



U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee
Department of Health and Human Services

Minutes of Meeting
05 AUGUST 2004
Office of the Surgeon General Conference Room
1300-1750

Members Present:

In Rockville

RADM Richard Walling	CAPT Sharon Gershon
CAPT Raelene Skerda (Chair)	LCDR Mary Kremzner (Alt/Chhabra)
LCDR Krista Scardina (Vice-chair)	LCDR Jeff Mouakket
LCDR Laura Pincock	

Via Telephone

LT Kristen Maves	CAPT Mike Foreman
CDR Daniel Hasenfang	LCDR Michael Lee
CDR Mike Long	LCDR Mark Strong
LCDR Thomas Berry	CDR Patricia Garvey
LT Violette Geza (Secretary)	CDR Paul Huntzinger
LCDR Burton Hill	

Members Absent

CAPT Jim Imholte	CDR Jim Bresette (alt. LCDR Kreis)
LCDR Renu Chhabra	Mr. Jae Kim

Guests:

CDR Sharon McCoy	CAPT Robert Young
CAPT Richard Fejka	LCDR Jane Kreis
Rosalyn Adigun (pharmacy student)	CAPT Don Brown
LT Ayoub Suliman	LT Matthew Febbo
LT Wanda Pamphile	LTJG Jeffrey Vang
CAPT Robert Pittman	LT Ted Hall
CDR Muhammad Marwan	LT Kendra Stewart
CAPT Timothy Ames	CAPT Richard Lawson
Dr. Rennan Bonnel	LCDR Steve Mazzela
ENS Ezra Mell	CDR Beth Fritsch
ENS Kristen Albright	LCDR Connie Jung
LT Tara Turner	LCDR Aaron Sigler
LT Arianne Camphire	CDR Alison Dion
LCDR Christine Bina	LCDR Sharon Oestereich
LCDR Monica Johnson	LCDR Nita Sood
LCDR Christine Yu	LCDR Christopher Allen
CDR Julianne Vaillancourt	CDR Cindy Dougherty
LCDR Sean Belouin	LT Ryan Guyen
LT Thomas Hinchcliffe	LCDR Keith Olin
LCDR Ann Vu	CAPT Tony DeCicco
LT Neel Patel	LT Sheryl Gunther
LCDR Monika Johnson	LT Carmen Kelly

Call to Order: CAPT Raelene Skerda (rskerda@bop.gov)

- ◆ CAPT Skerda introduced the new chairperson of the national board of COA, CAPT Tim Ames. Next year's meeting will be held in Philadelphia. Pharmacy officers are encouraged to attend especially to make a presence to the numerous pharmacy schools in Philadelphia.
- ◆ RADM John Babb was introduced to discuss the Office of Force Readiness Development (OFRD previously known as CCRF). There have been 33 deployments this year from the OFRD. Pharmacists are the second most deployed category.
- ◆ Basic readiness will be required for the 2005 promotion cycle. As of 1 May 2005, basic readiness will be a requirement for all officers. Those who do not meet basic readiness and are up for promotion will be removed from the list and not considered. Fitness requirements can be obtained through the APFT or the President's Challenge. Those officers choosing to be part of the President's Challenge (www.presidentschallenge.org) need to join the PHS group #13537. Medical waivers are available for vaccinations and the physical fitness test and are obtained through the Medical Affairs Branch.
- ◆ The Field Medical Readiness Badge (FMRB) will be reserved for advanced level of readiness only. Detailed information will be forthcoming.

CPO Report: CAPT Raelene Skerda (rskerda@bop.gov)

- ◆ CAPT Skerda discussed the CPO report submitted by RADM Walling

NOTES FROM THE CHIEF PHARMACIST OFFICER

◆ **CPO Board Retreat:**

The Chief Professional Officers (CPO) held its second board retreat on July 20 and 21st in Cool Font, West Virginia. The Board's first meeting was two years ago. The retreat included the Chief Professional Officers and the RADM Richard Wyatt, Chair of the Research Officer Group. RADM Pal Littleton (PHS ret) facilitated the meeting.

