



Minutes from the D/N PAC Meeting September 24th, 2003

CPO Report

- CAPT Blakely recently had an opportunity to visit several Indian Health Service sites in the Phoenix area. She expressed her congratulations to the D/N officers who are doing great work with diabetes as well as general clinical care and administration.
- Several RD officers are working with the University of Oklahoma to establish diabetes research protocols with the Indian Health Service population.
- Any documents FAX'd to DCP in June and July may not have reached their intended destination; please check on the status of any documents forwarded to DCP in June or July
- Next COA meeting will be held in Anchorage, Alaska. CDR Julie Haws and LT Samantha Maloney, who are both stationed in Alaska, will plan Category Day. Thanks to Julie and Samantha, and please support their efforts.
- CAPT Blakely encourages everyone to join the PHS Dietitians and DCP listservs. Log onto DCP to join the DCP listserv; send an email to Jan Huy to join the PHS Dietitians listserv
- The 2nd Healthier US Prevention summit will be held in March of 2004. A call for Abstracts has gone out (Deadline is the middle of October). Contact person is Lillian Lopez
- An "All Hands" meeting was held at FDA a few weeks ago. Issues discussed:
 - Transformation of the Corps
 - Promotion Precepts: The new policy to allow 3 promotion attempts per each rank will not be retroactive. Each officer will have 3 attempts to be promoted starting with the next promotion cycle. Also, exception promotion attempts will not count toward the limit of 3

- A rolling deployment process is being set up, to spread deployments among agencies.
 - FDA has mandated that all PHS officers wear their uniform daily. Officers can select from the dress uniform, salt & pepper uniform, khaki, and field utility
- Thanks to CDR David Nelson, who sent a tape of his radio talk show to Capt Blakely. He has established a series of shooting stars, including healthy eating messages.
 - CAPT Karen Bachman Carter sent CAPT Blakely a packet of mesquite meal seeds, a historical food for Native Americans, and a food that is being reintroduced to the NA population
 - Thanks to CDR Melanie Sipes, who was a great hostess to CAPT Blakeley during her visit to AZ

Subcommittee Reports

CCRF Subcommittee

CAPT Laura McNally, chair of the subcommittee, has obtained a complete list of all dietitian officers in CCRF to better assess the status of our category. 37 officers in our category are in active status, 14 in applicant status. Only 26 officers are not as yet in applicant status. The CCRF subcommittee members plan to individually contact officers not active in the process to determine how we can help them begin the process. Also, CCRF Subcommittee has developed a handout to help officers track their status, and will distribute it to all officers via email. A conference call will also be conducted.

Congratulations to CDR Shaw, who passed her Physical Fitness test @ level 4.

Recruitment and Mentoring Subcommittee

CAPT Blakely is currently recruiting 5 officers for IHS positions as of October 1st. She called 63 candidates and has identified at least 5 who are very interested. She is working w/ Clair Carlson @ DCP to move applications of these officers forward.

CDR Jean King shared that recruitment packets and CD Roms are ready to be mailed to Internship Directors and should be going out soon.

CAPT Blakely shared that DCP does not appear to understand the credentials for joining the Corps as a Dietitian, suggesting that they do not understand the credentials / requirements for becoming a RD. CDR Leser will prepare a handout that DCP can use to assess the eligibility of applicants to the D/N category, and will distribute it for review by PAC members.

DCP may have funding available for recruiting officers to the D/N Category. This money would be used by recruiters at national meetings such as the FNCE and the American Diabetes Association national meeting.

Professional Advisory Subcommittee:

45 officers (58% of our category) responded to the survey distributed by LCDR Alexandra Cossi, Chair of the Professional Advisory Subcommittee.

Survey Results:

- Early in their career, officers are interested in technical training to improve specific skills in their field. They are also interested in learning more about the Corps and potential careers in DHHS
- As officers approach mid-career, they are interested in improving their management and administrative skills as well as career opportunities within the government/CC
- Officers approaching the end of their careers are interested in information on transitioning to retirement / careers after retirement.
- Officers want professional development training and general continuing education offered at COA
- Officers are interested in e-learning opportunities and distance learning opportunities
- Officers do not think it is necessary to match “Category Day” agenda to practice specialties of the geographic area in which the meeting is being held; they want the meeting to meet everyone’s needs.
- Officers want the D/N website to provide links to job openings in the CC, links to all agencies that hire CC officers, and information about skills that those agencies are looking for
- Officers want the D/N website to offer a listing of major conferences and links to sites offering continuing education; also information on starting a journal club

Website Subcommittee:

Thanks to CDR Shirley Turpin for successfully transitioning the D/N category website to FDA. You can access it via: **<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~phsnutr/phsnutr.html>** or go to the PHS PAC link for dietitian and you will find the website re-direction information. (The Dietitian and Nutritionist Professional Advisory Committee

(PAC) site has moved. The new address is Dietitian and Nutritionist of the United States Public Health Service, <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~phsnutr.html>. You will be redirected in ten seconds).

