

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MINUTES  
July 17, 2015  
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2015/Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions .pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2015/Open_Optometry_Positions.pdf)
    - ii. [http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optometrists\\_Positions.asp](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 list attached (<https://www.tms.va.gov/learning/user/login.jsp>)
  - h. VHA Directive 1606, Health Care Benefits for Combat Theater Veterans
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes the policy for determining a Veteran’s eligibility for enrollment in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system as a “combat-theater” Veteran, i.e. one who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2015/VHA\\_Directive\\_1606\\_Health\\_Care\\_Benefits\\_for\\_Combat\\_Theater\\_Veterans\\_6-22-15.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2015/VHA_Directive_1606_Health_Care_Benefits_for_Combat_Theater_Veterans_6-22-15.pdf)
  - i. VHA Directive 1164, Essential Medication Information Standards
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes policy that outlines the essential medication information elements necessary for review, management, and communication of medication information with Veterans and their health care teams.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2015/VHA\\_Directive\\_1164\\_Essential\\_Medication\\_Information\\_Standards\\_6-26-15.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2015/VHA_Directive_1164_Essential_Medication_Information_Standards_6-26-15.pdf)
  - j. VHA Directive 1133, The Under Secretary for Health’s Awards Program for Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education, and Research
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes national policy for the Awards Program for Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education, and Research.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2015/VHA\\_Directive\\_1133\\_USH\\_Awards\\_Program\\_for\\_Excellence\\_in\\_Clinical\\_Simulation\\_Training\\_Education\\_Research\\_7-1-15.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2015/VHA_Directive_1133_USH_Awards_Program_for_Excellence_in_Clinical_Simulation_Training_Education_Research_7-1-15.pdf)
  - k. VHA Directive 1014, Safe Medication Injection Practices
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive states the policy and assigns responsibility for the safe management of

medication syringes, needles, medication vials, infusion pumps used for the delivery of medication therapy and diagnostic injection practices.

- ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2015/VHA\\_Directive\\_1014\\_Safe\\_Medication\\_Injection\\_Practices\\_7-1-15.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2015/VHA_Directive_1014_Safe_Medication_Injection_Practices_7-1-15.pdf)
1. VHA Directive 1125, Driver Rehabilitation Program Report
  - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive describes data to be reported on Driver Rehabilitation Program activities at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities.
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2015/VHA\\_Directive\\_1125\\_Driver\\_Rehabilitation\\_Program\\_Report\\_7-9-15.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2015/VHA_Directive_1125_Driver_Rehabilitation_Program_Report_7-9-15.pdf)
- m. IL 10-2015-02, Request for a 30-Day Notice of Separation or Transfer for VHA Title 38 and Hybrid Title 38 Providers
  - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2015/IL\\_10-2015-02\\_Req\\_for\\_30day\\_Notice\\_of\\_Separation\\_or\\_Trnsfr\\_for\\_VHA\\_Title\\_38\\_and\\_Hybrid\\_Title\\_38\\_providers.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2015/IL_10-2015-02_Req_for_30day_Notice_of_Separation_or_Trnsfr_for_VHA_Title_38_and_Hybrid_Title_38_providers.pdf)
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. The Field Advisory Committee will be meeting virtually this year.
3. Optometric Education Programs – Drs. Slagle/Messer – unavailable for comment.
4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick
  - a. Dr. Hetrick comment. Two modules are almost finished and ready for reposting and being COPE approved. She hopes to offer other COPE approved courses through EES in the near future.
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 are a number of inquiries about IT connectivity. A number of the manufacturers have instruments with software onboard which contains windows elements/windows embedded which is an XP product. XP products are not allowed on VA systems. In order to get proprietary equipment you will have to fill out a waiver or request that may or may not be approved locally.
7. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/O'Connor/White
  - a. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2015/VOLK\\_Cleaning-and-Care-Guide.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2015/VOLK_Cleaning-and-Care-Guide.pdf) - recent updates to the VOLK reprocessing guide; only those that touch the eye need to be reprocessed, those that do not touch the eye will only need to be cleaned.
  - b. **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 – unavailable for comment.
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There will be a virtual meeting in conjunction with the Blinded Veterans Association. The conference will be in August.
10. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Eldred/Rakoczy/Peterson – unavailable for comment.
11. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O'Connell/Brahm – unavailable for comment.

- a. Dr. Townsend comment. He is requesting that any optometrist with experience with a miniature implantable telescope or implantable Argus II implant to contact him about how you will manage those people pre-implant as well as post management. Please send that information to Dr. Townsend or Ms. Gernhart.
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.  
**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 – unavailable for comment.
17. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
  - a. Dr. Wang comment. She will be sending out requests for those residents that would like to be included in the directory or the email list for open optometry positions available.
18. AFOS Report - Dr. Musick
  - a. Dr. Musick comment. AFOS is still in the early bird registration stage for the annual meeting October 6. If you sign up for the academy meeting, you can register for the AFOS meeting for free. The breakout sessions have actually been approved for 2 hours of COPE approved CE.
  - b. This is a really good time for current residents to join AFOS. The total cost for AFOS and the AOA is \$80 which extends through December 2016. If they join now they will receive all the membership benefits available to AFOS members for the upcoming meeting.
19. NAVAQ Report - Drs. Wong/Thomann
  - a. The NAVAQ business meeting and reception will be held concurrently with the American Academy of Optometry annual in New Orleans, Louisiana Thursday October 8. The business meeting will be at 7:15 at the Hilton Riverside(Headquarters Hotel) • Grand Ballroom C - 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The registration for the American meeting is available on the AAO website. Early bird registration extends through August 3, 2015.
  - b. NAVAQ will be offering 8 \$250 scholarships for current active resident NAVAQ members to the 2015 American Academy of Optometry meeting. The application includes submission of a CV and statement of intent. Information may be obtained on the NAVAQ website. **The deadline for the scholarship application is Friday, September 11, 2015.**
  - c. 2015 represents an election year for NAVAQ officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer). Information on the call for nominations is available on the NAVAQ website. Nominations may be submitted to **Dr. Brian Kawasaki (Teller of Ballots) via email ([brian.kawasaki@navao.org](mailto:brian.kawasaki@navao.org)).** **Nominations are due Friday, July 31, 2015.**
20. Jeff Chiara comment. Inquiry about credit monitoring OPM is offering – the initial monitoring time was 18 months but Dr. Townsend commented that there is a bill recommending lifetime monitoring. They believe approximately 20 million were affected.
  - a. Dr. Ballinger comment. OPM has also launched a new online resource center/cyber security to give updates on this issue.