

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL**

**MINUTES**

**April 20, 2012**

**3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:

- a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions – please check the links below.
  - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/OPEN\\_OPTOMETRY\\_POSITIONS.doc](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/OPEN_OPTOMETRY_POSITIONS.doc)
  - ii. [http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optomtrist\\_Positio ns.asp](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://vaww.va.gov/default.asp>
- c. Under Secretary for Health (USH) VHA Mission & Vision Statements  
<http://vaww.us.h.va.gov/Excellence>
- d. Continuous Readiness in Information Security Program (CRISP)  
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/CRISP/>
  - i. Dr. Townsend comment. This has been implemented to ensure we have secure data. Please be aware of this within your facility.
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/Managed\\_Self\\_Enr ollment\\_Trainee.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/Managed_Self_Enr ollment_Trainee.pdf)
- e. VHA Directive 1605, VHA Privacy Program
  - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes a VHA-wide program for the protection of the privacy of Veterans, their dependents, and beneficiaries in accordance with Federal privacy statutes and regulations, and establishes privacy policies to comply with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Directive 6502.
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/VHA\\_Directive\\_16 05\\_VHA\\_Privacy\\_Program.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/VHA_Directive_16 05_VHA_Privacy_Program.pdf)
- f. VHA Directive 2012-011, Primary Care Standards
  - i. This Veteran Health Administration (VHA) Directive extends the basic standards expected of primary care services provided in VHA until the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) Handbook is published.
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/VHA\\_Directive\\_20 12-011\\_Primary\\_Care\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/VHA_Directive_20 12-011_Primary_Care_Standards.pdf)
- g. VHA Directive 2012-012, Occupational Health Record-Keeping System
  - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy for the implementation of the Occupational Health Record System (OHRS), a newly released electronic health record for employee occupational health records maintained in the Employee Medical File System Records and Employee Medical File System Records (Title 38).
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/VHA\\_Directive\\_20 12-012\\_Occupational\\_Health\\_Record-Keeping\\_System.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/VHA_Directive_20 12-012_Occupational_Health_Record-Keeping_System.pdf)

- h. VHA Directive 2012-013, Medical Care Collections Fund (36X5287)
  - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy and procedures for the Medical Care Collections Fund (MCCF).
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/VHA\\_Directive\\_2012-013\\_Medical\\_Care\\_Collections\\_Fund\\_\(36X5287\).pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/VHA_Directive_2012-013_Medical_Care_Collections_Fund_(36X5287).pdf)
- i. My HealthVet and Secure Messaging in Specialty Care
  - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/DSS\\_ID\\_MyHealtheVet\\_Secure\\_Messaging-FY2012.ppt](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/DSS_ID_MyHealtheVet_Secure_Messaging-FY2012.ppt)
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/SM\\_in\\_Surgery-ImplementationResource.docx](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/SM_in_Surgery-ImplementationResource.docx)
    - 1. Secure Messaging (SM) is a valuable tool to enhance communication between Veterans and their Health Care Teams. As the field prepares to implement in the Medical and Surgical Specialties, additional resources and best practices have been gathered. This document was developed to address the challenges of expanding use of SM in new clinical areas.
  - iii. <http://vaww.va.gov/MYHEALTHEVET/>
- j. IL 10-2012-008, 2012 Marsha Goodwin-Beck Interdisciplinary Awards for Excellence in Geriatrics
  - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Information Letter announces that nominations are being solicited for the Marsha Goodwin-Beck Awards for Excellence in Geriatrics.
  - ii. Dr. Townsend comment. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please do so.
  - iii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/IL\\_10-2012-008\\_2012\\_Marsha\\_Goodwin-Beck\\_Award.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/IL_10-2012-008_2012_Marsha_Goodwin-Beck_Award.pdf)
- k. David M. Worthen Award for Career Achievement in Educational Excellence
  - i. This letter announces the 2012 David M. Worthen Award for Career Achievement in Educational Excellence. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is recognized nationally as a leader in the education of health care professionals. This contribution was greatly enhanced through the dedication of the former head of Academic Affairs, the late David M. Worthen, M.D., whom the award commemorates.
  - ii. Dr. Townsend comment. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please do so.
  - iii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/04\\_20\\_2012/WorthenWebAnnouncement201220120322.docx](http://www.navao.org/documents/04_20_2012/WorthenWebAnnouncement201220120322.docx)
- l. Dr. Townsend comment. They are creating a C&P workgroup that will assist other VA optometrists who need to fill out veteran disability evaluations and benefit forms. If you are interested in chairing some monthly conference calls, please contact Ms. Gernhart or Dr. Townsend.

