



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

Minutes of Meeting
04 MARCH 2004
Office of the Surgeon General Conference Room
1300-1515

Members Present:

In Rockville

CAPT Raelene Skerda (Chair)
CAPT Jim Imholte

LT Krista Scardina (Vice-chair)
LCDR Laura Pincock

Via Telephone

LT Kristen Maves
CDR Doug Herold
CAPT Sharon Gershon
CDR James Bressette
LT Violette Geza (Secretary)

LCDR Mark Strong
LCDR Mike Long
LT Renu Chhabra
LCDR Gregg Davis

Members Absent

RADM Richard Walling
LCDR Thomas Berry
LCDR Daniel Hassenfang
Mr. Jae Kim

CAPT Craig Hostetler
LCDR Patricia Garvey
CDR Paul Huntzinger
LCDR Michael Lee

Members unable to connect to phone line:

LCDR Burton Hill

CDR Michael Forman

Guests:

CAPT Robert DeChristoforo
CDR Charles Hoppes
CDR Scott Dallas
LT Tia Harper-Velazquez
LT Sean Belouin
Dr. Rennan Bonnel
CDR Nick Quaglietta
CAPT Thomas Sinwell
LT Ted Hall
CDR Julienne Vaillancourt
LT Julie Wilkinson
LT Emily Thakur
LT Connie Jung
LT Cheryl Gunther
LTJG Jeff Vang

LCDR Marci Kiester
LCDR Christine Yu
LCDR Nina Mezu-Nwaba
LT Ayoub Suliman
LT Dan Ngyuen
Dr. Jennie Chang
CAPT (ret.) Jim Minor
LCDR Bradley Bishop
CDR Alice Knobon
LCDR Nita Sood
LT Christine Bina
LT Aaron Sigler
LT Steve Mazzela
LT Phelicia Bush
Dr. Rennan Bonnel

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

- ◆ CAPT Skerda asked for any comments and changes to last month's meeting minutes. PAC members should submit an acceptance of the minutes by Wednesday, March 10.

- ◆ CAPT Skerda introduced CAPT DeChristoforo to discuss the pharmacy benchmarks for promotion.

Discussion of Pharmacy Benchmarks:

- ◆ CAPT Robert DeChristoforo led the discussion on pharmacy benchmarks.
- ◆ The benchmarks were changed to represent the “Best Qualified” officer versus the “Average” officer.
- ◆ There needs to be more clarification on certifications specialty credentials. More details are needed on what is acceptable. If this only considers BPS, there are a low percentage of pharmacists in the corps that have obtained this.
- ◆ Clarification is needed for mobility whether programmatic changes are considered. Military mobility does not count for this benchmark, however promotion boards are not told to not take this into consideration in promotion.
- ◆ Billet addenda are at present only intended to add a clinical duty to a nonclinical billet as per sources in DCP. The inclusion of billet addendums in the Pharmacy benchmarks therefore may be inappropriate because they may be unavailable to many pharmacy officers.
- ◆ An open floor discussion determined that more clarification is needed and the PAC, to answer these questions before the next promotion year, will create a workgroup to discuss these issues. CAPT Jim Imholte, Career Development Section Lead will be heading up the work group and interested PHS officers should contact him at jimholte@osophs.dhhs.gov.

Section Lead Comments:

- ◆ Career Development → CAPT Jim Imholte (jimholte@osophs.dhhs.gov)
 - According to the CCRF survey put out by LCDR Strong, for PY2005 only 12% of the category will meet the expanded CCRF requirements versus 57% for PY2004. The decline was attributed to the inclusion of the Physical Fitness, immunization requirements, and Medical Physical in the 2005 calculation.
 - This year’s COA meeting in May will be offering the CCRF fitness test and interested people can sign up there.
 - LCDR Strong suggested putting out a schedule to the category to complete various CCRF activities a certain assigned calendar month. For example, officers should complete the physical fitness test one month and immunizations another.
 - CCRF surveys are still being accepted and should be forwarded to LCDR Strong.
 - A question was raised on whether the varicella titer is needed for CCRF qualification. CAPT Imholte will clarify required titers, immunizations.
 - A final draft of the special pay report has cleared the ad hoc Committee RADM Walling and will be circulated for comment to the PharmPAC members. The report will be submitted to RADM Walling and then sent to the Surgeon General for his consideration.
 - Civil Service Pharmacists: Dr. Rennan Bonnel, PharmD
 - Dr. Bonnel asked for clarification on the number of voting members on the PAC. Currently there is one voting member for civil service pharmacists. The number of voting members is determined by agency, and any civil service pharmacist can represent an agency.
 - Civil servants have been added to the PHS listserv. A discussion was led whether a separated civil servant listserv should be created, but it was decided against.
 - Dr. Bonnel submitted online CE sites to LCDR Mike Long to be added to the PharmPAC website.

