



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

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**05 FEB 2004**  
**Office of the Surgeon General Conference Room**  
**1300-1440**

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**Members Present:**

**In Rockville**

RADM Richard Walling  
CAPT Sharon Gershon  
LCDR Laura Pincock

LT Krista Scardina (Vice Chair)  
LT Renu Chhabra  
Mr. Jae Kim

**Via Telephone**

LCDR Mike Long  
CDR Mike Forman  
LCDR Daniel Hasenfang  
LT Kristen Maves  
CAPT Craig Hostetler  
CDR Michele Gemelas (alt. LCDR Mark Strong)

CDR Douglas Herold  
CAPT Raelene Skerda (Chair)  
CDR James Bresette  
LCDR Thomas Berry  
CAPT Jim Imholte

**Members Absent**

LCDR Patricia Garvey  
LCDR Burton Hill

LCDR Mike Lee  
LCDR Mark Strong

**Guests:**

LT Christine Bina  
LCDR Chris Allen  
LCDR Theresa Watkins  
Ms. Rennan Bonnel  
LT Emily Thomas Thakur  
LT Paras Patel  
LTJG Jeff Vang  
LT Ayoub Suliman  
Ms. Jennie Chang  
LT Jason Chancey

LCDR Nita Sood  
CDR Alan Sokolowski  
Ms. Joyce Weaver  
Mr. Stephan Ortiz  
CAPT Bill Hess  
Dr. Frank Pucino, Jr.  
LT Sheila Ryan  
CAPT Jeannette Wick  
CDR Jim Watkins

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**CPO Report: RADM Richard Walling ([cporx@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:cporx@osophs.dhhs.gov))**

Promotion

- ◆ The promotion process for officers was difficult especially with the Jan 31 deadline.
- ◆ RADM Walling will contact DCP to find out the number of officers considered for the PY 2004 promotion cycle and those who opted-out.
- ◆ RADM Walling will be working with the different boards and CAPT Canton to help identify shortcomings of this year's process and steps to take to help eliminate/minimize such difficulties in the future.

- ◆ RADM Walling thanked PAC members and others who helped get promotion information out to officers to assist them through the process.

#### Assignments

- ◆ There is currently a pharmacist on assignment in both Afghanistan and Iraq.
- ◆ CAPT Craig Hostetler is in Afghanistan for the next 6 months to work with the Ministry of Health's maternal and childcare program. CAPT Hostetler took over this assignment from an Army Colonel and will focus on the healthcare infrastructure in Afghanistan.
- ◆ LCDR Alicia Mozzachio is in Iraq for the next 4 months to develop formularies and standards for pharmaceutical distribution.

#### Force Strength

- ◆ There are currently 884 active-duty pharmacists. There are 28 officers at the 30-year mark. There have been about 90 new calls to active-duty.
- ◆ The goal of 1000 active-duty officers by end of 2005 is very much within reach.

#### Special Pay Group

- ◆ Ad-hoc group looking into special pay trend data submitted a preliminary report to RADM Walling
- ◆ The preliminary report shows positive effects on recruitment. Final report is due at the end of month.
- ◆ The final report will be submitted to the Surgeon General for discussion with Congress for next year's budget. The results will be shared with the Surgeon Generals of all services and the VA during the APhA quarterly meeting looking at legislations and pharmacy issues.

#### ASHP

- ◆ The delegates were received for ASHP and a letter will go out in the next couple of days.
- ◆ RADM Walling showed a flyer for ASHP Pharmacy Leadership Institute annual program. We are urged to get the word out to officers that may benefit from it. The program includes 30 hours of paid CE credits and the application deadline is Feb 27.

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### Section Lead Comments

- ◆ **Communications Section** → LCDR Mike Long ([mzlong@bop.gov](mailto:mzlong@bop.gov))
  - ◆ CDR Nick Quaglietta is taking the lead in improving the Website by incorporating the suggestions and feedback we are getting.
    - Move to a private server – Funding and Web-site security being the main issues.
    - Revise Web-site to comply with DHHS format – would not work with our current site concepts and may complicate database management (increase manual processes and decrease efficiency of AR program)
  - ◆ Charles Hoppes and Paras Patel are creating a backup of the Web-site just in case.
  - ◆ Student list-serv – Paras Patel and his group put together a calendar with subjects to be discussed in monthly messages.
  - ◆ The January message announced the deadline extension for both senior and junior COSTEP applications.

#### PLANT (Pharmacists Learning & Networking Together)

- ◆ Coordinated by Tim Murray – will be in contact with editors and writers to add new as well as review the current profiles.

