

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL**

**MINUTES**

**September 19, 2014**

**3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. Ms. Gernhart comment. Please see the links below for open Optometry positions through the VA. A new Lake City, FL open optometrist position will soon be posted on USA Jobs as well.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/09\\_2014/Copy\\_of\\_Open\\_Optom\\_etry\\_Positions.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2014/Copy_of_Open_Optom_etry_Positions.pdf)
    - iii. [http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optom\\_etry\\_Positions.asp](http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optom_etry_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. VHA Directive 1070, Adverse Drug Event Reporting and Monitoring
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes national policy for the reporting, monitoring, and surveillance of adverse drug events (ADEs) entered into VHA's spontaneous ADE reporting system for observed and new ADEs at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/09\\_2014/VHA\\_Directive\\_1070\\_Adverse\\_Drug\\_Event\\_Reporting\\_and\\_Monitoring.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2014/VHA_Directive_1070_Adverse_Drug_Event_Reporting_and_Monitoring.pdf)
  - h. Office of Facilities Management CBOC Prototype announcement
    - i. Dr. Townsend comment. There are new requirements for new CBOCs, please reference this announcement for updates and recommendations.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/09\\_2014/OFM\\_Monthly\\_Standards\\_Update\\_for\\_CBOCs\\_09-2014.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2014/OFM_Monthly_Standards_Update_for_CBOCs_09-2014.pdf)
  - i. Implementing OSC Certification Program Requirements
    - i. Dr. Townsend comment. He wanted to make everyone aware of the whistleblowing protection and prohibited personnel practices.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/09\\_2014/Implementing\\_US\\_Office\\_of\\_Special\\_Counsel\\_Section\\_2302\(c\)\\_Certification\\_Program\\_Requirements.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2014/Implementing_US_Office_of_Special_Counsel_Section_2302(c)_Certification_Program_Requirements.pdf)
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They had their first virtual meeting between Optometry and Ophthalmology Field Advisory Committees as well as the specific Optometry Field Advisory Committee meeting.
3. Optometric Education Programs – Drs. Slagle/Messer – **VACO OAA Announcement to request VA Optometry Residents (Attachments)**

- a. Dr. Slagle comment. The OAA released the call for FY16 Associated Health Allocation Requests and Standards of Excellence Reports. Please note that the deadline for submitting SoEs and allocation requests to OAA is **Wednesday, October 15, 2014**. Anyone interested in starting an optometric residency program should ensure that they have established an affiliation agreement with a school or college of optometry.
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/09\\_2014/FY16\\_Associated\\_Health\\_Allocations\\_and\\_SOE\\_Memo.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2014/FY16_Associated_Health_Allocations_and_SOE_Memo.pdf)
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/09\\_2014/FY16\\_Associated\\_Health\\_Allocations\\_and\\_SOE\\_Announcement-Instructions.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2014/FY16_Associated_Health_Allocations_and_SOE_Announcement-Instructions.pdf)
  - b. They had a report at the Field Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting last week: Many new protocols and policies that were published this year were reviewed. One concern expressed during the meeting was the relatively low stipend that VA optometry residents receive as well as the lack of increase in stipend over the past several years. Dr. Debbie Hettler from the office of academic affiliations attended the call, gave a presentation, and answered questions. Her presentation highlighted the publication of FAQs on the OAA website. She also underscored the VA priorities this year related to rural health, mental health, primary care, and interprofessional education.
4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick – unavailable for comment.
  5. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin
    - a. Dr. Townsend comment. It is important to properly code for the work that you do which will be translated to RVUs. Make sure you talk to your VA leadership about low vision services that you will not generate as many RVUs as in primary care Optometry. Another way to increase capacity is by hiring eye technicians, so continue to talk to facility leadership about those possibilities.
  6. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger
  7. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/O'Connor/White
    - a. Dr. Mancil comment. Please refer to the One Source Document Site for reprocessing and disinfecting reusable medical equipment.
    - b. Dr. Townsend comment. Just as a reminder, those lenses that do not touch the eye do not need to be disinfected or sterilized if they are not involved in the operating room.
    - c. [http://www.navao.org/documents/09\\_2014/Copy\\_of\\_Copy\\_of\\_VA\\_Recently\\_Revised\\_List\\_08152014\\_through\\_08212014.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2014/Copy_of_Copy_of_VA_Recently_Revised_List_08152014_through_08212014.pdf)
    - d. [http://www.navao.org/documents/09\\_2014/VOLK\\_cleaningandcare\\_02-2014.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2014/VOLK_cleaningandcare_02-2014.pdf)
    - e. **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 new executive director at the Vision Center of Excellence, Dr. Walter, and a former Navy service lead in Optometry. They also now have a group of VA employees including administrative staff for support.
    - b. There were recent updates on advanced technology for the wounded, injured and ill veterans which was held at the uniformed services university on the Walter Reed Campus during an annual meeting put on by

