

Meeting Minutes
USPHS Minority Officer Liaison Council (MOLC)
20 July 2009

Teleconference Line: 866-642-7575; Passcode: 9531573

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	CAPT James Bresette	Secretary	AIANCOAC	IHS
Absent	CAPT Rita Lookingglass	Representative	AIANCOAC Chair	IHS
Present	CAPT Gina Pahona	Minority Recruitment Subcommittee Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Saini Parmjeet	Vice Chair	APAOC Chair	HRSA
Present	LT Leorey Saligan	Representative	APAOC	NIH
Absent	CDR Sheila Merriweather	Representative	BCOAG	OS
Present	CDR Sean-David Waterman	Liaison	BCOAG Chair	OS
Present	LCDR Candido Alicea	Representative	HOAC	NIH
Present	CDR Jeasmine Aizvera	Cultural Competency Workgroup Lead	HOAC Chair	NIH
Present	CAPT Laura Aponte	Chair	HOAC	OS
Present	LCDR Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan	JOAG Representative	JOAG	SAMHSA

Visitors: RADM Helena Mishoe, CAPT Byron Bailey (OPHS), LCDR Sophia Russell, CAPT Nancy Bill, CDR Soju Chang, **others to be sent via e-mail.**

I. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

- Council roll was taken by the MOLC Secretary, CAPT Jim Bresette. MOLC Chair CAPT Laura Aponte called the meeting to order at 14:34 EDT. **A quorum was established** with seven members representing all minority committees in attendance at the start of the call. LCDR Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan will be representing JOAG.

II. Special Presentation – CAPT Byron Bailey (Office of Public Health and Science)

- CAPT Bailey briefed from the Power Point provided to members with the MOLC meeting notices.
- Contracting issues have delayed roll out. Potential roll out before October 2009. However, officer comfort level will be a key driver in determining when the roll out actually “goes live”.
- He projects August as time for unveiling the online tutorial.
- CAPT Bailey stressed that nothing official will occur until some time in 2010 when they confirm the validity of the officer, supervisor, and OCCO inputs for each individual billet.
- Today’s briefing is one example of the Transformation Initiative implementing the billet change communications plan.

- For further questions, contact CAPT Bailey at byron.bailey@hhs.gov; 240-453-6101.

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- CAPT Aponte verified all members had received the 15 June minutes and offered several minutes for member review and comment.
- CDR Waterman proposed accepting the draft minutes as submitted with appropriate submitted edits corrected. LCDR Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan provided a second. Motion called and carried without opposition. Minutes approved.

IV. Reports

CHAIR Report – CAPT Laura Aponte

- Called for members interested in the 116th Interagency Institute on 14-25 Sept. in Arlington, VA:
 - to be selected by Office of the Surgeon General by 24 July.
 - Coordinating officer in OSG: CDR Gregory Davis, Gregory.davis@hhs.gov.
 - Agencies are responsible for the program tuition and travel costs.
 - Interested officers should submit their interest and application to the Agency Liaison officers.
- Salt and pepper uniform will be out of service after 31 July 2009. The decision is final.
- Woodland BDUs remain the authorized utility uniform.
- Assimilation board convenes in late Sept. Officers are encouraged to submit their assimilation package ASAP.
- Dr. Regina Benjamin has been nominated by the President to be the next Surgeon General. There is no date yet for Senate confirmation hearings.
- MOLC Luncheon photos will be made available for use among the membership and posting on the website.
- Officers serving as liaisons to the MOLC from the Chartered Minorities Advisory Group (CMAG) should be maintaining a log of their activity to support the Special Activity Award by calendar year Jan-Dec.
 - MOLC conference calls, regular MOLC activities and work groups, and special projects.
 - SAA requires 30 days activity with at least 2 hours of MOLC activity qualifying as one day.

AIANCOAC Report – CAPT Gina Pahona for CAPT Rita Lookingglass

- No report received in advance of the meeting.

