

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL**

**AGENDA**

**May 20, 2011**

**3 p.m. Eastern Time**

**1 (800) 767-1750, Access Code: 16019**

1. Announcements:

- a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
  - i. Kathleen Gernhart comment. There are 5 staff positions open at this time, please see the links below for more information.
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/05\\_20\\_2011/Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions\\_List\\_2011.doc](http://www.navao.org/documents/05_20_2011/Open_Optometry_Positions_List_2011.doc)  
[http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optomestrist\\_Positions.asp](http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optomestrist_Positions.asp) or <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/index.cfm>
- b. Under Secretary for Health (USH) VHA Mission & Vision Statements  
<http://vaww.ush.va.gov/Excellence>
- c. VHA Directive 2011-020, Automated Safety Incident Surveillance and Tracking System (ASISTS)
  - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy and guidelines for the implementation of the Automated Safety Incident Surveillance and Tracking System (ASISTS), VHA's safety incident management system for employees.
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/05\\_20\\_2011/VHA\\_Directive\\_2011-020\\_Automated\\_Safety\\_Incident\\_Surveillance\\_and\\_Tracking\\_System\\_\(ASISTS\).pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/05_20_2011/VHA_Directive_2011-020_Automated_Safety_Incident_Surveillance_and_Tracking_System_(ASISTS).pdf)
- d. VHA Directive 2011-021, Refund Policy
  - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy for refunding payments received in error from both Veterans and third-party payers (TPPs) under the Medical Care Collections Fund (MCCF) or TRICARE-Department of Defense (DOD) Medical Sharing programs.
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/05\\_20\\_2011/VHA\\_Directive\\_2011-020\\_Automated\\_Safety\\_Incident\\_Surveillance\\_and\\_Tracking\\_System\\_\(ASISTS\).pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/05_20_2011/VHA_Directive_2011-020_Automated_Safety_Incident_Surveillance_and_Tracking_System_(ASISTS).pdf)
- e. VHA Directive 2011-022, Copayment for Outpatient Medical Care Provided to Veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs
  - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy for charging the outpatient copayment. There is no copay for visually impaired patients in low vision as opposed to the \$50 copay for specialty clinics. Please review this directive.
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/05\\_20\\_2011/VHA\\_Directive\\_2011-022\\_Copayment\\_for\\_Outpatient\\_Medical\\_Care\\_Provided\\_to\\_Veterans\\_by\\_the\\_Department\\_of\\_Veterans\\_Affairs.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/05_20_2011/VHA_Directive_2011-022_Copayment_for_Outpatient_Medical_Care_Provided_to_Veterans_by_the_Department_of_Veterans_Affairs.pdf)

[022, Copayment for Outpatient Medical Care Provided to Veterans by DVA.pdf](#)

