

Therapist Professional Advisory Committee



CAPT Charlotte Richards
 Chief Professional Officer
 Northern Navajo Medical Center
 Rehabilitation Services Department
 PO Box 160
 Shiprock, NM 87420
 Phone: 505-368-7100
 FAX: 505-368-7078
 E-mail:
charlotte.richards@shiprock.ihs.gov

CDR Jeff Fultz
 Chair, TPAC
 Northern Navajo Medical Center
 Rehabilitation Services Department
 PO Box 160
 Shiprock, NM 87420
 Phone: 505-368-7100
 FAX: 505-368-7078
 E-mail:
jeffrey.fultz@shiprock.ihs.gov

LT Ron West
 Executive Secretary, TPAC
 Phoenix Indian Medical Center
 Physical Therapy Department
 4212 N. 16th Street
 Phoenix, AZ 85016
 Phone: 602-263-1561
 FAX: 602-263-1589
 E-mail:
Wyldewest@yahoo.com

If you have information you would like to pass on, or have a question for TPAC please do not hesitate to contact your Field Representative.

<u>FIELD REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>Phone#</u>
Ms. Tina Bauer	IHS Northwest	Tina.Bauer@mail.ihs.gov	(406)-477-4422
CDR Betty Garner	IHS Multi-site	ababgarner@cableone.net	(580) 421-4585
CDR Lou Iannuzzi	HRSA USCG	Liannuzzi@siuh.edu	(718) 226-6343
LCDR Michelle Jordan	Multi-Agency	mjordan@hrsa.gov	(301) 443-7037
LT Jeffrey Lawrence	IHS NM	Jeffrey.Lawrence@mail.ihs.gov	(505) 552-5490
LCDR Cindy Melanson	HCFA	Cmelanson@hcfa.gov	(410) 786-0310
LCDR Sue Newman	BOP WEST	snewman@bop.gov	(817) 413-3435
CAPT Fran Oakley	NIH PT/OT	foakley@nih.gov	(301) 402-3019
LT Michelle Peterman	CMHS	Gatoram2@aol.com	202-645-7610
LT Joseph Rasor	IHS AZ	Joseph.Rasor@pimc.ihs.gov	(602)-263-1561
Ms. Beth Solomon	NIH SLP	bsolomon@nih.gov	(301) 496-8831
LCDR Matt Taylor	BOP EAST	mtaylor@bop.gov	(978) 796-1000ext.4663

FUTURE TPAC MEETINGS:

The next TPAC Meeting will be on Tuesday, 29 MAY 2001 from 1700 – 1830 hours, EDT. CDR Fultz will be chairing this meeting from Washington, DC at the COA Meeting 2001,

THERAPIST PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
26 APR 2001

**THERAPIST PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
26 APR 2001**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS TPAC MINUTES
- IV. OPEN FORUM
 - A. Introduction of Special Guests
 - B. Action Item Review J. Fultz
 - Internet Communication Task Force Report
 - DCP Listserve
 - Mentors
 - Committee Reports on the Web Page
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Therapist Appointment Board Standards J. Fultz
 - B. TPAC T-Shirts R. West
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. TPAC Executive Secretary Nomination J. Fultz
 - B. Field Representative Changes J. Fultz
- VII. REPORTS
 - A. Chief Professional Officer C. Richards
 - B. Chairperson J. Fultz
 - C. Awards Committee G Johnson
 - Awards Work Group I. Williams
 - D. CCRF Committee G. Mead
 - E. Education Committee L. LaBranche
 - F. Fitness/Wellness Initiative Committee R. Parks
 - G. Recruitment and Retention Committee D. Aretino
 - Mentoring Task Force M. Smith
 - Recruitment for Therapist Category M. Melanson
 - Home Page K. Siegel
 - H. Strategic Growth Committee J. Hurley
 - I. Discipline Liaisons: L. Simpson
 - Audiology R. Parks
 - Occupational Therapy M. Smith
 - Physical Therapy B. Solomon
 - Speech Language Path R. Parks
 - J. COA Therapist Representative B. Sellers
 - K. COA Meeting Task Force D. Brueggemann
 - L. Newsletter C. Melanson/M Jordan
 - M. Junior Officer report R. West
 - N. Field Representative Reports

Therapist Professional Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 26 APR 2001

Time: 1400 – 1630 hours EDT

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Roll Call:

MEMBERS: CDR Jeffrey Fultz, Chair
LT Ron West, Executive Secretary
CAPT Dominick Aretino
CDR Nancy Balash
CAPT David Brueggemann – Proxy LCDR Frank Weaver
CAPT Mark Dardis
LCDR Bart Drinkard
CDR Lois Goode – Proxy CDR Jeff Fultz
CAPT John Hurley
CAPT Georgia Johnson – Proxy CDR Jeff Fultz
CAPT Leo LaBranche
LT Grant Mead – Proxy LT Ron West
CAPT Rebecca Parks
LCDR Richard Shumway
Ms. Beth Solomon – Proxy CAPT Rebecca Parks
LCDR Frank Weaver
CAPT Ivana Williams – Proxy CDR Jeff Fultz

CPO: CAPT Charlotte Richards

GUESTS: LCDR Gari Smith (Phoenix, AZ)
LCDR Liza Figueroa (Phoenix, AZ)
LT Joseph Rasor (IHS AZ Field Rep, Phoenix, AZ)
CDR Terry Cavanaugh (Sitka, AK)
LTJG Alexei Desatoff (Sitka, AK)
LT Henry McMillan (Butner, NC)
LCDR Matt Taylor (BOP East Field Rep, Devens, MA)
LCDR Eric Payne (Rochester, MN)
LT Corey Dahl (Rochester, MN)
CDR Shelley Patterson (San Francisco, CA)
CAPT Becky Sellers (COA Meeting Rep, Zuni, NM)
CDR Susanne Pickering (Teleconference Coordinator, Atlanta, GA)
CDR Michaele Smith (Mentoring Rep, Bethesda, MD)

Signing on during the Meeting:

LT Jeff Richardson (Guest, Sells, AZ)
CAPT Mike Flyzik (Guest, OSG Liaison)
LT Damien Avery (Guest, Carswell, TX)

II. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS TPAC MINUTES:

The TPAC Minutes for 23 FEB 01 were approved.

IV. OPEN FORUM

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:

CDR Fultz welcomed everyone to today's TPAC meeting

ACTION ITEM REVIEW: ATTACHMENT E

Internet Communication Task Force Report:

LT Joe Razor reported that at the current time the different agencies of the Public Health Service have separate and distinct internet servers. He stated that there is a move to create an intranet link within the Public Health Service Agencies. However, this has not yet happened. He further reported that the software that is currently available has the capability of linking video conference between two people (system to system link) in “real time”, but the technology is not yet available to link 20 to 40 persons in “real time”. He commended the 1-800 teleconferencing currently used and suggested that the TPAC continue communicating via email and holding its meetings via 1-800 teleconferencing. CDR Fultz accepted the report and disbanded the task force.

DCP Listserve:

CDR Fultz admonished all Commissioned Officers to sign up on the DCP Listserve at www.dcp.psc.gov Click on the “Services” icon and then click on “subscribe to the Listserve”.

Mentoring:

CDR Smith reported that there are two junior officers who have been waiting to be paired with a mentor. As of yet, the role of mentor is under served. She stated that she has been contacting the two individuals as their unofficial mentor to answer questions about the PHS, promotion, and COER. CDR Fultz charged all senior officers to apply and requested that CDR Smith send him a list of all senior officers that are presently participating in the mentoring process. CDR Fultz placed high urgency on this item and stated that he would contact all senior officers that were not participating. He made this an **Action Item** for the next TPAC meeting.

Committee Reports on the Web Page: **ATTACHMENT B**

LT West reported for CDR Siegel. He summarized her report. She requests that all Committee Chairs contact her regarding their individual committee section of the web page. Many of the committee sections are incomplete or outdated. CDR Fultz made this an **Action Item** for the next TPAC meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT BOARD STANDARDS:

CDR Fultz regretted that he was unable to contact CDR Green at DCP. He trusts that in the near future he will have something to report.

CATEGORY T-SHIRTS:

LT West reported that the t-shirts have been printed and mailed out. T-shirts for those people in the Washington, DC area were mass mailed in overnight packages to the field representatives for distribution before the Parklawn Classic. He recommended having another t-shirt drive to give category members one more chance to get a category t-shirt before the COA Meeting. He stated that he would distribute another order form to the field representatives.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

TPAC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NOMINATIONS:

CDR Fultz reported that LT West will be completing his term as TPAC Executive Secretary on June 30th. The TPAC Policies and Procedures sets the term of the office of Executive Secretary as a two year term ending on alternating years from the TPAC Chairperson. The current Chairperson and Executive Secretary took office in the same year. Therefore, by established guidelines, the office of Executive Secretary was for a one-year term. As a result, there will be an election for Executive Secretary at the next TPAC meeting. CDR Fultz requested that all members consider the opportunity to become TPAC Executive Secretary and to contact him if they are interested.

CDR Fultz commended LT West for a job well done.