- m. There have been many inquiries since the veterans health benefits handbook has come out and there has been more awareness of eyeglass and eye clinic benefits.
- 2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There is a planned meeting for the optometry and ophthalmology field advisory committees for September.
- 3. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Messer/Slagle – unavailable for comment.
- 4. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. We are not meeting the criteria at this time; however, we have made improvements on missed opportunities and care of new and established patients as the demand continuously goes up. Productivity has increased 5% from last year.
    - i. Dr. Chiara comment. The live chat meeting has not been rescheduled, yet but will be in a couple of weeks.
- 5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger
  - a. Dr. Ballinger comment. Things are still moving forward in terms of the development. There was another patient safety alert sent out from central office on April 10, 2012. If you run into any problems with incorrect patient information with CPRS, please report it. There has also been a problem with VISTA imaging – there is an update which may result in images transferred from various imaging systems that show up as a green image. The national office is aware of the problem and has ways to work around it.
  - b. Dr. Townsend will forward the patient safety alert as mentioned above to all VA optometrists.
- 6. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/White/O'Connor
  - a. Dr. Mancil comment. They have an ad hoc committee from the optometry and ophthalmology field advisory committees speaking regularly. They have identified a resource person who will help with some of the issues. Some areas they are looking into include creating best practices or examples of SOPs for some of the RME activities to create a sharepoint or website others can access when needed.
- 7. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They are having quite a bit of expansion at the CBOCs across the country and this will continue since it is becoming a top priority to utilize and leverage the use of telehealth services.
- 8. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker
  - a. Dr. Barker comment. They are working on clinical practice guidance towards many areas one of which includes primary medical referrals to eye related TBI issues and the issue of how to deal more effectively with the specialty management of ocular motor issues and visual field loss.

That document will get produced within the next month or two. They are hoping to pick up where they left off on the eye exam recommendations for primary eye care.

- b. The San Diego Naval Medical Center is sponsoring a symposium involving education on TBI and vision issues which is occurring next week. There is still time to sign up if you would like to participate. Funding for travel is through your local facility.
  - i. Dr. Townsend comment. He has forwarded information about the meeting in San Diego. Funding is locally funded.
9. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Dr. Eldred – unavailable for comment.
10. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O’Connell/Mancil
  - a. Dr. Mancil comment. There are no new issues that have not been discussed. If anyone else has an interest in participation of calls or input, please contact Dr. Chan-O’Connell.
11. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Norden – unavailable for comment.
12. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Boyer/Horn – unavailable for comment.
13. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – nothing new to report.  
<http://vaww1.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/research.asp>
14. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Hamilton/G. Singh – unavailable for comment.
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Please review the website to make sure all information is up to date, especially for those that have moved.
15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
  - a. Dr. Pewitt comment. Everything is current, but please contact the committee if there are any transfers that occur.
16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang – unavailable for comment.
17. AFOS Report - Drs. Hunter/Wasik – unavailable for comment.
18. NAVAQ Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
  - a. NAVAQ would like to thank to those members who have joined or renewed for 2012. For those VA optometrists who have not yet joined or renewed their NAVAQ membership, please considering doing so right away to strengthen our voice for VA Optometry. We’d also ask that you please encourage other optometrists at your facility to join NAVAQ as well. Current or former members can simply login to the members area of the NAVAQ website and follow the instructions to renew at the top of the page. New members can join by signing up under the “Join Us” section of the website.
  - b. NAVAQ strongly encourages all eligible candidates to register for the next Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) exam on Friday, June 1, 2012. Please visit the NBEO website at [www.optometry.org](http://www.optometry.org) for details and read our ACMO FAQ sheet in the members area of the

NAVAO website. The exam fee is \$780; however, please note that there is a special reduced fee of **\$480** for current residents who sit for the test during the year in which they complete their residency (Residency Coordinators: Please encourage your current residents to consider taking the ACMO exam). We recommend that you register early to have a better chance of reserving a spot at your desired testing site. The deadline to register for the ACMO exam is May 7, 2012.