

**Dominick C. Aretino, MS, OT  
CAPT, USPHS**

CAPT Dominick C. Aretino will be retiring after twenty-one years of dedicated service to the United States Public Health Service, four years with the United States Navy, and three years in the United States Army. It is with great honor that the Therapy Category recognizes CAPT Aretino for his many accomplishments, and distinguished career.

CAPT Aretino completed his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Psychology/Sociology at Central State University, Edmond, Oklahoma. He also completed his Master's of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

CAPT Aretino was originally commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy in 1979, and stationed at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. While serving in Bethesda, he simultaneously performed the duties of a staff therapist, and project coordinator for the design and refurbishment of a new occupational therapy facility. He went on to serve in the Army as a clinical supervisor of the occupational therapy section at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas in 1984. He also served at Fort Sam Houston as adjunct faculty at the Academy of Health Sciences.

After becoming a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service in 1987, CAPT Aretino was instrumental in developing a pediatric program, through the Indian Health Service at the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility, Chinle, Arizona. He went on to become the Rehabilitation Director in 1989, supervising a staff of six individuals. During this time, CAPT Aretino's department sponsored five ambulatory clinics including a Spinal Cord Injury Clinic, and a Pediatric Development Delay Clinic. He also served as consultant to medical staff for burn care, and upper extremity trauma. CAPT Aretino further distinguished himself by becoming a founding member of the Chinle Inter-Agency Council to address and improve comprehensive pediatric services for Chinle residents.

CAPT Aretino transferred to Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC) in 1992, and created the first Occupational Therapy (OT) Program at GIMC. He established the Pediatric OT Department, and diligently expanded programming and staffing to allow inclusion of adult orthopedics, neuro-trauma, upper extremity, and cognitive rehabilitation.

In 1994, CAPT Aretino transferred to Saint Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D.C., and was detailed to the Mobile Community Outreach Treatment Services. He functioned there as a case manager for chronic mentally ill patients assigned to his program. While contributing to this program, he provided assistance with housing, financial entitlement procurements, activities of daily living, medication compliance, and representation for subsistence needs. Through his tireless efforts, he assisted this program with meeting the mission of decreasing inpatient admissions for this population demographic.

From 1995 to 1997, CAPT Aretino served as Chief of Occupational Therapy at GIMC. While in this role, he supervised other OT's and staff as they met the needs of GIMC's inpatient, and outpatient pediatric caseloads and specialty clinics together with sponsoring a regularly occurring hand clinic outreach to Zuni, NM. From 1997 to 2001, he served as the Director of Physical Rehabilitation at GIMC. He was responsible for the administrative and clinical operations of OT, PT, and Speech Therapy. CAPT Aretino continued to provide clinical expertise with Natal Intensive Care Unit patients, Pediatric Orthopedic clinic, Pediatric Wheelchair and Special Well Child Clinics, along with serving as the Navajo Area Indian Health Service Pediatric Consultant.

From 2001 to 2004, CAPT Aretino served as the Director of Rehabilitation Services at the Federal Medical Center, Butner, North Carolina, Federal Bureau of Prisons. He established the first Physical Rehabilitation Department at this institution, and was responsible for the clinical and administrative management of OT, PT, Speech Therapy, Vocational Rehab, Recreation Therapy, and Health Promotion Disease Prevention Programs. His quality of direction, clinical expertise, and consultation are still highly regarded by staff who worked with him during his time at Butner.

In March of 2004, CAPT Aretino opened a Wellness Center at GIMC, and continues to lead by example, and provide valued services there. He directs the services of a multidisciplinary approach to improving the health of patients requiring care for a variety of diagnoses.

The Therapy Category would like to extend a sincere thank you to CAPT Aretino for his professionalism, and career achievements. Through his work he has brought recognition, and respect to his profession, and has been an outstanding example of a United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officer.