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE CHANGES:

LT West reported that there have been changes in the Field Representatives for HRSA/USCG, NIH PT, and IHS Alaska. He thanked CDR Alicia Hoard, LCDR Bart Drinkard, and LCDR Dan Weaver for a job well done in representing the category members in their agencies. LT West announced that CDR Lou Iannuzzi is the new HRSA/USCG Field Representative. The NIH PT Field Representative position will be dissolved and absorbed by CAPT Fran Oakley who presently serves as the NIH OT Field Representative. The new IHS Alaska Field Representative is LT Jenevieve Neros from Sitka. Changes in the NIH SLP Field Representative and IHS New Mexico Field Representative will be forthcoming.

VII. REPORTS

CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICER

CAPT Richards reported that she just finished giving LTC Pritchett a tour of the Shiprock facility. LTC Pritchett is a representative from the OSG and is touring IHS facilities in the field. CAPT Richards summarized the events of the CPO/PAC Chair Meeting. She reported that some categories are trying to make tokens or ribbons that identify their category and allow for category recognition. The HSO category has created a category coin. She encouraged the TPAC to follow this example.

CAPT Richards reported that the OSG challenged every category to have its officers sign up on the DCP Listserve. The OSG recommended a contest among the categories regarding compliance to this directive.

CHAIRPERSON

CDR Fultz reported that the Office of the Secretary of HHS is requesting that the PACs appoint science advisors who can be detailed to brief the Office of the Secretary on discipline specific and practice specific information. CDR Fultz distributed a request for nomination to many of the Senior Officers in the Category.

CDR Fultz reported that there was a lot of interest from the OSG regarding the TPAC Strategic Growth Committee. CDR Fultz was asked to present a report to the OSG on the Strategic Growth Committee. There has also been video and slide presentations made for recruitment and retention. There is a recruitment conference in July.

CDR Fultz reported that he received his Presidential Sports Fitness Award. He thanked everyone who continues to participate in the Presidential Sports Award and encouraged everyone to complete the Award on at least an annual basis. CDR Fultz thanked those individuals who recently contributed to the Henry Jackson Foundation Therapist Category account. He recommended that all TPAC members make an annual contribution to this fund to support Therapist Category activities.

AWARDS COMMITTEE:

CDR Fultz reported that there have been nominations for all four awards and that the Committee has been reviewing all of the candidates and will soon make selections.

CCRF COMMITTEE:

No report

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

CAPT LaBranche reported that the list of educational courses is posted on the web page. Slots are filling up fast. He encouraged all field representatives to contact him with any courses that have been organized in their agencies.

FITNESS/WELLNESS INITIATIVE COMMITTEE: ATTACHMENT A

CAPT Parks thanked those who had submitted their reports and encouraged those interested to see the full report that is attached to the minutes. She reported that the COA Therapist Day will be focused on the health and fitness. A recommendation was made to have a fitness booth set up at the COA Meeting.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION COMMITTEE:

Vacancies:

Agency	Vacancies Position	Location and Description
IHS	1 Staff PT	Anchorage, AK Jan/Feb 2001
	1 Staff PT	Whiteriver, AZ
	1 PT	Ft. Defiance, AZ
	1 Chief PT	Winslow, AZ
	1 OT	Chinle, AZ
	1 PT temp	Chinle, AZ
	1 Ped. PT	Part Time at Tuba City, AZ
	1 Chief PT	Keams/Polacca, AZ
	1 Chief PT	Crownpoint, NM
	1 OT	Shiprock, NM
Ft. Belknap	PT	Montana 406-353-3187
Sage Memorial	1 PT	Ganado, AZ
NIH	0	
CMHS	1 OT	Washington, DC
HCFA	www.hcfa.gov	
HRSA	www.hrsa.gov	
CDC	www.cdc.gov	
Multi-agency	DCP website	

Mentoring:

CDR Smith reported that the mentoring information is up on the web page. CDR Fultz reported that there is a recruitment video on CD that is going to be distributed to each PAC that will assist in recruitment and mentoring.

Home Page: ATTACHMENT B

Reported as an Action Item.

STRATEGIC GROWTH COMMITTEE: ATTACHMENT C

CAPT Hurley reported that there has been difficulty establishing Memorandums of Understanding and organizing sponsorship between the Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He stated that CDR Balash has been working with Madigan Army Hospital to establish a relationship. CDR Balash established a Memorandum of Agreement with the IHS Portland Area Office. CDR Balash reported that many efforts have been focused on recruitment in past years. This was done without thought of the number of available positions. She reported that it might be beneficial for all categories to unite in a combined effort to create these Memorandums of Understanding and Agreement. Presently, the Therapist Category is alone in its efforts. LCDR Frank Weaver reported that Keams Canyon is actively pursuing two Commissioned Corps Officer who applied for the new Polacca clinic. This was originally going to be a tribal hire position.