- Dr. Bonnel will be formulating a survey to be distributed to the civil servants to determine their needs.

◆ Administration→ LT Krista Scardina (scardinak@cder.fda.gov)

- As of March 1st, 26 nominations have been received from schools of pharmacy for the Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy award. Extensions were given to 7 additional schools. The goal is to give out all 33 awards by the schools' Point of Contact (POC) or a PHS Commissioned Officer. The POC's for each college have been emailed to notify them there is a student nominated for the award and should make preparations to attend the graduation ceremony.
- The deadline for the PAC awards given out at the COA meeting has been extended to March 15th. There have been 11 nominations to date.
- LT Robert Hayes will be heading up an ad hoc working group to evaluate the current PharmPAC award system and make recommendations to the Chief Pharmacist Officer on standards, criteria and possible mechanisms to recognize outstanding service of PHS pharmacist. Those interested in being part of the work group should contact LT Hayes at (email). The draft report is to be submitted to the PharmPAC for comment and review at its May meeting.
- A call for PharmPAC membership for FY05 was put out on the listserv. There are 3 positions for IHS, 1 for the Office of the Secretary, and 1 ex-minimus member available. A CV and supervisor's approval should be submitted to LCDR Gregg Davis by May 30, 2004.
- CAPT Hess is developing a spreadsheet of pharmacy legislation issues. He and CAPT Lisa Tonrey monitor legislative issues and update the PAC on those items of timely importance.
- LCDR Pincock met with the PHS and FDA historian, and is starting to gather information for the Pharmacist Category.
- LT Renu Chhabra is continuing to update the charter. When done it will be forwarded to the OSG for approval.
- LCDR Gregg Davis stated that the delegates for the upcoming APhA meeting have been selected and are waiting for RADM Walling's approval.

◆ Recruitment→ CDR James Bresette (jbresett@hqe.ihs.gov)

- Applications into PHS have increased from 25 to 30 this time last year.
- There have been 14 selections for the JRCOSTEP program, mostly for IHS.
- As of March 1st, 22 applications have been received for the SRCOSTEP program.
- A question was asked on TDY opportunities in IHS. CDR Ed Stein and CAPT Robert Pittman coordinate these events and can be contacted by interested parties.

Associate Recruiter Program

- CAPT Skerda stated that the listserv is up and running for the Associate Recruiter Program. Any member who did not receive a message should contact Penny Coppola.
- CAPT Skerda stated there are 14 pharmacy officers staffing the recruitment booth at the upcoming APha meeting. Anyone else interested should contact CAPT Skerda (rskerda@bop.gov).

◆ Communication→ LCDR Mike Long (mzlong@bop.gov)

- There is a PHS Rx-Jobs listserv and job vacancies should be sent out on this instead of the PHS listerv. Any announcements should be submitted to CDR Scott Dallas at dallass@cder.fda.gov
- The website is in need of photos of pharmacists in the workplace. Anyone having pictures should submit them to LCDR Long.

- An idea was made to put a calendar on the website of various pharmacy events and recruitment activities. The concern is who will maintain and keep the calendar updates. CAPT Skerda volunteered to keep track of recruitment activities. CAPT Skerda would like to have the name and date of the event, as well as the contact person involved.
- CDR Charles Hoppes made a PowerPoint presentation on the Public Health Pharmacy workgroup. The powerpoint presentation can be viewed on the PharmPAC website under the communications section.
<http://www.hhs.gov/pharmacy/volpres.ppt>

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

- ◆ At a recent PAC chair meeting, the committee was tasked to form a Leadership Training Workgroup to ascertain the need for this type of education for PHS officers. This workgroup is to assess needs, resources, capabilities and possible training opportunities and present their findings at the COA meeting in May.
- ◆ Message relayed from SG PAC/CPO/PAC chair meetings: The changes in Promotion Policies are a part of the Transformation of the Corps, but not the only part. Previous to this year, that year's Promotion Board members, with DCP guidance determined the Benchmarks. For PY2004 the Categories, through their respective PAC members, had input to the Benchmarks. This was a step towards making the Promotion cycle more transparent to all officers.
- ◆ COA has published on their web site the executive director's discussion about the transformation with Acting Assistant Secretary for Health and the Surgeon General.
- ◆ There will be a PHS breakout at this year's APhA meeting. Participants at the meeting should email either CAPT Skerda (rskerda@bop.gov) or LCDR Gregg Davis DAVISG@cder.fda.gov with topics they would like to have discussed. The breakout sessions will be held as part of Federal Forum Symposium on Friday. Please check the message boards at the Sheraton for the room location.
- ◆ No other new business was brought to the floor.

Next Meeting Dates:

06 MAY 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@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>
- ◆ 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>

--Respectfully Submitted,

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LT Violette Geza, Executive Secretary Date

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CAPT Raelene Skerda, Chair Date

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RADM Richard Walling, CPO Date