At the request of the Board, RADM Pal Littleton (ret) conducted a total of 34 interviews prior to the retreat, each of them confidential. Interviewees included members of the Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS), the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), knowledgeable individuals from the private sector, the chairs of each of the Professional Advisory Committees and similar advisory bodies, and each of the CPOs. The clear messages arising from these interviews and other background information reviewed are: (1) that the Commissioned Corps has internal and external vulnerabilities and issues that need to be addressed; (2) that a unique, time-limited, window of opportunity currently presents to accomplish the transformation of the Corps, and (3) that the CPO Board needs to assume a much more proactive leadership and facilitation role in the transformation of the Corps, especially as we communicate with officers and assess the impact of transformation policies.

The Board reaffirmed that its focus is on the mission of the US Public Health Service and is in accord with Secretary Thompson's one department goal. We are committed to ensuring that the Transformation results in a long-term, stable Corps that can also effectively contribute to the mission of the agencies in which our officers serve and to those activities that facilitate agency partnerships and collaborations. We also are committed to meeting National and agency mobilization and deployment needs through the development of clear plans and the support for officer preparation and competencies. Finally we believe that a central infrastructure that provides training, career and leadership development and supports the skills and practices that all officers will need is essential for the success of the Transformation.

In the coming weeks the Board will meet with several of the senior leadership of the Transformation process. The Board has already met with VADM Carmona to brief him on the retreat. It plans to hold regular meetings with the Director of OCCO and OCCFM

◆ **Nominations for American Pharmacist Association Awards**

The American Pharmacist Association (APhA) has announced their awards cycle for 2005. The guidelines for the various awards of the Association can be found on its website. www.aphanet.org Last year was the inaugural year for the *Distinguished Federal Pharmacist Award*. This award is specifically designed to recognize a pharmacist who is a member of APhA serving in a federal pharmacy practice for ten years, and on active federal service at the time of the nomination and has distinguished himself/herself and the profession of pharmacy by sustained outstanding performance and achievement. This is our award, and I know we have any number of worthy candidates. The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2004.

◆ **Lewin Group Briefing:**

The Lewin Group briefed the CPOs and Agency Liaisons and Representative to the Office of the Surgeon General on their findings on the Transformation of the Corps. Their draft report contains a set of concept and technical papers that will be used by a task force formed under the direction of the Surgeon General to identify a set of recommendations for Secretary Tommy Thompson. The Lewin Group did not provide recommendations per se but rather a set of observations gained through interviews and focus groups on ways that improvement to tools and procedures could improve the operations of the Commissioned Corps. Lewin Group focused on three areas: Force Management, Training and Communications.

There is nothing startling about the Lewin Groups findings, but it does provide an outsider's look at the Commissioned Corps. The conclusions of the Lewin Group does support what we already know, that the Commissioned Corps in the future will need to provide greater opportunities for qualified officers to develop into public health experts and leaders and to develop skills and abilities that will improve their performance in both their everyday duties and their readiness to respond to emergencies.

◆ **Recognition of the Communications Committee**

Congratulations for a long overdue recognition for the accomplishments of the PharmPAC's Communication Committee. The group is being recognized with a PHS Unit Commendation for consistent dedicated efforts to improve communication and encourage dialogue among USPHS pharmacists, during the period November 1999 to September 2002. The officers being recognized are:

CAPT David K. Ellison
CAPT Lillie D. Golson
CDR Charles V. Hoppes
CDR Paul E. Huntzinger
LT Timothy M. Murray
LCDR Annemarie B. Radow
CAPT Denise P. Toyer

LCDR Jennifer E. Fan
CAPT William A. Hess
LT Elaine J. Ju
LT Jeen S. Min
CAPT Richard R. Potter
CDR Kassandra C. Sherrod
LCDR Teresa A. Watkins

- ◆ Congratulations was extended to all the pharmacists who were successful in the 2004 promotion cycle.

Section Lead Comments:

- ◆ Administration→ LCDR Krista Scardina (scardinak@cdcr.fda.gov)
 - Awards: The report discussing awards given out to activities outside an officer's OPDIV has been sent to the secretary for approval. The goal of the report is to adopt a system across all the categories with the Surgeon General and the CPO board the delegating authority.
 - History: The upcoming year will be the 50th anniversary of IHS and the 75th year of the pharmacy category. Ideas are needed on how to commemorate these two events at COA and/or APhA. Volunteers are needed and can contact LCDR Pincock and LT Camphire.
 - The next APhA meeting will be in Orlando 01-05 April 2005. Officers who are planning to attend this conference should consider the possibility of being a PHS delegate.
 - The AMSUS meeting will be held Nov. 14th- 19th in Denver. Thank you to all who nominated PHS pharmacists form AMSUS awards. There were 9 nominations submitted.
 - The PharmPAC charter has been revised and signed. Thank you to the committee for all their hard work. The committee is now working on the standard operating procedures (SOP).
 - There will be a working PAC meeting for members only on 17 August 2004. The meeting members will be voting on PAC leadership for next year. Self-nominations for chair and vice chair have closed.

