

Meeting Minutes
USPHS Minority Officer Liaison Council (MOLC)
21 September 2009

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

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	CAPT James Bresette	Secretary	AIANCOAC	IHS
Excused	CAPT Rita Lookingglass	Representative	AIANCOAC Chair	IHS
Present	CAPT Gina Pahona	Minority Recruitment Subcommittee Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CDR Parmjeet Saini	Vice Chair	APAOC Chair	HRSA
Present	LT Leorey Saligan	Representative	APAOC	NIH
Present	CDR Sheila Merriweather	Representative	BCOAG	FDA
Absent	CDR Sean-David Waterman	Liaison	BCOAG Chair	OS
Present	CDR 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

MOLC Advisor: RADM Helena Mishoe
 Guest: CAPT Nancy Bill

I. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

- Council roll was taken for CAPT Bresette by CAPT Gina Pahona. MOLC Chair CAPT Laura Aponte called the meeting to order at 1435 EDT. **A quorum was established with six members** representing all minority committees in attendance at the start of the call. CAPTs Bresette's and Pahona's notes were combined to record the meeting minutes.

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- CAPT Aponte extended her thanks to CDR Parmjeet for chairing the August meeting and LCDR Gaskin-Laniyan for serving as Secretary while CAPTs Aponte and Bresette were attending OFRD training at Ft. A.P. Hill.
- CAPT Aponte verified all attendees had received the 17 August minutes. Because a quorum was not in attendance, the August meeting was informational only. A brief time period was provided to allow members to review and comment on the August minutes.
- CDR Saini proposed accepting the draft August minutes as submitted with no edits. LT Saligan provided a second. Motion called and carried without opposition. The August minutes approved.

- With a quorum present, the same process was undertaken for the 21 July minutes. LCDR Gaskin-Laniyan made motion that the July minutes be accepted without changes. CDR Saini provided a second. Motion was called and carried with no opposition. July minutes were approved.

III. Reports

CHAIR Report – CAPT Laura Aponte

- CAPT Aponte again thanked CDR Saini and LCDR Gaskin-Laniyan for their support.
- The MOLC briefing to the SG is on hold as RADM Galson has announced his retirement. Briefing will most likely not occur until the next SG is on-board. Minority groups and workgroups are encouraged to continue to move forward with their work. Change of command ceremony is being planned as well as a retirement ceremony. No dates as of yet, but MOLC needs to be visible and represented.
- 2010 COF Symposium is scheduled for May 24-27th in San Diego, CA. CDR Merriweather is working on our behalf. We have been told that the MOLC awards luncheon may occur on the 1st day of the symposium. APOAC will provide the lead and head a work group of MOLC members and advocates. CAPT Aponte advised that the group should be convened and begin planning now.
- Certificates of Appreciation for the 2009 COF booth and luncheon participation have been signed by RADM Galson. Names for the certificates were generated from sign-in sheets and work group/section leads. CAPT Aponte will submit the certificates to the council minority advisory group (CMAG) chairs for distribution to the volunteers from their respective group. Mailing addresses are needed.
- 2009 Hispanic Heritage Month is underway and is celebrated September 15 through October 15th. The theme for this year is “Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now”. To recognize this month, HOAC has been part of 2 events. CAPT Aponte has participated in (1) 2nd Annual Career Advancement and Achievement event hosted by the Social Security Administration, and (2) a Health Fair held in Montgomery County.
- A Hispanic Heritage Month event flyer was shared with the MOLC membership. On September 29th, RADM Isabel Garcia will be the keynote speaker at the event that is to be held at the Tower Building in Rockville. The event is co-sponsored by HOAC. Everyone is invited to attend. RADM Mishoe will confirm her availability to CAPT Aponte if she is able to attend.
- MOLC is encouraged to consider hosting a reception for the new ASH – Dr. Howard Koh by the end of the year. He has been in office for several months. Past ASH receptions have been hosted by the BCOAG and HOAC for Admirals Ogunwobi and Garcia respectively. APAOC will host the reception for Dr. Koh. CAPT Aponte has reached out to his Secretary for dates and is awaiting a response.

AIANCOAC Report – CAPT James Bresette and CAPT Gina Pahona for CAPT Rita Lookingglass who was excused from the meeting.

- Committee is currently finalizing its membership nominee list for review and rank order. Five (5) slots need to be filled. Preparation of nomination packet to begin in October and candidates submitted to OSG for approval.
- Committee is working to revise its Bylaws to include specified roles for AIANCOAC advocates. Advocates provide considerable support in AIANCOAC and in many cases are former members who have served their 2 term limit. Any change made to the AIANCOAC charter will require approval by the OSG.

BCOAG – CDR Sean-David Waterman (not present). CDR Sheila Merriweather provided updates for the MOLC.

- Applications for new voting members were disseminated for review and selection in September. There are 7 vacancies and 12 applications received.
- Community service projects are being planned with Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity to provide health education.
- Rank coin sales are going very well and an account has been successfully set up with COF to deposit the funds for scholarships and other needs as identified.
- CDR Aizvera requested assistance from BCOAG to contact Teresa Hayden or Christine Grill at COF to help HOAC set up their respective account.

