

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES**

November 21, 2014

3 p.m. Eastern Time

1. Announcements:

- a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
 - i. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/Copy_of_Open_Optomtery_Positions.pdf
 - ii. http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optomtrist_Positio_ns.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>
 - i. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/HRML_05-14-05_Hybrid_Vet_Pref_Interim_Procedures.docx
- 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. FEHB Modification on Eligibility
 - i. To further the goal of providing affordable health insurance to Federal employees, the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has issued a final rule modifying coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program to include certain temporary, seasonal, and intermittent employees who are identified as full-time employees. This regulation makes FEHB coverage available to these newly eligible employees no later than January 2015.
 - ii. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/New_BAL_14-210_FEHB_Program_Modification_of_Eligibility_to_Certain_Employees_on_Temporary_Appointments_and_Certain_Employees_on_Seasonal_and_Int.pdf
- h. FEHB Significant Plan Changes
 - i. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/BAL_14-405_Attachment_2_Plan_and_Service_Area_Termination_FastFacts.pdf
 - ii. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/BAL_14-405_Attachment_1_FEHB_Significant_Plan_Changes.pdf
 - iii. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/BAL_14-405_Federal_Benefits_Open_Season_-_FSAFEDS_and_FEHB_Significant_C...pdf
- i. Authorized Absence for EVD Exposed Employees
 - i. Dr. Townsend comment. The link is for those exposed to Ebola and need to be isolated for 21 days.
 - ii. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/Authorization_memo_AA_Ebola_Exposed_Employees.pdf
- j. VA Choice Program
 - i. Dr. Townsend comment. There is a lot of information concerning the Choice Act. If a veteran lives 40 miles from a VA facility or

those that are waiting over 30 days they will be given a Choice Card. This is a 3 year program until the VA can create internal capacity to provide quicker access.

1. A question was posed about eyeglasses under the Choice Program. It is unclear as to whether or not Veterans can receive eyeglasses from outside sources through this program.
 - ii. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/Choice-Program-Fact-Sheet-Final.pdf
 - iii. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/Open-Letter-to-Veterans.pdf
 - iv. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/Report to Congress on Veterans Choice Program 101.pdf
 - k. VHA Directive 1078, Privacy of Persons Regarding Photographs, Digital Images, and Video or Audio Recordings
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes VHA policy defining the parameters under which members of the VHA workforce may produce and use photographs, digital images, and video or audio recordings of all persons, and it reinforces existing regulations covering these activities.
 - ii. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/VHA_Directive_1078_Privacy_of_Persons_Re_Photos,_Digital_Imgs,_Video,_Audio_recordings.pdf
 - l. VHA Directive 1177, CPR, BLS, and ACLS Training for Staff
 - i. This is a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive that establishes the policy to optimize patient safety within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system by training appropriate staff on Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
 - ii. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/VHA_Directive_1177_CPR,_BLS,_ACLS_Training_for_Staff_11-6-14.pdf
 - m. VHA Handbook 1200.05, Requirements for Protection of Human Research Subjects
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook establishes procedures for the protection of human subjects in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) research and the operation of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for VA facilities.
 - ii. http://navao.org/documents/11_2014/VHA_Handbook_1200.05,_Requirements_for_Protection_of_Human_Research_Subjects,_11-12-2014.pdf
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.
 3. Optometric Education Programs – Drs. Slagle/Messer
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment for Dr. Slagle. The Health Services Training Report (RCS 10-0161) is open for data entry. This report is a count of all students and/or residents who spent at least 40 hours at your facility in clinical education training that was required by their degree program. This information is used to report on the VA's significant contributions to the education and training of health care professionals. **The report is due to OAA by December 5, 2014. Please work with your ACOS Education or Designated Education Official to complete this report.**
 - b. The Director of Medical and Dental Education of the Office of Academic Affiliations issued a statement regarding trainees and their risk of exposure to Ebola-infected patients.