- ◆ Recruitment→ LCDR Jane Kreis for CDR James Bresette (jbresett@hqe.ihs.gov).
 - CAPT Robert Pittman discussed the section on CDR Bresette's behalf.
 - There are currently 935 pharmacy officers on duty. The calls to active duty for the month of August due to relocation of our personnel offices through the 14th will be decreased.
 - The database to track POC's and recruitment activities has been temporarily put on hold.
 - LCDR Christine Bina is coordinating the APhA-ASP midyear meeting. Volunteers are still needed for North Carolina, Michigan, Salt Lake City, Fargo, and Houston. Anyone interested can contact LCDR Bina. (cbina@cdcr.fda.gov)

- ◆ Career Development→ CAPT Jim Imholte (jimholte@osophs.dhhs.gov)
 - CV Workgroup: CDR Dan Hasenfang discussed the changes made to the CV. The following changes were recommended to the workgroup.
 - Precepts listed on cover sheet
 - Listing award received and multiple years on cover sheet
 - Billet information added in experience section
 - Provide description in awards/honors
 - Combine presentation and publications section
 - Combine certifications and special skills.
 - These changes will be made and presented to the working PAC meeting August 17 and then forwarded to RADM Walling.
 - CCRF now OFRD: LCDR Mark Strong stated as of July 2004 that the pharmacy category is at ~30% Basic Readiness (615 officers). The lack of simple requirements such as height/weight, deployment role, current login, and licensure affects 7.32% of those 615 officers. The ACPE credits for all NDMS modules will continue to be granted by UMBC until 31 December 2004. There may be a lag between contractor's, therefore everyone is encouraged to complete the modules before them.
 - August is the month designated to finish the 12 basic CCRF modules.
 - Civil Service Pharmacists: Dr. Rennan Bonnel

- The civil pharmacist survey was sent out on the listserv and 531 responses were received. Results of the survey will be presented at the October PAC meeting.
- ◆ Communication→ CDR Mike Long (mzlong@bop.gov)
 - Another PLANT profile has been added.
 - There was no other new business reported.

PAC Chair Report: CAPT Raelene Skerda (rskerda@bop.gov)

- ◆ CAPT Skerda opened discussion on the pharmacy benchmarks.
- ◆ Noted questions were brought to the table on the precepts dealing with "assignments" and "geographic mobility." Also presented were concerns about the weight of specific certifications versus "Board Certification" and the inclusion of weight for an advanced degree above the qualifying degree for our category.
- ◆ One final call for discussion and comments on our Benchmarks -There will be a meeting 25 August 2004 to discuss benchmarks. To be noted: The benchmarks are for the best-qualified officer. Clarification is needed on issues such as collateral duties, as well as the above-mentioned issues. Anyone with comments should submit them to CAPT Jim Imholte prior to the meeting. A message will be posted on the listserv prior to the meeting for time and phone information.

Next Meeting Dates:

02 September 2004@1300 EDT Parklawn Building

Agenda and call in information will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Useful Links and Contact Info:

- ◆ Emails: PharmPAC@list.nih.gov
PHS-Pharmacists@list.nih.gov
RX-Vacancies@list.nih.gov
Rx-Students@list.nih.gov
- ◆ Listservs: PHS Pharmacists <http://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-pharmacist.html>
PHS Rx Students <http://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-students.html>
CCRF Pharmacists <http://list.nih.gov/archives/ccrf-pharm.html>
RPh Job Vacancies <http://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-jobs.html>
JOAG <http://list.nih.gov/archives/joag.html>
- ◆ Websites: PharmPAC <http://hhs.gov/pharmacy/>
DCP <http://dcp.psc.gov>
USPHS CC <http://www.usphs.gov>
CCRF <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/ccrf/>
PHS-1 DMAT <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/dmat>
JOAG <http://www.joag.org>

--Respectfully Submitted,

LT Violette Geza, Executive Secretary

Date

CAPT Raelene Skerda, Chair

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Date

RADM Richard Walling, CPO

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Date