HOAC - CDR Jeasmine Aizvera

- HOAC is recruiting new voting members with 22 applications received for 6 available positions. The committee plans to make its final selections no later than October 15th.
- Several events identified several special events celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month – HHS headquarters event on 9/16/09; Natcher Conference Center 9/17/09, NIH event 9/22/09, and a HOAC sponsored event at Tower Oaks 9/29/09.
- Recruitment outreach opportunities were emphasized – listing of HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities) was distributed to members to identify a local university they can offer information & education about PHS.
- HOAC Charter revision finalized and in vote process.
- Next meeting October 8th @ 1200-1330 EST call-in 888-560-9691

APAOC – LT Leorey Saligan

- Acknowledged 16 APAOC officers who were recipient of Unit Commendation Award for their hard work last year in rebuilding APAOC.
- Voting for 6 open voting member positions will be completed by Sept. 25.
- The APAOC website is currently being updated. Visit www.usphs-apaoc.org to see the new updates and provide us with your recommendations.
- OFRD training at Fort AP Hill: Comments and feedback from officers who completed training were provided to help other APAOC officers attending OFRD field training.
- 1st Meeting for planning for the MOLC luncheon 2010 will be conducted very soon. In process of identifying officers in San Diego for next COF Symposium.
- Next educational activity: 10/21/2009 1200H – 1300H EST Toll Free #: 866-917-3985 Passcode: 7711285
- Next general meeting: 11/18/2009 1200H – 1300H EST Toll Free #: 866-917-3985 Passcode: 7711285

JOAG – LCDR Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan.

- “Forward Thinking” is a strategic planning model for long-term future planning in an innovative and interactive forum. Currently, LT Joel Nelson has agreed to lead such an initiative.
 - “Forward Thinking”: JOAG’s senior advisor, CAPT Coppola, the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), and Bureau of Prisons (BOP) leadership are very interested in JOAG pursuing this endeavor and providing deliverables on the future of the Corps.
 - LCDR Angela Mtungwa, LCDR Hollie Cook, LT Joel Nelson, and LCDR Jessica Feda are working on a proposal outlining JOAG’s overall strategy regarding “Forward Thinking” for approval by JOAG’s senior advisor and OSG.
- JOAG Professional Development included recent publications and Journeyman Series:
 - JOAG Newsletter printed LT Cheng article on her recent Call to Active Duty and her first COA experience. LT Cheng has also written a second article on personal experiences on hearing loss; this article has already been published in Hearing Loss magazine.
 - Journeyman Series: CAPT John Moran spoke on overseas experiences relating to outbreak responses at September meeting. In November, CAPT Jonathan Mermin will speak on administrative/management issues when deployed overseas.
- CAPT Aponte encouraged PHS officers to join the 17 October Walk 4 Hearing walk-a-thon in Washington, D.C. to raise hearing loss awareness. Interested officers should contact LT Jennifer Cheng for more information.
- Next regular JOAG Meeting: 9 October at 1300 EDT. Watch listserv for call-in information

IV. Working Groups

Cultural Competency & Awareness – CDR Jeasmine Aizvera.

- Cultural Competence Card Project: Met on 22 July to review in detail the steps taken to develop the Native American Culture Card to help chart out the course for the other 3 groups
- Each group was charged to do the following:
 - Develop a Description of Concept/Context for a culture card – questions that may help think this through: what need will the culture card fill, what audience will the card be geared toward?
 - Describe the composition of a proposed workgroup to develop the culture card, i.e. how to include diverse members to represent aspects of cultural communities included in the culture card, discern officers with/without knowledge and/or experience in work with the cultural community of focus, etc.
 - Map out possible phases for card development – consider workgroup formation, conceptual work, overarching themes to be covered in the card and content development
 - Identify the lead for this project
 - Next meeting date is scheduled for 9/30/09
- Encourage all groups to take the cultural competency e-learning courses for emergency preparedness and disaster response available on-line at

www.thinkculturalhealth.org.

Minority Recruitment – CAPT Gina Pahona

- Last meeting was held on July 30th, however we were unable to conduct business as no quorum was present.
- As previously mentioned, the workgroup has developed a list of over 600 minority educational institutions (colleges, universities) within the U.S. and U.S. Territories. Group is still trying to identify Asian Pacific educational institutions and may have to focus instead on Asian Pacific associations. CAPT Pahona was very pleased to hear that HOAC was using the list. The plan is to disseminate the list to all Chairs for the groups' use.
- Next meeting will focus on where we are with the 4 recommendations that the group was to focus on and evaluate whether we have met our mission.
- We still need to finalize the MOLC brochure. Currently, we are just missing a photo of the current chair.
 - A photo was requested from CAPT Aponte to be sent to LCDR Alecia and CAPT Pahona.
 - CAPT Aponte offered to send a photo of all the CMAG chairs.
 - Brochure will be sent out for one more MOLC review before publication.

Childhood Obesity Prevention – CDR Sheila Merriweather

- Without direction from the SG due to RADM Galson's announced retirement, there is no subsequent activity to report pending a new SG.

OFRD Readiness Update – CDR Sean-David Waterman (not present), CAPT Aponte reporting.

- CAPT Aponte noted that officers should review their readiness status, especially their immunizations logged into OFRD.

V. Announcements

- 2010 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium:
 - CDR Merriweather announced that the 2010 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium theme is "Public Health 2010: The Road Ahead" 24-27 May 2010 in San Diego, CA. <http://www.phscofevents.org/>
 - Abstract submission deadline is 12 November 2009.
 - Luncheon date: tentative at this point -24 May 2010 during lunch hour.
 - Pre-conference sessions: Consider reducing from 10 in 2009 to 5-6 more focused sessions for this event.
 - Bi-monthly conference calls are being held
 - Send ideas for session topics to her new e-mail - Sheila.Merriweather@fda.hhs.gov
- ASH Reception for Dr. Koh:
 - CAPT Aponte opened a general discussion for ideas and timing
 - CDR Parmjeet and LT Saligan reiterated that APAOC is taking the lead to coordinate the event.
 - LCDR Gaskin-Laniyan asked for CAPT Aponte to send a written proposal to the

- JOAG.
- RADM Mishoe advised that MOLC should review past formats for the event.

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1559 EDT.
- Next MOLC meeting: scheduled for 19 October 2009 at 1430 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