CAPT Hurley reported that the VA initiative has slowed down, but it would behoove the whole of the Commissioned Corps to unite in this effort of establishing a relationship. The Exceptional Family Member Program is another big opportunity for expansion of the Corps. They could utilize professionals from all categories, but without sponsorship it will be impossible. CAPT Hurley reported that LCDR Mark Melanson has been contacting and communicating with all of

the Commissioned Corps applicants to let them know the strides and hurdles towards creating new vacancies. CAPT Georgia Johnson has been contacting some of the agencies in the Washington, DC area to see if there are opportunities for professionals in the Therapist Category to serve in other positions.

CDR Fultz reported that RADM Davidson contacted CAPT Richards regarding the inclusion of Respiratory Therapists into the Therapist Category. CDR Fultz tasked the Strategic Growth Committee with the assignment of gathering information regarding the Respiratory Therapist Profession and to distribute it to the TPAC members by May 22, 2001. He requested that the focus of this assignment be to consider if the profession of Respiratory Therapy fits into the inclusion criteria of the definition of a Therapist Category Member that is listed in Appendix J of the TPAC P&P. The following questions should be answered:

1. What are the different levels of professional programs?
2. What are the accrediting agencies?
3. Where are the accredited programs?
4. What are the licensure and certification requirements?
5. Are the licensure requirements the same in every state?
6. What is a Job Description of a Respiratory Therapist?
7. Are there any recognized specialties in the profession of Respiratory Therapy?
8. What would be some appointment board standards for this profession?
9. Are Respiratory Therapists able to be Commissioned?
10. What would be the potential impact of the Therapist Category with this inclusion?

DISCIPLINE LIAISONS:

CDR Simpson, Audiology Discipline Liaison, No Report.

CAPT Parks, OT Discipline Liaison, reported that the Tri Services Deputy Committee Meeting for May was cancelled.

CDR Michael Smith, PT Discipline Liaison, reported that she missed a meeting regarding the topic of informed consent before manipulation treatment. The Navy is trying to come up with a form that meets JCAHO requirements. When this form is made it can be distributed for review.

Ms. Beth Solomon, SLP Discipline Liaison, No Report.

COA THERAPIST REPRESENTATIVE:

CAPT Parks reported that the COA is currently preoccupied by the upcoming COA meeting. She encouraged those Commissioned Officers who are not members to join the Association. CDR Parks reported that the Commissioned Officers Association selected a new management company for the portfolio investments. She reported that there is an election for board members and all members can submit a ballot which is in the current issue of the Frontline.

COA MEETING TASK FORCE: ATTACHMENT D

CAPT Sellers reported that the COA web page has posted all registration forms, information on the hotels, and the current meeting agenda, including the Therapist Category Day agenda. She reported that the topic for Education Day is "How Do You Fit into Fitness: A Therapist Category Perspective on the Fitness Initiative." She stated that the TPAC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening from 1700 to 1830 hours and will include access via teleconferencing at 1-800-713-1971 Conference Code # 498433. A social event will follow the TPAC Meeting. The Therapist Day Luncheon Speaker will be LTC Beverly Pritchett, Army War College Fellow. A formal agenda for the Luncheon will be forthcoming. CDR Smith was able to acquire video equipment to videotape the Therapist Day presentations.

NEWSLETTER:

CAPT David Brueggemann: No report

JUNIOR OFFICER REPORT:

No report

FIELD REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:

See Field Reports section on web page.

CLOSING ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS: CDR Jeffrey Fultz, Chair
LT Ron West, Executive Secretary
CDR Nancy Balash
CAPT Mark Dardis
LCDR Bart Drinkard
CAPT John Hurley
CAPT Leo LaBranche
CAPT Rebecca Parks
LCDR Richard Shumway
CPO: CAPT Charlotte Richards
GUESTS: CAPT Mike Flyzik (Rockville, OSG Liaison)
LCDR Gari Smith (Phoenix, AZ)
LCDR Liza Figueroa (Phoenix, AZ)
LT Joseph Rasor (IHS AZ Field Rep, Phoenix, AZ)
CDR Terry Cavanaugh (Sitka, AK)
LTJG Alexei Desatoff (Sitka, AK)
LT Henry McMillan (Butner, NC)
LT Damien Avery (Guest, Carswell, TX)
CDR Shelley Patterson (San Francisco, CA)
CDR Susanne Pickering (Teleconference Coordinator, Atlanta, GA)
CDR Michaele Smith (Mentoring Rep, Bethesda, MD)

CONCLUSION:

CDR Fultz concluded the meeting by encouraging all members in the Washington, DC area to participate in the Parklawn Classic Run. He remarked that the next TPAC meeting will be on 29 MAY at the COA Conference from 1700 to 1830 hours EDT. Teleconferencing will be available.

