

**Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group  
U.S. Public Health Service  
Thursday, March 13, 2008  
1830 – 2000 EST**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>OPDIV</b>
Present	LT	Branch	Tracy	OS
Absent	LCDR	Bonfiglio	Susan	BOP
Present	CDR	Hunter-Buskey	Robin	BOP
Present	LCDR	Pelkey	Michelle	NOAA
Excused	LCDR	Hager	Paul	IHS
Absent	LCDR	Zink	James	IHS
Absent	LCDR	LaFleur	Phillip	BOP
Present	LT	Morris	Katherine	IHS
Present	LT	Bowens	Karla	BOP
Absent	LCDR	Buckser	Jeffery	NOAA
Present	CDR	Cole	Gary	BOP
Absent	LT	Carr	James	DHS
Present	LT	Chuley	Michael	DHS
Present	LTJG	Ruiz	Melinda	BOP
Present	LCDR	Wickard	Paul	BOP
<b>Guests:</b>				
	LCDR	Cruz	John	BOP
	LT	Brut	Brian	BOP
	LT	Williams	Tiffany	BOP

**Call to Order**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Review Open Action Items**

**PAPAG Chair Report**

**LT Branch**

**PA Count**

There are currently 137 Active Duty PAs

BOP – 46, DHS – 35 IHS – 25

There have been a large number of PAs who have stepped up to volunteer with the PAPAG this year.

Thank you.

**PAPAG Roster**

The PAPAG Roster has been updated. That information will be provided to the HS-PAC to use to update the HS PAC website.

**International Missions**

OFRD has announced new International Missions to begin this Spring and continue into the Fall.

The USS Boxer will travel to Pacific Ocean Central and South American countries.

The USS Kearsage will travel to the Caribbean Central and South American Countries.

The USNS Mercy will travel to Pacific Rim Islands.

Any PAs interested in participating in this mission will need to obtain the approval of their supervisors, their Agency, and the HS PAC CPO. Officers MUST be basic ready and cannot have any adverse actions pending or within their eOPF's to be considered for deployment on one of these missions.

Once selected you will be provided with information for obtaining a Government Credit Card for travel as well as an Official Passport (Maroon) once individuals have been selected they will be instructed in how to complete the paperwork necessary for an official passport.

#### Forward Thinking Retreat

JOAG has announced that Junior Officers are being sought to participate in a retreat that will be held in Tucson the weekend prior to the COF Conference. The purpose of this retreat is to gather together JO's to brainstorm about the direction they would like to see the CC take over the next 20 – 30 years. In the past Flag Officers have participated in this event. With the current Transformation activities that are currently occurring this would be a great opportunity to have our concerns and ideas heard. If interested in participating contact: LCDR Aimee Treffiletti at alt5@cdc.gov

<mailto:alt5@cdc.gov> or <mailto:alt5@cdc.gov> indicating your name, rank, agency, and category by Friday, March 28.

If you are unable to attend you may want to submit your suggestions/recommendations to LCDR Treffiletti who can then present them during the retreat.

#### Officer Basic Course

For Officers who are new to the CC and have not yet taken the Officer Basic Course there are open slots in the next several courses. To attend the training you will need Supervisor and AGENCY support (your agency pays for your participation). This is a good opportunity to obtain great information needed to be successful in your career with the CC. More information about this opportunity can be found attached to the minutes.

#### Update Position Descriptions

All Committee's should again review their current position descriptions and update accordingly. Submit any PD changes to LCDR Bonfiglio who will update the complete document.

#### OFRD Website

The website is having some technical difficulties and is not currently available for updating. I would recommend you continue to complete whatever activities you need to, PPD, Immunizations, BLS, etc. Remember to submit your documentation to MAB, eOPF or the license fax for official recording and monitor your e-mail once the website is back up OFRD will send out an e-mail letting you know to log on and document any new information.

#### Housekeeping Issues

- Active participation is expected of all PAPAG voting members if unsure of your duties/responsibilities please let me know.
- Voting members are expected to contact the chair prior to the monthly meeting and inform of anticipated absences from the meeting. The PAPAG Secretary LCDR Hager should be copied on all such e-mails for record keeping purposes. In the event of an emergency the Chair should be informed as soon as a reasonable possible following the meeting.

#### Committee Reports

##### **Update on Action Items and monthly activities**

#### Communications Subcommittee

LT Morris, LT Carr

No Report

#### Readiness Subcommittee

CDR Cole

No Report

**Professional Development Subcommittee**

CDR Hunter-Buskey, LTJG Ruiz

Information about free CME links and leadership/management links were submitted for distribution by PAPAG newsletter.

The committee will continue to maintain a list of free CME and professional development opportunities. We will begin approaching senior officers to provide mentorship and guidance to junior officers.

**Membership Subcommittee**

LCDR Buckser

No Report

### **Policy Subcommittee**

LCDR Bonfiglio

Chain of Command and Proxy Voting Procedures ready to send to membership

### **Recruitment & Retention Subcommittee**

LCDR LaFleur, LT Chuley

No Report

### **Welcoming Subcommittee**

LT Bowens

No Report

### **Awards Subcommittee**

CDR Pelkey, LCDR Wickard

No Report

### **Ad Hoc COA Subcommittee**

CDR Pelkey, LT McKinnon

No report

### **HSPAC Report**

#### **LT Branch**

See Chair report

### **PHSAPA**

**LT Ruiz, CDR Cole**

No report

### **JOAG Liaison**

LCDR LaFleur

No report

### **IHS Liaison Report**

LT Morris

No report

### **BOP Liaison Report :**

LT Carter, LT Williams

#### **A. Barriers/Concerns**

We have not received any calls from officer's requesting our assistance, however at FCC, Butner, The mid level practitioners are having "challenges" with their prescriptive authority. Medicines like ensure, antibiotics, decadron, plavix, omeprazole....require a countersignature from their supervising physician. It is the opinion of the Physician Assistant's that the restrictions currently in place may cause an unreasonable delay in the delivery of health care to the patient. FCC, Butner is a medical referral center that specializes in oncology, surgery, dialysis, mental health, inpatient care and orthopedics. A formal letter (with all of the mid level practitioners and physicians signatures) was drafted, with a request for exemption (from this current policy) for medicines that would regularly be prescribed. The request was denied.

#### **B. Deployments/TDYs**

No officers have deployed recently. However, there have been several opportunities for officers to do TDY at other BOP institutions that have staffing needs.

#### **C. Job Postings**

The BOP currently has approximately 66 vacancies throughout the United States. New graduates are placed into an O3 Billet. The Billet changes to an O4 Billet after a year. There are O5 Billets available

for PAs, however, the Physician Assistant must show that their position is “specialized”. The O5 Billet is typically seen at one of the 6 medical referral centers located in Butner, North Carolina; Devins, Massachusetts; Rochester, Minnesota; Carswell, Texas, Springfield, Missouri, and Lexington, Kentucky. There are no clinical O6 Billet Physician Assistant’s within BOP to date.

**D. Students**

The BOP is very receptive to having JR and SR COSTEP students work at their sites. BOP has established partnerships with physician assistant programs to be a clinical rotation site in the area of internal medicine, mental health, and oncology.

**New Business**

**Adjournment**

**Next Teleconference meeting on Thursday April 10, 2008 at  
Call in Number: 866-619-7571, Passcode 4274208**