- i. Policy: Health professions trainees who participate in VA-based clinical educational experiences should not be subjected to excessive or unusual risks in their learning capacity. For that reason and also because of their relative inexperience, health professions trainees should not be tasked with participating in the care of Ebola virus patients in VA settings. Every effort should be made to avoid the exposure of trainees to potentially Ebola-infected patients or contaminated items.
4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick
 - a. Dr. Hetrick comment. Lisa Chan-O’Connell and Timothy Morand are going to be the co-leaders of the steering committee on the Continuum of Care Series for Low vision. They had their first meeting yesterday. She is in the process of establishing a SharePoint site.
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 has been a recent announcement from the Open Source Electronic Health Records Agency in regards to the development of the new Electronic Medical Records System.
 - i. The current naming of the System is called the Enterprise Health Management Platform (EHMP). This is a multiyear effort to evolve a modern service oriented enterprise application platform.
 - ii. This will comprise of a complete virtual patient electronic record and include information in terms of records from DoD, exchange partners and the VA.
 - iii. The core modules that form the basis of this open source system have been developed. They are now working on developing plugins to this system.
 - iv. There is a VISTA exchange component, a clinical decisions support, context persistence, management services, order selection service, data annotation, improved clinical workflow, concept relationship services, documentation text services, and rules management systems.
7. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/O’Connor/White
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There are some lenses that do not touch the mucus membranes of the eye so they do not need to go through the same reprocessing procedures as those that do have direct contact.
 - b. There are also disposable Goldmann gonio lenses and 3M lenses that are available. Salem VAMC states that they use those lenses because the price is less than to reprocess nondisposable lenses through SPD. The optics are not as good but they work.
 - i. Dr. Hetrick comment. They are less than \$10 each.
 - c. **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.
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. Varanelli comment. They will have their first call this Wednesday. There is so much information on the Choice Program so they wanted to find out what the workgroup may need for support. They should have the agenda out by Monday.
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
 - a. Dr. Singh comment. No new updates at this time.
16. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
 - a. Dr. Pewitt comment. The Service Directory is back on and up to date. Please contact them with any changes.
17. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
 - a. Dr. Wang comment. The directory is going well. There were about 1000 students that came to the student networking luncheon during the Academy meeting in Denver. There were a lot of interest in the VA and she noticed a lot of first and second year students this year as compared to the years past.
18. AFOS Report - Dr. Wasik
 - a. Dr. Musick comment. AFOS wanted to thank all those VA Optometrists who attended the Denver meeting; there was quite a large representation at this year's meeting. They thanked Dr. Townsend for the breakout session as well. They want to announce that SECO and AFOS are working together so you don't have to request ACES approval for each meeting individually and the cost for AFOS registration will also cover attendance registration to SECO. The headquarters hotel will be the Ritz Carlton which will be offered at the government rate. They have already opened up registration.
 - i. An announcement was made for nominations for Sr. and Jr. OD of the Year Award for VA Optometry. More information is available on the website AFOS2020.org.
19. NAVAQ Report - Drs. Wong/Thomann
 - a. Dr. Thomann comment. NAVAQ had their annual business meeting and reception in Denver, CO in conjunction with the Academy meeting. Dr. Townsend was in attendance to share an update in VA Optometry. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Linda Casser who gave a very interesting and engaging talk that ended with an entertaining karaoke session. During the reception, 10 resident scholarships were also awarded. The sponsors for these scholarships were as follows:
 - i. 4 Scholarships from IET (Internal Engineering Technology)
 - ii. 4 Scholarships from ABCMO (American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry)
 - iii. 2 scholarships from NAVAQ
20. Dr. Chiara comment. The Joint Commission was at their facility this past week. It was a surprise visit and placed the Eye Clinic on the agenda, specifically. He wanted everyone to be aware that these visits are occurring and they were very interested in the Eye Clinic. One of their main concerns were what efforts were being made to address access.