Respectfully Submitted: LT Ron West, TPAC Executive Secretary.

Concur: CDR Jeff Fultz, TPAC Chair.

Concur: CAPT Charlotte Richards, CPO Therapist Category.

TPAC Subcommittee Reports

- AWARDS COMMITTEE: CAPT GEORGIA JOHNSON – See Web Page
- EDUCATION COMMITTEE: CAPT LEO LABRANCHE – See Web Page
- CCRF COMMITTEE: LT GRANT MEAD – No Report
- FITNESS AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE: CAPT REBECCA PARKS – ATTACHMENT A
- RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION: CAPT DOMINICK ARENTINO – ATTACHMENT B
- STRATEGIC GROWTH COMMITTEE: CAPT JOHN HURLEY – ATTACHMENT C
- COA MEETING TASK FORCE: CAPT BECKY SELLERS – ATTACHMENT D
- INTERNET COMMUNICATION TASK FORCE: LT JOE RASOR – ATTACHMENT E

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES COMMITTEE REPORT (4/26/01) ATTACHMENT A

1. The BOP Wellness Initiative participants are using local COA branches and other resources to provide group or individual presentations, encourage participation in the Presidential Sports Award program, organize group participation in community walk/runs, write newsletters and plan for future activities such as health fairs. The Bureau of Prisons has a full complement of healthy lifestyles activities under way:

Facility	Activities
FMC, Butner	Establishing a newsletter with health related topics and aerobics schedule, continue one-on-one encouragement available for those staff who request it.
FMC, Carswell	Aerobics available to staff at the NASJRB-fitness center; Corporate team participation in Komen Race for the Cure; planning a health fair for staff.
FMC, Devens	No Report.
FMC, Fort Worth	Corporate team participation in the Komen Race for the Cure; a health fair for staff was provided.
FMC, Lexington	COA members (and inmates) are participating in the Presidential Sports Award program; Rehab. Dept. is sponsoring a Health Fair for inmate campers; three therapist have become Certified Strength Training Specialists and are providing education to staff; Rehab and Recreation Departments are developing a wellness program for inmates after discharge from Rehab.
FMC, Rochester	Three therapists have completed the Presidential Sports Award program; monitoring other officers progress at the COA meetings; executive staff discussing banning smoking in the entire institution.
MCFP, Springfield	No Report.

2. From LT Richardson in Tucson we learn that the Sells Service Unit is actually developing a wellness committee for the employees. It will be made up of COs and civil servants from the hospital Nutrition, Physical Therapy, and Employee Health departments. Through this committee, employees will be able to receive fitness screens and participate in daily fitness activities. The daily employee fitness activities will be developed as well.
3. In Southeast Alaska the consortium Wellness Team is continuing work with the SPARK program training village teachers in methods to involve more school kids in healthy physical activities. They are also helping support community teams as they organize activity challenges designed for each community. One successful activity that will be repeated in some communities is the "Eagle vs. Raven" activity challenge (started by the people of Klukwon) with prizes for the most active clan team. Anchorage reports that the Special Olympic World Wide Winter Games were a huge success, a very rewarding volunteer activity for COs and even included a visit from Surgeon General Satcher. Anchorage COs are currently assisting with registration for the American Heart Association Heart Run (4/28/01) and hope that an employee team will win a trophy for team performance or donations raised. On a related note, the good work of the Anchorage COs has been recognized with their selection as "Branch of the Year" by the COA.
4. The Region IV Healthy Lifestyles Committee has planned two events to coincide with Federal Fitness Day on May 16, 2001. The two sites are at Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center downtown and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Roybal Campus. The schedule of events for downtown includes opening remarks by RADM Thomas Carrato, Regional Health Administrator, DHHS and

Mr. A. Stanley Meiburg, Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Physical activity events include:

- 1) 5-minute warm up/stretch
- 2) 30-minute basic step aerobics class
- 3) 30-minute kickbox aerobics class
- 4) 30-minute cardio blast aerobics
- 5) 30-minute stretch and relax class
- 6) Walk a lap of around the sidewalk route
- 7) Walk a lap around the tunnel route
- 8) Take part in the "Take the Stairs" campaign

A variety of physical activities will be offered for employees to participate in on an individual basis. Those employees who complete one activity will be eligible to participate in a drawing for grand prizes. Informational tables/displays will be available for the following programs: Office on Women's Health, Federal Occupational Health, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and EAP Employee Assistance Program. Several commissioned officer volunteers will be available to answer questions about the Commissioned Corps and the Healthy Lifestyles Initiatives.