#### Public Health Pharmacy Workgroup:

- ◆ Group led by Charles Hoppes aims to encourage pharmacists to participate and volunteer in public health initiatives. They will present their proposals to the PAC next month.
- ◆ Collecting stories on pharmacists taking on wide range of public health initiatives, i.e. smoking cessation and substance abuse treatment and prevention.

◆ **Recruitment Section** → CDR Jim Bresette ([jbresett@hqe.ihs.gov](mailto:jbresett@hqe.ihs.gov))

Associate Recruiter Program

- ◆ Volunteers to man the booth for the APhA meeting is today (5 Feb. 2004). BOP and IHS will also have their own booths during the meeting.
- ◆ CAPT Skerda has received 10-12 requests to volunteer but more are welcomed by email - [rskerda@bop.gov](mailto:rskerda@bop.gov)
- ◆ CDR Bresette pointed out that Penny Coppola who runs the ARP within DCP received 20 thousand giveaways in Oct to be used by PHS for recruiting and they are all gone now.
- ◆ There are a decreased number of new applications received by DCP. The numbers are about half of what is usually received by this time each year.
- ◆ We hope to have an updated version of "Pharmacy's Best Kept Secret" ready for APhA meeting. LCDR Greg Davis is taking the lead on that.
- ◆ LT Christine Bina was selected as the 4<sup>th</sup> category lead for ARP.

COSTEP Program:

- ◆ There are 5 SRCOSTEPs with BOP and 1 with IHS.
- ◆ There is currently 1 JRCOSTEP in Cass Lake, MN who came on board on Jan 6.
- ◆ For FY 2004, there were 18 applications for SRCOSTEPs as of 12/30/03.
- ◆ For FY 2004, there were 71 applications for JRCOSTEPs as of 12/2/03.
- ◆ Deadline for both senior and junior COSTEP applications is Feb 27 with selection expected on March 22-23rd.

Points of Contact:

- ◆ Promotion ceremony is available on the DCP Web-site. This is not a POCs only event, ARP and retired PHS officers can also participate.
- ◆ Our goal is for 100% coverage/recognition for June.
- ◆ CDR Chris Bina offered to help coordinate events with POCs.

◆ **Career Development Section**- CAPT Jim Imholte ([jimholte@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:jimholte@osophs.dhhs.gov))

CCRF

- ◆ Mark Strong has been away with initial BOP training for the last 2 weeks. He will give an update on CCRF next month.
- ◆ RADM Walling requested that the section obtain monthly information from CCRF on the number of pharmacists who are deployment-ready. The PAC is to be kept apprised of the number of pharmacists meeting the deployment standards each month.

National Pharmacist Response Team

- ◆ CAPT Imholte and LCDR Scott Giberson attended the signing ceremony during the ASHP meeting in New Orleans this past December.
- ◆ ASHP Web-site has an article and pictures on the signing ceremony at <http://www.ashp.org/emergency>
- ◆ There has been a high interest and we have been trying to get information out. State associations have been contacting us to come and talk to them. Some areas may easily meet the goal of 200 per region while others may struggle a bit.
- ◆ Training will be offered during APhA meeting, NPRT Training will be offered during APhA meeting, NPRT training and an Immunization Certification training course for pharmacists.

Civil Service – Ms. Renan Bonnel

- ◆ Civil Service Pharmacists are committed to working with their Commissioned Corps colleagues.
- ◆ The most important item on the agenda is the Civil Service Pharmacist list-serv. About 200 Civil Service Pharmacists within DHHS have been added to the list-serv.
- ◆ The second item is conducting a survey to find out the needs and issues most important to Civil Service Pharmacists.

