

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES
November 20, 2015
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
 - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
 - i. Please see the links below for all available open VA Optometry Staff positions.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/Open_Optometry_Positions_.pdf
 - iii. http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optometrists_Positions.asp or <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/>
 - b. VA Core Values and Characteristics (I CARE)
<http://www.va.gov/ICARE/index.asp>
 - c. Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI)
<http://www.diversity.va.gov/programs/pwd.aspx>
 - d. Office of Resolution Management (ORM) – <http://vaww.va.gov/orm/>
(three related links: EEO Complaint Processing <http://vaww.va.gov/ORM/EEOcomplaint.asp> ; Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) <http://www.va.gov/adr/> + VA Directive 5978; and Resolution Support Center <http://www.va.gov/orm/RSC.asp>)
 - e. Continuous Readiness in Information Security Program (CRISP)
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/CRISP/>
 - f. Professional Development: VA MyCareer (<http://mycareeratva.va.gov/>)
 - g. Improve Your Customer Service Skills – TMS training coursework (<https://www.tms.va.gov/learning/user/login.jsp>)
 - h. Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (attachment and link)
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/public-service-loan-forgiveness.pdf>
 - i. 2016 TSP Limits
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/TSP_Limits_2016.pdf
 - j. Federal Benefits Open Season
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/2015_FEDERAL_BENEFITS_OPEN_SEASON.pdf
 - k. VHA Priorities
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/VHA_Priorities.pdf
 - l. Veterans' Choice Act Independent Assessment
 - i. Dr. Townsend comment. Pay particular attention to Appendix G – which involves appropriate staffing, spacing and support for full time optometrists.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/Choice_Act_Independent_Assessment_of_the_Health_Care_Delivery_Systems_and_Management_Processes_of_the_Department_of_Veterans_Affairs_2015.pdf
 - m. VA Optometry Service PACT Recommendations
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/VA_Optometry_Service_PACT_Recommendations-12-2014_FINAL.pdf
 - n. VHA Handbook 1601D.05, CHAMPVA
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook updates Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) information regarding medical care for survivors and dependents of certain Veterans under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA (CHAMPVA) program.

- ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/VHA_Handbook_1601_D.05_CHAMPVA_11-2-15.pdf
- o. VHA Handbook 1660.03, Conflict of Interest for the Aspects of Contracting for Sharing of Health-Care Resources (HCR)
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook contains guidance, procedures, and responsibilities regarding avoidance of prohibited conflicts of interest by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees involved in contracting for sharing of Health Care Resources (HCR).
 - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/VHA_Handbook_1660.03_Conflict_of_Interest_for_the_Aspects_of_Contracting_for_Sharing_of_Health-Care_Resources_\(HCR\)_11-4-15.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/VHA_Handbook_1660.03_Conflict_of_Interest_for_the_Aspects_of_Contracting_for_Sharing_of_Health-Care_Resources_(HCR)_11-4-15.pdf)
- p. VHA Directive 1067, Confidential Communications
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes policy concerning a patient's right to receive confidential communications pertaining to health care by an alternative means or at an alternative location other than the permanent address of record in compliance with Public Law 104-191 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_2015/VHA_Directive_1067_Confidential_Communications_11-10-15.pdf
- 2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Brough – unavailable for comment.
- 3. Optometric Education Programs – Drs. Slagle/Messer – unavailable for comment.
- 4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick
 - a. Dr. Hetrick comment. The Low Vision Continuum of Care coursework continues; however, there has been hold up with accreditation. Their EES staff is doing COPE accreditation for the first time and working through some issues with that. The modules are on track and the teams have done excellent work. They are hoping to get the first 2 modules up by the end of the year.
- 5. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
- 6. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger
 - a. Dr. Ballinger comment. There have been some issues occurring with the ICD 10 system and picking the correct codes. He sent out link for appropriate codes through outlook. One of the main issues is with the coding of legal blindness. If you add it to problems list it comes up with incorrect code. They are working with Central Office to fix these issues.
- 7. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/O'Connor/White - unavailable for comment.
 - a. **One Source Document Site:**
<http://onesourcedocs.com/member/index.html>
- 8. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program – Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.
- 9. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker
 - a. Dr. Barker comment. They are moving the Eye Care clinical recommendations through the DoD system. They presented at a TBI Defense Center of Excellence program a month ago, they are planning to present at AMSUS, and plan to hold a presentation at an educational conference at Walter Reed.
 - b. They are also waiting to get the data results from the eye exams performed at the Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center.

10. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Mandese/Peterson – unavailable for comment.
11. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O’Connell/Brahm
 - a. Dr. Chan O’Connell comment. They have identified that there are incorrect taxonomy codes for those in low vision and they are going down their list and fixing the individual codes locally.
12. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough – unavailable for comment.
13. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Cantrell/Varanelli – unavailable for comment.
14. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.
 - a. **VA HSR&D Centers of Innovation (COINs) and Resource Centers:**
<http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/centers/>
15. VHA Optometry Service Websites – Dr. G. Singh – unavailable for comment.
16. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt/Dalton
 - a. Dr. Pewitt comment. They are all caught up with updates on the website. If there are any further updates or additions, please contact the committee.
17. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
 - a. Dr. Wang comment. There are 1289 residents who are receiving emails about available open VA Optometry positions and there are 1900 residency trained Optometrists in database. If you have any residents that would like to be added, please contact her.
18. AFOS Report - Dr. Musick
 - a. Dr. Engelke comment. Registration is open for the upcoming AFOS/SECO meeting. The registration fee for SECO will include both the AFOS and SECO meeting as well as access to SECO university. The early bird registration fee is available until Dec 30. Please remember to register with ACES by November 23.
 - b. They will be sending out announcements for nominations for Optometrist of the Year. More information will be sent out soon.
19. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Wong/Gustafson
 - a. Dr. Wong comment. The quarterly newsletter was published online; please refer to the NAVAIO.org website.
 - b. The 2016 membership drive will be starting shortly. Please encourage non-NAVAIO members, new appointments and residents to consider membership in NAVAIO.
20. Dr. Townsend comment. There was a direct scheduling pilot program performed with optometry and audiology at the Bay Pines, FL, Mountain Home, TN, and White River Junction, VT sites. There is a lot of interest in implementing this at other VA sites to improve access to care. The goal is to have greater ability for patients to directly scheduling into the eye clinics.