeping the best interests of the Therapist Category the most important aspect of your membership.
3. CAPT Nelson was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Physical Therapy Association at their recent annual meeting.

B. Chief Professional Officer/DCP Representative: CAPT W. Fromherz

1. CPO W. Fromherz participated in a retreat sponsored by the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), May 2-3, 1990. The attendees included: Chief Professional Officers and Flag Officers from various agencies. The purpose of the retreat was to develop a five year plan for the Commissioned Corps. CAPT Fromherz reported the overall tone of the meeting was very positive. A report on the retreat from the OSG will be forthcoming, at which time CAPT Fromherz will share it with therapists.
2. A special "*Thank You*" is extended to the sub-committee on Clinical Specialization. Their deliberation and subsequent report is a valuable starting point for the deliberations on clinical specialization.
3. A special "*Thank You*" to CAPT Roger Nelson for his exemplary service as a TPAC member for 5 years and as the TPAC Chair for the past 3 years. He consistently provided fair, honest and decisive administrative and organizational leadership. Congratulations to him on his retirement and best wishes to him in his new position as Chair of the Physical Therapy Education program at Thomas Jefferson University.

C. Indian Health Service - CAPT D. Swett - Please see report (Attachment C).

D. Coast Guard - LCDR E. Koziatek - Please see report (Attachment D).

E. Food and Drug Administration - CDR M. Schroeder - Nothing new to report.

F. Carville - CAPT J. Krotoski/CAPT J. Birke - Please see report (Attachment E).

G. NIH

1. Occupational Therapy Service-LCDR F. Oakley
Please see report (Attachment F).
2. Physical Therapy Service - LT M. Smith - Please see report (Attachment G).
3. Biomechanics Laboratory - LT K. Siegel - Please see report (Attachment H).

H. NIOSH - LCDR D. Nestor - Nothing new to report.

I. Bureau of Prisons - CAPT G. Diullo - Please see report (Attachment I).

J. Research/Award Activity - CAPT J. Birke - Nothing new to report.

K. CMHS - CDR G. Schofield - Please see report (Attachment J).

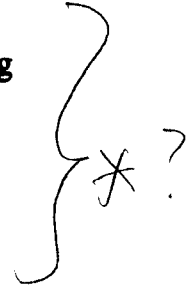
L. Federal Employee Occupational Health - CAPT A. Plumstead
Nothing new to report.

M. PHS Recruitment Branch - CDR B. Ferguson - Nothing new to report.

- N. Therapist Recruitment - CAPT G. Hunt - Please see report (Attachment K).
- O. Education - CDR W. Brown - Please see report (Attachment L).

ACTION ITEM: Therapists who want to submit an article for the continuing series entitled "*SPOTLIGHT*" are requested to contact CDR Brown:

CDR William Brown
Physical Therapy Department
PHS Indian Hospital
Claremore, OK 74017



VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Nomination for TPAC members-status: CAPT Nelson

CAPT Nelson transmitted the names of nominees for TPAC vacancies (beginning September 1, 1990) to the appropriate agency administrator for approval/disapproval. CAPT Nelson will forward the approved list of nominees to CPO W. Fromherz for review. The CPO will forward a prioritized final list of nominees to the Surgeon General for final approval/appointment.

B. Standardized Clinical Specialist Billets - status: LT Smith

LT Smith presented the recommendations of the subcommittee on Clinical Specialist certification (Attachment M).

The subcommittee raised three questions for TPAC:

1. If criteria for the 0-5 chief billet is not met, does it preclude an officer not meeting criteria for the 0-6 clinical specialist billet?

Response: CAPT Fromherz responded that the minimum qualifications for the 05 clinical specialist includes the following: "Working towards specialist classification/graduate education in the specialist area." If a therapist meets the qualifications (i.e., criteria) for the 06 clinical specialist billet, it is assumed that they have been working towards specialization even though they may not have occupied the 05 clinical specialist billet.

2. Who will determine if an officer meets criteria for specialization? (i.e., should the criteria be TPAC approved?).

Response: CAPT Fromherz responded that the TPAC should determine the criteria. The questions appear to be:

- a) Should TPAC become a certifying body?
- b) Should TPAC rely on recognized professional organizations with nationally recognized board certification procedures?

If an outside organization certifies, the role of TPAC would be to recognize that professional organization and its certification process.