BCOAG - CDR Sean-David Waterman

- The Black Commissioned Officer Advisory Group (BCOAG) is seeking dedicated, enthusiastic officers to serve a 3-year term beginning January 2010. Several positions will be available as a result of current voting membership term expiration. Self-nominations are encouraged.
 - CDR Waterman contact for membership at: Sean-David.Waterman@hhs.gov.
- Coins created by rank and one in development for Ensigns. PHS rank Coins to be submitted to CCMIS, Commission Corps Bulletins.

- Contact CDR Waterman for further information at: Sean-David.Waterman@hhs.gov.
- Provided Sideboys and escorts for CAPT Wendell Wainright's retirement ceremony.
- Sent Sideboys and escorts for the OSG Promotion ceremony.
- Service project next year is under development with Community Outreach Work Group. Event is normally scheduled for February and uses annual leave.
- Next scheduled meeting is 13 Aug 2009.

HOAC - CDR Jeasmine Aizvera

- CDR Aizvera reported HOAC met 11 June 2009
 - Voting members will approve/disprove final charter by 13 August 2009.
- New address for HOAC website www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/oldHOAC/.
- New member nominations due by 30 Sept 2009.
- Taking suggestions for Hispanic American month coming up soon in 15 Sept – 15 October.
- HOAC meets every other month, so next meeting is 13 August 2009.

APAOC – LT Leorey Saligan

- Sent solicitations for membership in early June to fill 6 open APAOC voting member positions for the term 2010-2012. The voting process will begin after July 31st. So far there are 14 applicants.
- Executive committee members met on June 9th to revisit and finalize the criteria for the CAPT Allan Lock award.
 - First given out in 2009, the CAPT Allan Lock award is given to a current or past voting member of APAOC for service specifically to APAOC and its activities.
 - This year's recipient is LCDR Mei-Ying Li.
- APAOC is revitalizing its mentorship program. Requests for input have been sent out to the membership regarding their needs and interests. Mentor-mentee matching should be complete by end of month.
- Held 1st Career Development Session on 17 June 2009 with 9 senior APAOC officers from 7 different categories.
- APAOC leadership met with the MOLC Chair to discuss initial plans to develop a planning committee for the 2010 COA conference luncheon – purpose to outline needs and lessons learned from 2009 luncheon and bring the other minority CMAGs into the process.
- Planned training session on the new GI bill is scheduled for 19 August 2009.
- Next General Body Meeting will be 16 September 2009.

JOAG – New representative LCDR Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan.

- Assigned as of 17 July 2009. LCDR Gaskin-Laniyan will follow up with the JOAG leadership to present a report at the next MOLC meeting in August.

V. Working Groups

COF: Luncheon Planning Committee – CAPT Aponte for CAPT Guerra

- Recommendation to start developing plans for next luncheon as soon as possible in preparation for next year.
- Recommendation to establish leadership responsible for luncheon so preplanning can begin.

Minority Recruitment – CAPT Gina Pahona

- Developed a list of over 600 minority educational institutions (colleges, universities) within the U.S. and U.S. Territories.
- Concern was expressed over a lack of identification of Asian-Pacific minority schools thus far. Input from other members is encouraged on the topic.
- Next meeting of Minority Recruitment Work Group 30 July 2009 at 10:00 EST.
 - CAPT Pahona stressed importance of ALL minority recruitment workgroup members to be present and contribute.

Cultural Competency & Awareness – CDR Jeasmine Aizvera.

- The workgroup will be coordinating with CAPT Andy Hunt (SAMHSA) to create culture cards for other minority groups similar to the AI/AN culture cards.
 - Meeting with CAPT Hunt at 2PM on 22 July 2009.
 - Please have other interested groups confirm their attendance.
- Cultural Competence Curriculum for Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response recently unveiled. CAPT Hunt and CDR Waterman played key development and coordination roles.
 - Site: <https://cccdpcr.thinkculturalhealth.org/>
- Seeking officers to volunteer to be instructors at various sessions at Ft A.P. Hill in August and September.
 - Contact OFRD to volunteer: <http://ccrf.hhs.gov/ccrf/>.