- f. USH Memo on 2011 VA Employee Competition/Grassroots Innovations
    - i. Dr. Townsend comment. If you have any ideas, please forward them to the appropriate contacts within the memorandum.
  - g. General Council: Candidate Photographs in the Workplace, and Assistant Secretary for I&T: Prohibition of Written Logbooks Memoranda
    - i. Dr. Townsend comment. Please familiarize yourself with both of these.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/05\\_20\\_2011/Guidance\\_Regarding\\_Display\\_of\\_Photos\\_of\\_Partisan\\_Political\\_Candidates\\_In\\_the\\_Workplace.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/05_20_2011/Guidance_Regarding_Display_of_Photos_of_Partisan_Political_Candidates_In_the_Workplace.pdf)
    - iii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/05\\_20\\_2011/Memo\\_to\\_VA\\_Under\\_Secretaries\\_re\\_Prohibition\\_of\\_Written\\_Logbooks.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/05_20_2011/Memo_to_VA_Under_Secretaries_re_Prohibition_of_Written_Logbooks.pdf)
    - iv. [http://www.navao.org/documents/05\\_20\\_2011/IDRP\\_flier\\_AnnouncementvFINAL\\_3\\_24\\_11.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/05_20_2011/IDRP_flier_AnnouncementvFINAL_3_24_11.pdf)
  - h. The VA LMS program is changing over, effective May 23, to the VA Talent Management System. There are a couple of documents that are here for your information that will make that transition smoother.
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/05\\_20\\_2011/insideTMS\\_TMSTipSheet\\_FC\\_20110502.docx](http://www.navao.org/documents/05_20_2011/insideTMS_TMSTipSheet_FC_20110502.docx)
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/05\\_20\\_2011/THE\\_TMS\\_Quick\\_Reference\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/05_20_2011/THE_TMS_Quick_Reference_Guide.pdf)
2. Optometry Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin
- a. Dr. Townsend comment. The next tentative optometry field advisory committee and joint meeting with ophthalmology is scheduled for the week of September 12
3. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Messer/Slagle
- a. Dr.Slagle comment. Here is a review of the affiliation agreements.
    - i. VHA form 10-0094g is intended to be an agreement of affiliation between the VA and educational institutions for the academic purposes of enhanced patient care, education, and research. This document is routinely executed upon development of new educational affiliations and delineates responsibilities of both the VA and the affiliated academic institution. **Prior to 2004, institutions sending trainees to VA facilities for fewer than 40 hours per year, or for observation only, were exempt from requiring an affiliation agreement; these exemptions no longer exist**
    - ii. There is an additional affiliation agreement, VA form 10-0094H, which is necessary for many programs, but is often overlooked. This affiliation agreement should be in place before trainees in VA-sponsored programs receive training at non-VA facilities. This document outlines responsibilities with regard to professional liability. Within this document, one of the following two options should be agreed upon and specified:

1. Trainees of the VA sponsored educational program, and the VA-employed faculty members who accompany them on their VA duty time, when at the non-VA health care facility or agency will have personal liability protection provided by the provisions of the Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act, 28 U.S.C. 2679 (b)-(d) if all the following apply:
    - a. The trainees and faculty members are providing professional services covered by this agreement
    - b. The non-VA facility is not providing them with compensation for these professional services; and
    - c. The non-VA facility has declined to provide them with coverage under its insurance.
  2. Faculty members and trainees of the VA sponsored educational program, when at the non-VA health care facility or agency, and furnishing professional services covered by this agreement, will have personal liability protection provided by the non-VA health care facility or agency.
- b. Residency Certificates may be ordered from the Office of Academic Affiliations if you are interested in providing a VA certificate to your residents upon completion of the program. These are VA form 10-2553 and can be found on OAA intranet site <http://vaww4.va.gov/oaa/certificates/default.asp>.
  - c. Dr. Townsend comment. This is posted on the administrative page of the intranet website. Both templates, as mentioned above, are available to you. There is a new link for residency certificates as well as for the externship training programs for you to use.
4. VA IDRPs Eye Clinic Electronic Health Record Request - Dr. Ballinger
    - a. Dr. Ballinger comment. The request has gone through central office and then there is a series of meetings with the participants in Silver Springs to look at the request and look at the validity of the test. They will then come up with a game plan. The first meeting was “fact finding” and coming up with an outline of procedures that takes place after this. There will be meetings to see if it is feasible to add these specific aspects to the CPRS medical records. The initial request was in regards to documenting the intraocular pressures in a graphical form as well as visual acuity and additional information.
    - b. As an aside, Dr. Ballinger received some information from imaging in regards to further development of consults and procedure requests. He is planning to have a meeting to see if there can be an improvement on efficiency.
    - c. Dr. Townsend comment. Roger Baker, VA IT personnel, had testified about electronic health records and how we want them compatible for seamless transfer of data from the DoD to VA. In his testimony, he had mentioned that if VA were to use proprietary commercial electronic health

record software it would cost the VA about 16 billion dollars. He is looking for open source and a need for less than 10 million dollars per year.

5. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/White – unavailable for comment.
6. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
7. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There will be a meeting for participates in conjunction with the Blind Veterans Association meeting in Las Vegas this August. There will, hopefully, be a series of experts there to develop clinical care guidelines for rehabilitation of veterans with brain injuries, looking at research gaps, and new technologies that may be available. May of our highly qualified VA Optometrists will be participating.
8. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Gagnon/J. Kirby – unavailable for comment.
9. Low Vision Rehabilitation EES Program - Drs. Fuhr/Gagnon/Mancil – unavailable for comment.
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Hopefully you and your residents have had the opportunity to take the online course work. It should be helpful in the future to help train optometrists in low vision rehabilitation services.
10. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Norden – unavailable for comment.
11. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Dr. Ficarra
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Concerning systems redesign and wait times, please keep working to ensure your patients are being seen within 14 days or less and monitor your missed opportunities.
12. VA Research Announcements & Solitations - Dr. Mancil - unavailable for comment.