3. How will officers in the field know about criteria for the clinical specialist billet?

Response: CAPT Fromherz responded by stating that the clinical specialist billet criteria will be published in future TPAC minutes.

The issue of certification of clinical specialists and the extent of the specialization for the therapist category was discussed at length by the TPAC members.

RESULT OF DISCUSSION: The decision reached by the TPAC members was that TPAC should not become a certifying or credentialing body. Specialty Certification, therefore, should follow the formal process established by each professional organization. Such an approach is consistent with other professional categories (i.e., medicine and nursing specialty certification processes).

The American Physical Therapy Association recognizes certification in 6 specialty areas: Clinical Electrophysiology, Sports Physical Therapy, Orthopedic Physical Therapy, Neurology, Geriatrics, and Pediatrics.

Currently, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASLHA) lack a formal certification of specialties.

ACTION ITEM: The TPAC recommended that LT Smith share TPAC's comments regarding specialty certification with her subcommittee. A response by that subcommittee should be available at the September 27, 1990 TPAC Meeting.

ACTION ITEM: All Therapists are invited to forward their written comments regarding specialty certification to LT Smith (please see address in TPAC roster) by September 4, 1990. LT Smith will report on the responses at the September 27, 1990 TPAC meeting.

ACTION ITEM: The TPAC recommended that the subcommittee contact the AOTA and the ASLHA to learn of each organizations status on specialty certification.

The subcommittee could investigate, for example, the possibility of AOTA and ASLHA initiating a specialty certification for PHS Officers until the organizations adopt a more formal procedure. TPAC will do everything possible to work with professional organizations to encourage specialization.

- C. Therapist Recruitment Plan - review draft: CAPT Hunt
CAPT Hunt presented the revised therapist category recruitment plan (Attachment K). TPAC greatly appreciates all the hard work of CAPT Hunt and the recruitment committee.

ACTION ITEM: CAPT Hunt will prepare a final draft of the therapist category recruitment plan and submit it to the TPAC on September 27, 1990.

D. COSTEP Coordination - status: CAPT Diullo

- 1. The cooperation of all COSTEP supervisors is essential for successful operation of this TPAC function.**
- 2. All COSTEP supervisors should have survey materials from CAPT Diullo. If you don't have the survey instruments please call (417) 862-7041 Ext 146.**

E. Recruitment Screening Tool - review draft: CAPT Swett

ACTION: Tabled until September 27, 1990 meeting.

F. Management of Therapist Candidates - status: CAPT Fromherz

ACTION: Continued dialogue with the Division of Commissioned Personnel has been beneficial in the timely management of the candidate paper work.

G. Review of Action Items: CAPT Nelson

TPAC Charter review/revisions - status: CAPT Hartman
CAPT Hartman distributed a draft of his recommendations for revisions to the TPAC Charter.

ACTION ITEM: TPAC members are to review CAPT Hartman's draft, which will be discussed at the September 27, 1990 TPAC meeting.

H. Therapist Career Development Grid is complete. Please see Attachment N.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Long Term Goals: 1991-1992

ACTION ITEM: Tabled until September 27, 1990 meeting.

B. Election of TPAC Officers (*subject to Surgeon General approval*). Term of office; September 1, 1990 to August 30, 1993.

1. LCDR Frances Oakley was elected TPAC Chair. She is an Occupational Therapist at NIH and Coordinator of the Clinical Research Program in Occupational Therapy.

2. CAPT Gene Diullo was elected Vice Chair/Secretary. CAPT Diullo is a Physical Therapist with the Bureau of Prisons in Springfield, Missouri.

C. Health Prevention Booklet about condoms was developed by CAPT Sloop. The booklet is included with this mailing of the TPAC minutes.

VIII. Other: Next TPAC Meeting

Date: September 27, 1990

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Physical Therapy Conference Room, US Naval Hospital, Bethesda, MD

ACTION ITEM: Please forward agenda items and written reports* no later than September 12, 1990 to:

**LCDR Fran Oakley
National Institutes of Health
Occupational Therapy Program
Building 10, Room 6S233
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892**

**(301) 496-3100
FTS 496-3100
FAX (301) 496-2443**

*** Please use attachment B as a guideline for written reports.**

Respectfully Submitted:



**LCDR Frances Oakley
Secretary, TPAC
May 27, 1990**

Concur:



**CAPT Roger M. Nelson
Chairman, TPAC
July 10, 1990**

Reviewed:



**CAPT William A. Fromherz
Chief Professional Officer**