

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MINUTES  
June 17, 2016  
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2016/Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions\\_.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2016/Open_Optometry_Positions_.pdf)
    - ii. [http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optomtrist\\_Positions.asp](http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optomtrist_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 Notice 2016-10, [The Under Secretary for Health's Linda H. Danko Awards for Excellence in Infection Prevention and Control](#)
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Notice establishes the following Under Secretary for Health's Linda H. Danko Awards in the following areas: Excellence in Infection Prevention and Control, Excellence in Infection Prevention and Control Frontline Practice, and the Lifetime Achievement Award in Infection Prevention and Control.
  - h. Flexibilities in Hiring VA Trainees – Email and attachments
    - i. Dr. Townsend comment. There is flexible hiring authority for your trainees. Please see the attachments below.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2016/Myth\\_Busters-Special\\_Hiring\\_Authority.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2016/Myth_Busters-Special_Hiring_Authority.pdf)
    - iii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2016/HR\\_Question\\_and\\_Answers\\_FY\\_16.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2016/HR_Question_and_Answers_FY_16.pdf)
    - iv. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2016/Hiring\\_VA\\_Trainees\\_Final\\_FY\\_16.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2016/Hiring_VA_Trainees_Final_FY_16.pdf)
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Brough - unavailable for comment.
3. Optometric Education Programs – Dr. Slagle
  - a. Dr. Slagle comment. The OAA locality pay adjustment for residencies will go in effect July 1, 2016. Please update your listing on the ORMATCH website and let your affiliates know of the change.
  - b. The Department of Labor announced a change in the overtime and exemption rule. This does not affect government employees or trainees at this point. Currently, this exemption includes those that practice law or medicine, but he is not sure if optometry will be covered under that stipulation. This is something to be aware of and keep a watch out for.

- c. Just a reminder that you can offer a staff position to your residents before they finish their residency as long as they go through proper accreditation and certification. You can also offer incentives such as the education debt reduction, which gives a unique opportunity to recruit.
  - d. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2016/2015-2016\\_residency-trained\\_optometrists\\_fellows\\_consent\\_form.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2016/2015-2016_residency-trained_optometrists_fellows_consent_form.pdf)
- 4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick
  - a. Dr. Hetrick comment. As the new Low Vision Continuum of Care modules appear in TMS they are qualified for COPE approved continuing education. They had decided to keep the previous course work available in TMS as it was being revised, but be aware that those courses are not COPE approved and you will not be able to receive COPE approved continuing education.
  - b. The VA is going to become a COPE accredited provider and courses can be approved through the provider and not have to individually be approved through COPE.
- 5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger
  - a. Dr Townsend comment. There is a major patch to the VISTA imaging software coming out - patch 162- which is to be installed by November 30, 2016. This patch contains numerous updates and will help with problems uploading through DICOM. There will be increased functionality and the process of proper install will be announced in the future.
- 6. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Trout/White - unavailable for comment.
  - 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
  - a. Dr. Mandese comment. The next call is July 18, 2016. During the last call they announced research that was presented at the symposium on TBI that is now available through the ARVO website.
- 10. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O’Connell/Brahm
  - a. Dr. Chan-O’Connell comment. Module 5 is now live on TMS. The Visual Impairment Codes had categoric rating changes and they noted that some individuals are coding improperly. Even those not involved in low vision clinic can use these codes, so only use the low vision codes if the visual acuity is 20/70 or worse in the better eye.
- 11. Optometry Quality Improvement - Drs. Brough/Horn - unavailable for comment.
- 12. Direct Scheduling/Access/VA Systems Redesign - Drs. Cantrell/Varanelli
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They are about to enter phase 2 for rollout in direct scheduling. Please be aware when your facility is contacted.
- 13. VA Optometric Research & Development – Drs. Fuhr/Mancil/Sullivan-Mee - unavailable for comment.  
**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 - nothing new to report.

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. Dr. Hettler will represent the residency trained VA Optometrists at the Optometry Meeting in Boston this year.
17. AFOS Report - Dr. Engelke
  - a. Dr. Engelke comment. AFOS will be representing VA Optometry in the AOA House of Delegates. The host hotel will be the Ritz Carlton in Boston.
  - b. Registration is open in conjunction with the Academy meeting and they have a bundled registration again this year.
18. NAVAO Report - Drs. Wong/Gustafson
  - a. Dr. Gustafson comment. NAVAO will be having their annual meeting in conjunction with the Academy meeting which is held November 9-12. The exact meeting date and time have not been assigned, but will be announced as soon as they get that information finalized.