Some changes have been made to the date of the event at the Atlanta Federal Center. May 16th, Federal Fitness Day is also the day planned for the execution of Timothy McVeigh. The Atlanta Federal Center event is outdoors and the area is open to the public. Due to security concerns, the date has been moved to May 24th, the following week. A DJ, fitness open house, fitness activities and others are planned for this event. Fitness related prizes will be distributed. This program is partnering with the Atlanta Federal Center Fitness Center.

The CDC/ATSDR event will still occur on May 16th on CDC/ATSDR property. This is a secure area open only to employees and cleared guests. A radio station has been arranged, as well as door prizes. The major event is a walk/run. Posters are completed and being printed. They will be posted throughout the multiple Agencies facilities. High level administrators representing both Commissioned Corp & Civilian employees will speak briefly, which support has been important to the success of the event.

The Atlanta Branch Commissioned Officers Association has contributed \$200 (combined) toward both events, and the CDC Foundation has contributed \$250 toward the CDC/ATSDR event. SHARE (CDC/ATSDR employee organization), the CDC/ATSDR Lifestyle Office are also partners.

5. The NHDP Wellness Committee has met twice since last report. The Committee is in the process of drafting a survey that will serve as a health risk assessment and needs assessment. The committee will use this information to formulate a plan for the NHDP employees. The committee is also identifying available resources and discussing brochures and other materials to provide employees on a routine basis.
6. NIH Nutrition Department interns hosted "Sporting a Healthy Lifestyle" : presenting information on nutrition and fitness at Buildings 10 and 31 two days this past March.
7. LTJG Mika S. Wooldridge at Gallup Indian Medical Center is working in Gallup New Mexico. She reports the Navajo Nation is really working hard to promote community fitness. LTJG Wooldridge became certified to teach aerobics through the American Council on Exercise Navajo Nation Fitness Leader Training program and now teaches aerobics once a week for the community on a volunteer basis. Along with another physical therapist and a nurse, they offer aerobics three times a week in their community. The classes are free and appropriate for all fitness levels, reportedly offering LTJG Wooldridge a very rewarding experience, and helping her to get out into the community to promote healthy lifestyles.

8. St. Elizabeth's Hospital PHS Officers will be retested May 16, 2001. May 16 is Federal fitness day so any new Officers who did not test on the previous occasion will get an opportunity to do so, and the officers who tested in January will retest to see if improvements have been made. LTJG Spaulding will be offering free tennis lessons to the staff of St Elizabeth's as a way to promote exercise.
9. At Cape May, Joan Phillips has performed the follow-up testing for the PHS Officers who were previously tested. There have been some good reports concerning healthy lifestyle changes from the group. Ms Phillips will report the results at the COA conference next month, and LCDR Shumway will discuss the physical fitness program at the training center.

Home Page Report <http://www.cc.nih.gov/rm/pt/tpac.htm>

The timeliness in which changes to the web page can be posted on the NIH server has significantly improved. As a result, several modifications to the page have been made in the last month.

- TPAC minutes and field reports are now included under the TPAC heading of the page.
- The discipline coordinators are listed under the CPO heading.
- The awards page has been modified to include descriptions of the two new awards.
- The education page now includes the course and conference listing.
- The t-shirt order form was posted until the ordering deadline.

Additional changes to be made in the next few weeks include a substantial revision to the mentoring page, and an expansion of the links of interest section to include mentoring resources.

Some other sections of the therapist home page contain information that is becoming outdated. I would like all TPAC committee chairs to review the sections of the home page that relate to their activities. Please provide me with updated information to keep the page current. If you do not want your committee activities represented on the web page, please let me know and I can delete it. If your activities are not represented and you would like them to be included, please contact me and we can develop a new section for the home page.

Thank you to all the officers who have provided me with information to update the page. TPAC is involved in many activities and I need to rely on all of you to help keep the page as current and as accurate as possible. Please review the page often and give me feedback about what changes need to be made. Thank you for your assistance.

CDR Karen Lohmann Siegel

Home page coordinator <http://www.cc.nih.gov/rm/pt/tpac.htm>

phone: 301-496-9890

e-mail: karen_siegel@nih.gov



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CAPT Charlotte Richards
Chief Professional Officer
Northern Navajo Medical Center
Rehabilitation Services Department
PO Box 160
Shiprock, NM 87420
Phone: 505-368-7100
FAX: 505-368-7078
E-mail:
charlotte.richards@shiprock.ihs.gov

CDR Jeff Fultz
Chair, TPAC
Northern Navajo Medical Center
Rehabilitation Services Department
PO Box 160
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Phone: 505-368-7100
FAX: 505-368-7078
E-mail:
jeffrey.fultz@shiprock.ihs.gov

LT Ron West
Executive Secretary, TPAC
Phoenix Indian Medical Center
Physical Therapy Department
4212 N. 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85016
Phone: 602-263-1561
FAX: 602-263-1589
E-mail:
Wylldwest@yahoo.com

12 APR 01

RADM Kenneth Moritsugu
Deputy Surgeon General, USPHS

Dear Sir,

During the CPO/PAC Chair Meeting 22 MAR 01 I introduced a discussion regarding the Therapist PAC's Strategic Growth Committee. You directed me to provide a written summary of the purpose and progress of that committee. The Strategic Growth Committee was created in August 2000 with the purpose of "exploring additional opportunities for PHS Therapists to provide care for under-served populations."