the University of Pittsburgh. Most of the meeting focused on prosthetics and visual aids. They had a place on the program which was coordinated by VIST that may lead to more involvement in these meetings in the future for Optometry.

- c. They are working with Central Office in trying to prioritize the polytrauma rehab center patients to get clinic improvement data. They are hoping that this information will serve as a springboard to initiate multicenter trials and support for publications.
10. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Dr. Eldred/Dr. Rakoczy – unavailable for comment.
  11. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O’Connell/Mancil
    - a. Dr. Mancil comment. No new updates to report at this time.
  12. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough – unavailable for comment.
  13. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Cantrell/Varanelli
    - a. Dr. Cantrell comment. There will be information coming out about a new workgroup involved with redesign and wait times. Dr. Townsend will send out the notice shortly.
  14. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil
    - a. Dr. Mancil comment. Periodically, a spreadsheet is sent out for VA Optometrists to provide updates on research activities in which they are engaged. Please keep a watch out for that form and fill it out as quickly as possible so it can be updated.
- 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 – unavailable for comment.
  16. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt – unavailable for comment.
  17. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
    - a. Dr. Wang comment. There are about 1900 former residents within the database and they are working on adding the new residents to that database.
  18. AFOS Report - Dr. Wasik
    - a. Dr. Wasik comment. Registration for the upcoming AFOS meeting in conjunction with AAO is still available and there will be approximately 14 hours of CE available during that time including grand rounds and new technology updates.
      - i. Dr. Walter will be at the meeting to give an update regarding short and long term coordination of care.
      - ii. Dr. Townsend will be attending to help lead the breakout session.
      - iii. A poster session will also be included during the meeting.
    - b. Dr. Meers wanted to announce that donations to the local Veterans Homeless Shelter in Denver will be accepted during the meeting, please consider donating.
  19. NAVAQ Report - Drs. Wong/Thomann
    - a. Dr. Wong comment. The NAVAQ Business Meeting and Reception will be held in conjunction with the AAO meeting in Denver, CO:
      - i. The Business meeting, for members only, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver on Thursday evening, November 13, 2014 at 7:15pm – 8:00 pm and the annual meeting and reception will be held afterwards. Registration will be posted on the NAVAQ website shortly.
        1. Early bird registration deadline is October 13, 2014

2. Late Registration Deadline is October 31, 2014 and there will be a late fee of \$15.
- b. Residents may become a member of NAVAO at the reduced rate of \$25. Resident members may attend the NAVAO reception and dinner at no cost. Residents may register on NAVAO website.
- c. NAVAO is happy to report that they, again, be able to offer eight \$250 Resident Scholarships. The scholarships are sponsored jointly by the American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) and IET (International Engineering Technology) Foundation. Active resident members may submit an application for the scholarship toward attendance at the 2014 AAO meeting. Information regarding the application is available on NAVAO website. The deadline for submission is October 15<sup>th</sup> and scholarship recipients will be announced by October 31<sup>st</sup>.