

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES**

February 20, 2015

3 p.m. Eastern Time

1. Announcements:

- a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
 - i. Ms. Gernhart comment. There are 10 open positions open at 9 different locations. Please see the links below for more information.
 - ii. http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optomtrist_Positions.asp or <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/>
 - iii. http://www.navao.org/documents/02_2015/Open_Optomtrist_Positions.pdf
- 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. VHA Directive 1097, Release of Information to Social Security Administration
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy and procedures for the release of information (ROI) to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and its affiliated State Disability Determination Services (DDS) by a secure Web site using a standard health summary protocol.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/02_2015/VHA_Directive_1097_Release_of_Information_to_Social_Security_Administration_2-5-15.pdf
- h. VHA Directive 1124, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes the policy to provide Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) to all VHA employees and applicants for employment without discrimination including workplace harassment, based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), age, disability, genetic information, marital/parental status, political affiliation, or retaliation for opposing discriminatory practices or for participating in the discrimination-complaint process. This applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruitment, hiring, promotions, transfers, reassignments, training, career development, benefits, and separation.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/02_2015/VHA_Directive_1124_Equal_Employment_Opportunity_Policy_2-6-15.pdf
- i. VHA Handbook 1203.06, Paul B. Magnuson Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rehabilitation Research and Development
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook defines the procedures for nominating candidates for the Paul B. Magnuson

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D) Service within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The award consists of a one-time cash award to an individual, supplemental funding for their ongoing peer-reviewed research, and a celebratory plaque.

- ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/02_2015/VHA_Handbook_1203.06_Paul_B._Magnuson_Award_for_Outstanding_Achievement_in_Rehabilitation_Research_and_Development_2-5-15.pdf
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.
3. Optometric Education Programs – Drs. Slagle/Messer
 - a. Dr. Slagle comment. The Office of Academic Affiliations released the allocation announcement for optometry residency positions for the next academic year. The total number remains at 220 positions. This year, a new program has been funded at the Tampa VAMC where they were granted approval for 2 new positions. Additionally, Bay Pines VAMC who had accommodated transfer resident funding for the past couple of years received funding to make their 3 position permanent.
 - b. Reminder to residency supervisors and selection committees: In reference to the NBEO Part II Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) examination in December 2014, NBEO reported that some candidates “experienced an incident in which they were not prompted to go back to review incomplete or flagged items before finalizing the exam” for NBEO Part II in December 2014. Because of the irregularity, many candidates have elected to review their scores released January 21st and either 1) keep the score as is or 2) take a free retest on April 7th with scores released by May 27, 2015.
 - i. Those candidates who “failed” TMOD are eligible for a free retest of the stand-alone TMOD on April 7, 2015.
 - ii. As part of your review process, the NBEO and ASCO encourage you to account for the unusual circumstances for the delayed board scores, which are beyond the student’s control.
 - c. Feb 27 is the deadline for OR match ROL. Results are to be released March 9.
4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick
 - a. Dr. Hetrick comment. The review of the coursework is under way. Module leaders should be reporting back with review updates by the end of next week. If anyone has any concerns or has not yet heard from their module leaders, please contact Dr. Hetrick.
5. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
6. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. All the Windows XP Systems, nationally, are to be removed from all networks this month. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Ballinger.
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 - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
9. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker

- a. Dr. Barker comment. There is a leadership change, Dr. Lawrence is leaving the VA and the position is still currently unfilled.
 - b. There has always been a clinical recommendation for Combat Eye Injuries and TBIs and those recommendations are moving into the VA and DoD for vetting. This will be followed by similar recommendations for visual field rehabilitation and oculomotor rehabilitation.
 - c. The VCE is working with the Blinded Veterans Association to have a program of education in August, during their meeting, devoted to a multidisciplinary panel discussion on the subject of comorbidities of vision loss and vision dysfunction as well as mental health and reintegration to work.
 - d. On March 26 VCE is sponsoring Industry Day to look at issues involving adaptive technology and vision impairment.
10. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Dr. Eldred/Dr. Rakoczy – unavailable for comment
11. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O’Connell/Brahm – unavailable for comment.
12. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough – unavailable for comment.
13. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Cantrell/Varanelli
- a. Dr. Cantrell comment. The next conference call will be held on February 25 at 1pm. If anyone is interested in joining the next call, please contact Ms. Gernhart or Dr. Cantrell to be added to the list.
14. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.
- VA HSR&D Centers of Innovation (COINs) and Resource Centers:**
<http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/>
15. VHA Optometry Service Websites – Dr. G. Singh
- a. Dr. Singh comment. They are still working on the appearance of the website.
16. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
- a. Dr. Pewitt comment. They are currently working on updating the directory in “waves” alphabetically.
17. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift – unavailable for comment.
18. AFOS Report - Dr. Musick – unavailable for comment.
19. NAVAQ Report - Drs. Wong/Thomann
- a. Dr. Thomann comment. Renewal of dues can be done electronically through the NAVAQ website at www.navao.org. The renewal deadline has extended to March 31, 2015; thereafter, a late fee will be applied.
 - i. Dr. Sarah Dieter (Columbus VA) and Dr. Erica Walker (Orlando VA) are winners of the NAVAQ annual membership renewal drawings and they will receive free membership for 2016.
 - b. NAVAQ is personalizing the membership directory with a headshot photo of each NAVAQ member. A casual or professional photo, VA facility, phone number and email address may be sent to Dr. Amber Louprasong (amber.louprasong@va.gov) or Dr. Theresa Chong (Theresa.chong2@va.gov) on Outlook.
20. Dr. Townsend comment. There has been a lot of confusion about the Choice Program. They are not covering eyeglasses under this program, but they have asked for further guidance on this issue.

- a. One suggestion was to have the optical and frames travel to the outpatient clinics during certain times during the year in order to provide convenience for the Veterans.