<http://vaww.research.va.gov/news/announcements/default.cfm>  
[http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/solicitations/default.cfm#All\\_ORD](http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/solicitations/default.cfm#All_ORD)
13. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Ficarra/Hamilton
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. The website is functioning well. There are 2 new webmasters to assist.
14. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Drs Egusa, Lim, and Pewitt participated in training due to the transitioning of the websites to start updating the service directories on the new website.
15. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang – unavailable for comment.

16. AFOS Report - Drs. Hunter/Wasik

- a. Dr. Wasik comment. The reintroduction of AFOS into the AOA meeting is occurring in June in Salt Lake City. June 15 is the president's reception and the details of this are on the AFOS website. If you are a member, you are welcome to come. Even though there is no cost to you, please register for the event so they can get an accurate head count.
- b. If you are planning on being at the AOA meeting and would like to volunteer to help out Dr. Gregory Wolfe at the VA Career Booth on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm. If you can donate even an hour or a half hour of your time, please contact him at [Gregory.wolfe@va.gov](mailto:Gregory.wolfe@va.gov). An email has gone out about requesting volunteers.
- c. There is an annual business meeting will be prior to academy in Boston this year. If you have not been involved in the business side of AFOS because you have not been able to travel to SECO, this is a great opportunity to come and see if there is something you would be interested in volunteering for as well as serving on a committee. The last events that Dr. Simpson had prepared before he passed away will occur on the Sunday before the meeting. It's a harbor cruise aboard a private yacht which will include a dinner buffet and for members it's \$75 and a tour of the USS Constitution. More details can be found on the website. The interim executive director, Mike Pattison, has access to all the records and website and is working on keeping things updated.
- d. Dr. Wasik announced that when you call to make reservations for the hotel there have been some problems with obtaining the government rate. Please wait about a week until the "glitches" are worked out to reserve your room. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Dr. Wasik or Dr. Pattison.
- e. AFOS is no longer accepting checks – all monies will go through paypal. Please go to the website to update your member profile. AFOS is trying to go paperless and will need updated email addresses from its members.
- f. On the website is an announcement for the search for a permanent executive director being run by Derrick Roden. We need 2 volunteers that are AFOS members in good standing to be on the committee. Each service will send 2 representatives to interview candidates to recommend who will serve on the executive council to be the executive director.

17. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer

- a. Dr. Storer comment. Expired members and those interested in joining NAVAIO can still do so on our website at the \$55 rate. Please encourage other optometrists at your facility to join NAVAIO or renew their membership if they have not done so already.
- b. We are continually trying to improve our website and always appreciate feedback. Please contact our Director of Technology, Dr. Brett Zwolensky, by email at [brett.zwolensky@navao.org](mailto:brett.zwolensky@navao.org) with any comments or suggestions about the NAVAIO website.

- c. NAVAO strongly encourages all eligible candidates to register for the next Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) examination on Friday, June 3, 2011. Please visit the NBEO website at [www.optometry.org](http://www.optometry.org) for details. NBEO is pleased to announce that the registration deadline has been extended to May 31, 2011. Please note that even though the deadline for registration has been extended, **the availability of seats at MOST test centers will be limited or non-existent** and may require Candidates to travel **long distances** to the next available test center. Unfortunately, the National Board cannot guarantee a seat at any particular test center at this late date. Please login to the NAVAO website to read our ACMO FAQ sheet as well.

18. Open forum:

- a. Kathleen Gernhart comment. Please send any updates to the student externship directory and anybody from the field advisory committee that is going to be attending the “face to face”, please send her an email so she can send out the travel estimates to the travel office.
- b. Dr. Townsend comment. They are continually updating the website section by section. Please let his office know if there are any problems with any part or any links within the website so that may be addressed.