Childhood Obesity Prevention – CDR Sheila Merriweather not present

- CDR Waterman briefed as a group, MOLC is continuing to communicate with OSG to ensure MOLC is adequately representing the Surgeon General's interests for the program.
 - CAPT Aponte offered that the SG had a tentative meeting scheduled with the workgroup for 22 July, but as of today's meeting, no confirmation has been received.

VI. OFRD Readiness Update – CDR Sean-David Waterman

- Potential changes to President's Challenge as an alternate to the Annual Physical Fitness Test eventually, but none expected until 2011.
- LCDR Andrei Nabakowski and CDR Paul Reed have come aboard OFRD for international deployment activities (301-443-3859). Website: <http://ccrf.hhs.gov/ccrf/training.htm>.
 - Nigerian training initiative – DOD, CDC and Nigerian personnel collaborating to train providers on treatment of HIV in Nigeria.
 - Ft. A.P. Hill field training for Tiers 1, 2, and 3 officers will be held from mid-August through mid-September providing realistic stressful scenarios to improve officer performance and continuity in emergency situations on deployments.

- CAPT Aponte added that Services Assistance Teams (SAT Team) leaders continue to recruit officers with diverse cultural and language skills.

VII. Announcements

- Staff Team Leaders are looking for more minority officers to join deployments, especially those with foreign language abilities.
 - Please motivate these minorities to join as it looks good for both the Corp and for MOLC.
- MOLC is promoting the idea of a reception for Dr. Howard Koh and will discuss the idea further at the next meeting.
- CDR Sean-David Waterman invites officers to volunteer to answer phones for Maryland Public Television during a fund-raising campaign.
 - Event is from 1900-2300 hours on 2 Aug 2009.
 - Dinner will be served to volunteers.
 - If more than 12 people participate from any one organization, that organization will be included in the program and receive a free DVD that recognizes their participation.
 - Please contact LTJG Tillman if interested in participating at ttilghman@psc.gov or (301) 443-5577.

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 16:08 EDT.
- Next MOLC meeting: scheduled for 17 August 2009 at 2:30 EDT.
 - Teleconference Line: 866-642-7575; Passcode: 9531573

Minutes prepared by: CAPT James Bresette, MOLC Secretary
edited by CAPT Laura Aponte, MOLC Chair.

Respectfully submitted:

CAPT James Bresette (AIANCOAC)
MOLC Secretary

CAPT Laura Aponte (HOAC)
MOLC Chair

ACTION REQUIRED BY:

CAPT Aponte:

- Follow up by sending individual payment information to Minority Committee Chairs to cover MOLC Website costs.
- Submit new photo to post to website as MOLC chair.
- Contact OCCO for advice on how to integrate racial identifiers in the CAD so that minorities will be easier to select (with CAPT Pahona).

CAPT Guerra:

- MOLC Brochure – LCDR Candido Alicea and CAPT Pahona completed the MOLC two-page brochure. They were printed by CAPT Guerra for the conference. CAPT David Kelly, OCCO, recommended brochure be provided at BOTC courses.

LT Otero (israel.otero@fsis.usda.gov, or (301) 344-4745) – new MOLC Website Lead

- Post finalized meeting minutes to website.
- Post MOLC brochure to website.

CAPT Pahona:

- Contact OCCO for advice on how to integrate racial identifiers in the CAD so that minorities will be easier to select (with CAPT Aponte).

All Committees:

- Supply CAPT Aponte with information about your committee for inclusion in the Briefing Book that will be presented to the SG.
- Submit the following information about your CMAG to CAPT Aponte (laura.aponte@hhs.gov) for posting to MOLC website no later than 24 July:
 - Your group's title
 - A brief description of the group
 - When the group meets, including the time of meeting
 - Include a few highlights from activities your group has done over the past year
 - Executive committee members with their titles or positions
 - A point of contact if interested in joining the group
 - A link for your group's website
- Encourage minorities to join deployments as this reflects well on both the Corp and MOLC.
- MOLC Brochure – LCDR Candido Alicea and CAPT Pahona completed the MOLC two-page brochure. They were printed by CAPT Guerra for the conference. CAPT David Kelly, OCCO, recommended brochure be provided at BOTC courses.