The establishment of the Strategic Growth Committee was determined to be necessary due to a variety of factors. First of all, recruitment and retention for our category has been exceptionally successful. We have a unique "problem" in that there are so few vacancies in our category. As a result, there are currently many more applicants for therapist billets than can be accommodated. This results in our category losing well-qualified applicants and greatly restricts the mobility of current Therapist officers. Secondly, it is evident that there are populations with unmet needs that would benefit from services provided by members of our category. These include; patients of Veterans' Administration Hospitals & Clinics, pediatric patients participating in the Exceptional Family Member Program, school-age students through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and patients relying on Indian Health Service/Tribal Agency health care facilities. Successful involvement with any one of these examples would lead to numerous new billets for therapists. Lastly, with the continuing loss of officers from the Commissioned Corps (CC), RADM Davidson has encouraged efforts to expand the entire PHS cadre. We are trying to meet the intent of the admiral's charge.

The Therapist Category Commissioned Corps consists of approximately 116 officers. The Therapist Category consists of four disciplines; Audiologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Speech Language Pathologists. Most officers in the category are Physical Therapists. Presently, billets are very limited for Occupational Therapists, Audiologists, and Speech Language Pathologists. The vast majority of therapists are billeted in the Indian Health Service. Another mechanism of expanding our category is to consider inclusion of other disciplines, such as Respiratory Therapists. Therapist category diversity provides many avenues for accomplishing the mission of providing a mobile health force meeting the health needs of the nation. CAPT John Hurley has chaired the Strategic Growth Committee since its inception. What follows is an edited version of his most recent summary report.

Veterans Administration

MOA/MOU contracts have routinely been used for securing formal agreements with various agencies. With the blessing of DCP, CAPT Hurley had been working with Harry Marshal, Director of VA Rehab Services, and received favorable indications that this agency was interested in securing services from the disciplines in the Therapist Category. CAPT Taffet from

DCP had facilitated the process, and an agreement was close at hand. However, with the directive regarding mandatory sponsorship of agencies when providing staff to another agency, negotiations with the VA have been stymied. CAPT Hurley discussed this issue recently with CAPT Skip Miller, Deputy Director DCP and was told this directive is still in place. Agencies are unlikely to ever authorize sponsorship to outside entities unless it has direct benefit to them. The only other means of bringing officers into new agencies is by bringing candidates into the PSC Branch first, then initiating opportunities for MOU/MOA expansion can go forward. Recently, the VA hired a fully qualified Commissioned Corps applicant (Audiologist). Her supervisor is willing to convert her to CC if MOU authority is established.

Exceptional Family Member Program

This DOD program provides medical services for families with medically challenged dependents overseas. Civilians now staff this program that had been served by active duty DOD personnel in the past. Positions are currently available in the US and Europe. CAPT Hurley is in regular contact with CDR Kevin McGuinness who has been working on an agreement with the Tri-Services for obtaining PHS Therapists to serve the needs of this program. The Directors of this program are very interested in the possibility of hiring CC officers.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Bureau of Indian Affairs utilizes the services of PT, OT, SLP, and Audiologists and have locally expressed interest in establishing a personnel contract. These positions would be to serve as therapist clinical support for educational programs on various reservations. This effort could readily be expanded to a national level and thus provide multiple opportunities for CC expansion.

Native American Self-Determination

With many tribes initiating the self-determination and 638 process, hiring of Commissioned Corps officers can provide the answer to the needs of both parties. The committee is now contacting IHS and tribal agencies to identify PT, OT, SP, and Audiology openings. Thus far, many new opportunities for therapist officers have been discovered.

Uniformed Services Coordination

Reciprocal work arrangements with other Uniformed Services will increase awareness of therapist specialties and services available. Many DOD hospitals hire civilian contracted therapists as well as permanent fulltime civilian therapists. If the sponsorship requirement is lifted, this could well be an enormous area for expansion.

Respiratory Therapists

RADM Davidson recently asked the Therapist Category to investigate and consider having Respiratory Therapist added as a new discipline within the category. The Strategic Growth Committee will be reporting on this at the next TPAC meeting 26 APR 01.