Now that the site has its new home, the subcommittee will move forward to revise and update it.

Old Business

RD of the Year

We had 15 excellent candidates for RD of the Year. These applicants were from HRSA, NIH CC, NHLBI, IHS, and FDA.

Thanks to PAC members for their ballots

Votes were tabulated by CAPT Leser and have been forwarded to CAPT Blakely for her decision.

There was much diversity among candidates, including RDs with large & small programs, from urban and remote areas, and in positions with national and local impact. CAPT Leser facilitated a discussion about the “RD of the Year” award, given the diversity of applicants and the large number of candidates this year (with the goal of maintaining or exceeding this number in future years). Participants thought that it was reasonable to offer more than 1 award per year, and discussion addressed the types of awards, such as “Junior Officer of the Year”, “Senior Officer of the Year”, “Clinician of the Year”, and “Administrator of the Year”. CAPT Leser will draft sample awards and distribute a survey to PAC members about this issue.

CV Formats:

CAPT Leser requested feedback on three sample CV formats distributed for comment. The purpose of recommending a CV format is to assist officers with the promotion process. It will be easier for Promotion Board members to review CVs that address the new promotion precepts and are easy to follow. Officers are not required to use the suggested format; rather, it is provided for guidance and use, if desired.

Most officers preferred format #3, with comments:

CV should include outreach activities

Agency Reports

IHS:

Diabetes Grant Programs are ongoing, providing \$150,000 million annually for Diabetes Research programs. About 80% of the funding will go directly to Tribal Health Programs. Other funds will be part of competitive grants.

Two work groups are looking at prevention and risk reduction, and requests for grants addressing these issues have been distributed.

FDA:

FDA is implementing an Obesity Initiative within CFSAN. The food label (part of the FDA mission) will be used to craft healthy weight messages

Bioterrorism Act mandates that all food products entering the country will need to be registered with FDA. FDA will receive prior notice of imports, and special record keeping procedures are being established to track food and beverage imports.

FDA is also setting up a system of administrative detention for suspect products (at the manufacturer's expense)

CDC:

Transformation issues are being addressed within CDC. They are taking a three prong approach:

1. Internet Survey of all officers (82% responded) was completed to better understand policies and the potential impact on the job. Results are not yet available.

2. Focus groups are being conducted to assess the impact of transformation on CDC.

3. CDC is looking at how military requirements compare to transformation issues.

On 9/4, CAPT Jerry Falwell, Director of COA, was in Atlanta. He spoke about COA strategies addressing potential changes.

NIH:

The new class of dietetic interns started at NIH on September 2.

The NIH Clinical Center is in the planning stages of a new unit to research obesity. Each department presented a plan to the Director of Clinical Care, Clinical Center, outlining their potential contribution to the unit.

FYI:

CAPT Blakely shared a recent notice in the Washington Post that addressed pay parity. It stated that all uniformed services will have the same pay raise this year.

DOD Uniform Services will hold their yearly nutrition summit on the Friday prior to FNCE.

Questions and Answers:

Where can field utility uniforms be purchased?

Answer:

The Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps is one of the seven Uniformed Services of the United States. Commissioned Corps officers may be authorized by the

agency to which they are assigned and/or local uniform authority (LUA) to wear various uniforms, uniformed articles/components, and accessories. The personnel instruction, Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) Pamphlet No. 61, "*Uniform Handbook*", Parts 1, 2, and 3, which gives guidance on the correct wear of the PHS uniform can be found at http://dcp.psc.gov/DCP_pubs.asp. PHS uniform items may be purchased from most U.S. Navy installations or the U.S. Navy Uniform Support Center in Chesapeake, Virginia. Items such as PHS T-shirts, sweat clothing, mugs, bags, decals, etc., may be purchased through the PHS Officer Supply and Device Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

U.S. Navy Uniform Support Center
1545 Crossways Blvd., Suite 200
Chesapeake, VA 23320
(800) 368-4088
(757) 420-7348
Fax: (757) 420-5675
<http://www.navy-nex.com>

and

PHS Officer Supply and Device Center
1770 Physicians Park Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816
(225) 756-3793 voice
(225) 756-3810 fax
http://bphc.hrsa.gov/nhdp/PHS_Officers_Device_Supply_Center_Main_Page.htm

An officer called to active duty with the PHS for the first time is entitled to a one-time uniform allowance of \$250. This dollar amount will not cover all uniform expenses but will allow you to purchase a basic uniform of some type. Every officer is required to own a Service Dress Blue Uniform (see pictures below of officers in uniform).

PAC Meeting at FNCE:

CAPT Laura McNally will conduct a PAC meeting at the 2004 FNCE. Please If you are attending ADA's annual conference, please join her at the PAC meeting

Location: Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center – Room 209
Day/Date: Monday, October 27, 2003
Time: 07:00 – 8:30 am

The meeting was adjourned at 1600 EST