

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL**

**AGENDA**

**June 15, 2012**

**3 p.m. Eastern Time**

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

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. Please see the links below for the seven open positions available at this time.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_15\\_2012/open\\_optometry\\_positions.docx](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_15_2012/open_optometry_positions.docx)
    - iii. [http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optomestrist\\_Positions.asp](http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optomestrist_Positions.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.ush.va.gov/Excellence>
  - d. Continuous Readiness in Information Security Program (CRISP)  
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/CRISP/>
  - e. IL 10-2012-010, Blood-Borne Pathogens (BBP) Hazards and Management
    - i. This Information Letter addresses these weaknesses related to the management of BBP hazards and reminds facilities of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_15\\_2012/open\\_optometry\\_positions.docx](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_15_2012/open_optometry_positions.docx)
  - f. VHA Directive 1021, Education Debt Reduction Program
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive is issued to implement the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP) policy as authorized in title 38, United States Code, §§ 7681 to 7683.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_15\\_2012/VHA\\_Directive\\_1021\\_Education\\_Debt\\_Reduction\\_Program\\_05-31-2012.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_15_2012/VHA_Directive_1021_Education_Debt_Reduction_Program_05-31-2012.pdf)
  - g. VHA Handbook 1021.01, Education Debt Reduction Program Procedures
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides specific direction and procedures related to the operation of the educational assistance program at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care facilities; specifically the Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP). EDRP assists VHA in meeting its needs for qualified health care staff in certain occupations for which recruitment or retention is difficult.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_15\\_2012/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1021.01\\_Education\\_Debt\\_Reduction\\_Program\\_Procedures\\_05-31-2012.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_15_2012/VHA_Handbook_1021.01_Education_Debt_Reduction_Program_Procedures_05-31-2012.pdf)
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin

- a. Dr. Townsend comment. They will have a meeting in September involving the optometry and ophthalmology field advisory committees.
3. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Messer/Slagle
  - a. Dr. Slagle comment. The link below is for those interested in being considered for funding for rural health and other education programs such as residency programs. The applications are due June 29<sup>th</sup> which is done online.
    - Rural Health Training and Education Initiative (RHTI):**
      - i. [http://www.va.gov/OAA/RFP\\_RuralHealth2012.asp](http://www.va.gov/OAA/RFP_RuralHealth2012.asp)
    - b. Anyone looking to start new fellowship programs please consider those in clinical fellowships. Currently there are those in the VA on polytrauma and traumatic brain injuries, but there are other facets that can be explored such as geriatrics, health services, etc which can be found on the optometry intranet site under the education and training section.
    - c. The OR match is being developed by ASCO and this is the new matching process for residents to replace the ORMS process. How to register for that program should appear in July or August.
4. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They have second quarter information about physicians but it will take time to refine all the data because each person has to be mapped appropriately for different administrative and clinical activities.
5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger – unavailable for comment.
6. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/White/O'Connor
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. The link below will take you to a site that the VA can use to find the manufacturers guidelines for cleaning/disinfection for reusable medical equipment.  
**One Source Document Site:** <http://onesourcedocs.com/member/index.html>
7. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There are over 420 cameras that have been deployed particularly in CBOCs. They are working on screenings for macular degeneration and hopefully the pilot program will roll out soon.
8. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker
  - a. Dr. Barker comment. They are now engaged in setting up a follow up workshop in conjunction with the blind veteran's association meeting in Galveston, TX on August 22-23<sup>rd</sup>. These workshops have included routine eye care, neuro-ophthalmology, strabismus surgery, and binocular vision. They have included optometrists from all branches of the DoD, VA, civilian sector, blind rehab and occupational therapists.
  - b. They had two papers accepted in the Federal Practitioner from the conference last year. The article on blind athletes is featured on the cover of the journal. They have recently participated in the funding of 13

million dollars of research from the department of defense which also includes rehabilitation.

9. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Dr. Eldred – unavailable for comment.
10. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O’Connell/Mancil – unavailable for comment.
11. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Norden – unavailable for comment.
12. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Boyer/Horn – unavailable for comment.
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There is still a need for improvement on the 14 day wait time which is the most highly sought out consult in the VA and he notes that optometrists continue to see more patients every year.
13. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.

<http://vaww1.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/research.asp>
14. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Hamilton/G. Singh
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There have been quite a few updates to the website due to updated policies. The committee has been working hard to get the websites up to date. There are revised residency directories and externship directories due to recent expansion from the three new schools of optometry.
15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt – unavailable for comment.
16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang
  - a. Dr. Wang comment. There are about 1650 residents in the database and about 885 residents are getting the emails for new positions in the VA.
  - b. If anyone is going to the AOA there is an opportunity to talk to the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> year students and residents at the residency/student forum. Dr. Wang and Dr. Townsend will be unavailable to attend, but if anyone is interested in representing VA optometry on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 -1:30, please email Dr. Wang and Ms. Gernhart.
17. AFOS Report - Drs. Hunter/Wasik
  - a. Dr. Wasik comment. AFOS has a strong representation at AOA this year. In the last newsletter they mentioned that they have a record number of votes in the house of delegates where bylaws and changes are made.
  - b. There is a new newsletter from the new executive director. Any comments/questions, please email her directly or via the official email on their website.
  - c. They were having some problems with their official email [execdirect@afos2020.org](mailto:execdirect@afos2020.org) – it is being worked on currently. Please re-email using that address if you have not had a reply because there have been problems with the transfer from the new executive director from the interim one.
  - d. The AFOS annual meeting before academy is on the horizon and registration is now open on the website. More information is pending on

CE. There is no pre-meeting event this year but will be brought back in 2013 in Seattle.

18. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer

- a. Dr. Storer comment. Thank you to all the NAVAIO members that participated in the online member survey regarding important aspects of their organization. They were encouraged by the results and they are going through the data to see how they can best utilize the feedback.
- b. Please mark your calendars for our 2012 annual NAVAIO meeting which will be held the evening of Thursday, October 25, in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. More details about our annual meeting and registration will be available as the date gets closer.
- c. The AOA is looking for anyone in the Nevada area that would be willing to provide vision screenings for veterans of foreign wars at the national convention in Reno. There is a link on the member's page of the website.

19. Dr. Townsend comment. They are starting the C&P workgroup and will be hearing from them soon.