- ◆ The third item is the compilation of a CE Web-sites for PHS Pharmacists. LT Scardina (Vice Chair) suggested adding these to the CE page within the PAC Web-site.
  - ◆ Civil Service pharmacists are looking to participate in filling the gap/needs of the National Stockpile Program.
  - ◆ Civilian pharmacists within the office of Drug Safety in FDA have extensive experience in publishing. They will consider establishing a mentoring program for pharmacist interested in publishing.
  - ◆ RADM Walling thanked Frank Pucino and the Civil Service Group and reiterated the need to stay in touch with all pharmacists.
- ◆ **Administration Section**- LT Krista Scardina ([scardinak@cder.fda.gov](mailto:scardinak@cder.fda.gov))
- ◆ The USPHS Excellence in Pharmacy Practice Award was distributed electronically to the points of contact (POCs) at the schools of pharmacy. The deadline for the award is March 1<sup>st</sup>. The PHS POCs should continue to communicate with their school to assist them and encourage the participation in this project.
  - ◆ The deadline for the annual PAC Honor Awards is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Only one nomination has been received to date. Information can be found on the PharmPAC website regarding criteria and nomination forms. Nominations should be forwarded to LT Scardina.
  - ◆ Charter
    - The initial review of the charter found no changes and was submitted to the Office of the Surgeon General.
    - We found out that the model charter has changed and that we will therefore have to revise the PharmPAC charter so that it is in alignment with the model charter.
    - LCDR Gregg Davis will be leading the call for nominations for PAC membership for next year. He has begun to evaluate the openings that will be available. The openings will be announced soon.
    - We are looking at developing an award system to recognize individuals for their hard work and dedication to the PAC.
  - ◆ History
    - Project is led by LCDR Pincock and LT Camphire.
    - They are meeting with FDA and DHHS historians to come up with strategy on the development of an archivable system to document the history and current events of the pharmacy category.
    - More help is needed with this project. If you are interested, please contact LCDR Pincock.
    - RADM Walling and LT Scardina attended the retirement ceremony of PHS historian John Parascandola and presented him with a certificate for all of his hard work and dedication to the pharmacy category. He will continue to assist us with our history initiatives.
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- ◆ CAPT Hostetler joined the meeting by phone from Afghanistan:
    - CAPT Hostetler is currently attached to the Army. Recently, he met with the 2-star General in Kabul and briefed him on some of the problems. He was instrumental in securing funding for much needed reconstruction and improvement of the hospital.
    - Spent last Sunday (his birthday) on tour with the military crew of the cultural and historically significant sites here in the city. Some of the sites he visited were the famous Intercontinental Hotel that was bombed last year, tombs of the kings, and a Soviet tanks graveyard.
    - CAPT Hostetler has been sending photos as able. Anyone interested receiving CAPT Hostetler's "Kabul-grams" can email CAPT Skerda.
    - He has also been able to visit the Bagrham Airport Base where the Provisional Reconstruction Team is headquartered.
    - In the future we hope to have about 32 people from DHHS working with the reconstruction team. We are aiming at 4 people as a start.

- He will try and keep the PAC updated through “Kabul-grams.”

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**PharmPAC Chair Comments- CAPT Raelene Skerda ([rskerda@bop.gov](mailto:rskerda@bop.gov))**

- ◆ PAC Activities
  - Will be sending activity roster to leads, members, and alternates this week. Everyone has been assigned activities. If you have questions about your activities please contact CAPT Skerda.
  - Section leads will establish benchmarks and timelines for their activities.
- ◆ Publishing
  - CAPT Skerda introduced CAPT Jeannette Wick who has had numerous articles published including a recent article in Pharmacy Times.
  - CAPT Wick had some tips on how to start in writing/publishing.
    - ◆ A struggle to get started.
    - ◆ Take writing classes.
    - ◆ Find a mentor to help you start.
    - ◆ Work with a partner and you will feed from each other.
    - ◆ You have to have the desire and want to do it.
    - ◆ It is different than being a pharmacist. Start from scratch to learn the ropes.
  - CAPT Wick can be reached by email at [Wick@ctep.nih.nci.gov](mailto:Wick@ctep.nih.nci.gov) or [JYWickRPh@aol.com](mailto:JYWickRPh@aol.com)
  - You may need to fill out an outside activity form before you can publish.
  - In general, personal writing does not need to be cleared.
  - No guidelines or prohibitions – when unsure please ask DCP just to be safe – the contact person is CDR Konstantine Weld.
  - Use a disclaimer to indicate your own opinion and not that of the government.

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**New Business & Announcements**

- LT Christine Bina: There are 100 pharmacists in the ARP and 15 applications in progress. There will be associate recruitment training session during the COA meeting.
- LCDR Pincock: JOAG was invited to attend a meeting with the ASH and Surgeon General next Friday, February 13 in Washington DC. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss issues related to the transformation. JOAG welcomes input from all officers. Comments can be sent to LCDR Pincock, LCDR McNabb-Noon, LTJG Vang or any JOAG voting member.

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**Next Meeting Dates:**

**04 MARCH 2004 @ 1300 EDT in Office of Global Health, Room 18C-07 Parklawn Building**

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

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**Useful Links and Contact Info:**

- ◆ Emails: [PharmPAC@list.nih.gov](mailto:PharmPAC@list.nih.gov)  
[PHS-Pharmacists@nih.gov](mailto:PHS-Pharmacists@nih.gov)  
[RX-Vacancies@list.nih.gov](mailto:RX-Vacancies@list.nih.gov)  
[Rx-Students@list.nih.gov](mailto: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/>

--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