

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MINUTES  
April 15, 2016  
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_2016/Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_2016/Open_Optometry_Positions.pdf)
    - ii. [http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optometrist\\_Positions.asp](http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optometrist_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. Professional Development: VA MyCareer (<http://mycareeratva.va.gov/>)
  - f. Improve Your Customer Service Skills – TMS training coursework (<https://www.tms.va.gov/learning/user/login.jsp>)
  - g. VHA Directive 1044, Assignment and Maintenance of Station Numbers and Attributes
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy for the assignment and maintenance of station numbers, station number suffixes, and station number attributes to all VHA sites of care which require unique identification. *NOTE: The requirements of this Directive will not be implemented until October 1, 2016.*
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_2016/VHA\\_Directive\\_1044\\_Assignment\\_and\\_Maintenance\\_of\\_Station\\_Numbers\\_and\\_Attributes\\_3-15-16.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_2016/VHA_Directive_1044_Assignment_and_Maintenance_of_Station_Numbers_and_Attributes_3-15-16.pdf)
  - h. VHA Directive 1116, Sterile Processing Services (SPS)
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides procedures for the decontamination, high-level disinfection (HLD), and/or sterilization of critical and semi-critical reusable medical instruments and equipment and storage of items reprocessed in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_2016/VHA\\_Directive\\_1116\\_Sterile\\_Processing\\_Services\\_\(SPS\)\\_3-23-16.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_2016/VHA_Directive_1116_Sterile_Processing_Services_(SPS)_3-23-16.pdf)
  - i. VHA Handbook 1601F.05, Hospital Care and Medical Services in Foreign Countries
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook updates Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) information regarding Veteran health care benefits received in foreign countries under the Foreign Medical Program (FMP).
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_2016/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1601\\_F.05,\\_Hospital\\_Care\\_and\\_Medical\\_Services\\_in\\_Foreign\\_Countries,\\_4-1-16.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_2016/VHA_Handbook_1601_F.05,_Hospital_Care_and_Medical_Services_in_Foreign_Countries,_4-1-16.pdf)
  - j. VHA Handbook 1400.11, Extended Educational Leave
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook delineates policies relating to the establishment and administration of extended educational leave in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities.

- ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_2016/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1400.11\\_Extended\\_Educational\\_Leave\\_4-1-16.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_2016/VHA_Handbook_1400.11_Extended_Educational_Leave_4-1-16.pdf)
  - k. Public Student Loan Forgiveness Program PowerPoint
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_2016/Public\\_Student\\_Loan\\_Forgiveness\\_Program - Understanding Repayment Benefits 04-2016.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_2016/Public_Student_Loan_Forgiveness_Program_-_Understanding_Repayment_Benefits_04-2016.pdf)
- 2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Brough –unavailable for comment.
- 3. Optometric Education Programs – Dr. Slagle
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There are 5 positions that still need to be matched. If you know of any qualified candidates, please encourage them to contact those facilities within the VA.
- 4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick
  - a. Dr. Chan O’Connell comment. Modules 1 and 3 are COPE approved and available within TMS. There are 4 other modules that are going through final review and should be available in TMS soon.
- 5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger
  - a. Dr. Ballinger comment. Nothing new to report at this time.
- 6. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Trout/White - nothing new to report at this time.
  - a. **One Source Document Site:**  
<http://onesourcedocs.com/member/index.html>
- 7. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program – Drs. Morris/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
- 8. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker – unavailable for comment.
- 9. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Mandese/Peterson – unavailable for comment.
- 10. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O’Connell/Brahm
  - a. Dr. Chan O’Connell comment. They are currently working with the national coders to resolve some of the issues concerning coding among low vision providers.
- 11. Optometry Quality Improvement - Drs. Brough/Horn – unavailable for comment.
- 12. Direct Scheduling/Access/VA Systems Redesign - Drs. Cantrell/Varanelli
  - a. Dr. Cantrell comment. The next call is scheduled on April 27<sup>th</sup>, please feel free to join in the discussion.
- 13. VA Optometric Research & Development – Drs. Fuhr/Mancil/Sullivan-Mee – unavailable for comment.
  - a. **VA HSR&D Centers of Innovation (COINs) and Resource Centers:**  
<http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/centers/>
- 14. VHA Optometry Service Websites – Dr. G. Singh
  - a. Dr. Singh comment. Nothing new to report at this time.
- 15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt/Dalton – unavailable for comment.
- 16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
  - a. Dr. Wang comment. Nothing new to report at this time.
- 17. AFOS Report - Dr. Engelke
  - a. Dr. Engelke comment. AFOS is looking for members to be a delegate at the AOA meeting in Boston on June 29-July 3. If you are interested, please contact the executive director of AFOS, Dr. Wright or Dr. Engelke.

- i. AFOS will be having a reception at the Ritz Carlton during the AOA meeting in which all members are welcome to join.
    - ii. If you are member of AFOS and have not yet paid your first quarter dues, they are due April 23rd for membership to count towards the total delegates within the AOA.
  - b. In anticipation of the academy meeting in November, registration will open on May 23, 2016 and they will be bundling their registration package with the AAO meeting.
- 18. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Wong/Gustafson
  - a. The spring quarterly issue of *Optimum VA* will be posted on the NAVAIO website shortly.
  - b. Just a reminder to all members to check out the NAVAIO website at [NAVAIO.org](http://NAVAIO.org) for current information and pertinent resources for your clinic and optometric career.