Therapist Identification

Many civil service PHS therapists are as yet unknown to our category. We are in the process of identifying and contacting these peer therapists regarding TPAC participation and membership activities. With increased civilian involvement through the Therapist PAC, the benefits of serving in the Commissioned Corps will be recognized.

Clearly the greatest obstacle to initiating involvement with new agencies is the mandated agency sponsorship. If this requirement can be eliminated, it will allow more utilization of PHS officers to serve populations in great need.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information. I hope it proves to be helpful.

CDR Jeff Fultz, Therapist PAC Chair

THE THERAPY TOPICS

All presentations are in the Marriott Balcony D (on the mezzanine level) unless otherwise noted

How Do You FIT Into Fitness? Therapist Category Perspective on the Fitness Initiative

Moderator: CDR Michael Smith, National Institutes of Health

9:00-10:00 AM

Physiology of Aerobic Exercise

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- (1) describe the basic physiology of primary adaptations related to aerobic exercise training; and
- (2) describe how training related adaptations may improve functional performance.

Speaker:

LCDR Bart Drinkard, Senior Physical Therapist, Rehabilitation Medicine Department, National Institutes of Health

10:00-10:45 AM
Model

Commissioned Corps Healthy Lifestyle Program – A Public Health

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- (1) describe the PHS Healthy Lifestyles program;
- (2) discuss how the principles of the program and the Healthy People 2010 document help to promote healthy behaviors in providers and patients;
- (3) understand how healthy lifestyles and improved health enhance the health care providers ability to provide patient care.

Speaker:

Surgeon
CAPT Michael Flyzik, Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator, Office of the
General

10:45-11:30 AM

Corps Muscles: Are Yours Fit?

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- (1) discuss the benefits of the physical fitness test for CCRF personnel;
- (2) discuss the levels of fitness determined by the fitness test;
- (3) identify the exercises to be performed during the fitness test;
- (4) discuss various determinants of spinal stabilization; and
- (5) provide patients or Commissioned Corps personnel guidance on training techniques to improve spinal stabilization.

Speaker:

General
LTC Beverly Pritchett, Army War College Fellow, Office of the Surgeon

VIII.

11:30AM-12:45 PM

Therapist Professional Specialty Luncheon

McKinley Room

Speaker:
LTC Beverly Pritchett, Office of the Surgeon General

12:45-1:30 PM

Exhibit/Poster Break

1:30-2:30 PM

Run with the Pack – TPAC!

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
(1) describe the Healthy Lifestyles network and points of contact within the Therapist category; and
(2) discuss the range of healthy lifestyle activities currently being developed and led by Therapist Officers.

Speaker:
CAPT Rebecca A. Parks, Senior Occupational Therapist/Pediatric Specialist,
National Institutes of Health

2:30-4:30PM

Fitness Demonstration Projects

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
(1) understand options to improve and enhance fitness through cross training; and
(2) understand options to minimize unnecessary injury.

Speakers:
USCG Recruit Fitness Program
LCDR Richard Shumway, Chief of Physical Therapy, U.S. Coast Guard

Marketing Fitness to Public Health Officers
Joan Phillips, M.P.H., C.H.E.S., Health Promotion Manager, U.S. Coast Guard

Bureau of Prisons Fitness Program
CDR Penelope Royal, Federal Bureau of Prisons

CDC Fitness Program
CDR Susanne Pickering, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

INTERNET COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE:

LT Razor and CDR Pickering investigated a means of utilizing the most current Internet technology to facilitate communication for PAC and committees. Internet use for video conferencing with connections to individual PCs for TPAC meetings is not currently possible. As it would be possible to link 2 persons (system to system link) for video conferencing with real time linkage, a group of multi user links would clog the systems. Currently, IHS has only one spot to connect with the Internet. When the Internet open at PIMC it is routed through the server to Phoenix Area office, which is then routed to Albuquerque server for connection to the Internet.

Intranet is more direct, linking us within our hospital or hospital to another IHS facility is much quicker and more feasible. However, we are not under just one Intranet system ,but multiple agencies, each with its own server. Currently, teleconferencing is our only option, with video link through Phx, Albq and Rockville. As technology advances, so will communication. Currently the video link between PHX, Albq and Rockville is being improved.

A look into the future with technology is being trailed with Optometry to view real time retinal scans of patients in outlying clinics from PCs in Phx. CDR Pickering also reminds the PAC that meetings were once held in the gym, members only and now we have advanced to approximately 40-50 persons in participation members and non-members. TPAC had advanced its communication and will continue to advance communications as technology advances.

Mission of Task Force completed at this time.

Respectfully Submitted: LT Joe Razor