

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MINUTES**

**June 21, 2013  
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. Please see the attachments for open available optometry positions.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2013/Copy\\_of\\_Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2013/Copy_of_Open_Optometry_Positions.pdf)
    - iii. [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://vaww.va.gov/default.asp>
  - c. Continuous Readiness in Information Security Program (CRISP)  
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/CRISP/>
  - d. Professional Development: VA MyCareer (<http://mycareeratva.va.gov/>)
  - e. VHA Directive 1018, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Conducted Education and Training Programs
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive issues policy prohibiting discrimination in federally-conducted education and training programs on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression, and status as a parent.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2013/VHA\\_Dirctive\\_1018\\_Nondiscrimination\\_in\\_Federally\\_Conducted\\_Education\\_and\\_Training\\_Programs\\_5-20-13.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2013/VHA_Dirctive_1018_Nondiscrimination_in_Federally_Conducted_Education_and_Training_Programs_5-20-13.pdf)
  - f. VHA Directive 1731, Decision Support System Outpatient Identifiers
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines the purpose and use of Decision Support System (DSS) Identifiers (ID), which are also commonly known as stop codes. **NOTE: DSS is applicable only for VHA.**
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2013/VHA\\_Directive\\_1731\\_Decision\\_Support\\_System\\_Outpatient\\_Identifiers\\_5-29-13.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2013/VHA_Directive_1731_Decision_Support_System_Outpatient_Identifiers_5-29-13.pdf)
  - g. VHA Directive 1022, Reserve Component Integrated Disability Evaluation System Examinations
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) process by which VHA completes disability medical examination requests for Reserve Component (RC) Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) examinations.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2013/VHA\\_Directive\\_1022\\_Reserve\\_Component\\_Integrated\\_Disability\\_Evaluation\\_System\\_Examinations\\_6-5-13.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2013/VHA_Directive_1022_Reserve_Component_Integrated_Disability_Evaluation_System_Examinations_6-5-13.pdf)
  - h. VHA Directive 2012-003, Person Class File Taxonomy (see e-mail)
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive redefines established policy for assigning Person Class codes to providers in the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (Vista) NEW PERSON File.
      1. Dr. Townsend comment. It is extremely important to code your resident trainees properly. They are starting to track the workload, nationally, and this will assist with VHA productivity

recommendations for optometry. All the residents should be added as secondary providers and the supervising practitioner must be recorded as the primary provider for every patient care episode.

2. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2013/VHA\\_Directive\\_2012-003\\_Person\\_Class\\_File\\_Taxnomy\\_for\\_6-21-13\\_opt\\_svc\\_conf\\_call.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2013/VHA_Directive_2012-003_Person_Class_File_Taxnomy_for_6-21-13_opt_svc_conf_call.pdf)
  3. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2013/VHA\\_Directive\\_2012-003\\_Person\\_Class\\_File\\_Taxnomy.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2013/VHA_Directive_2012-003_Person_Class_File_Taxnomy.pdf)
- i. VHA Handbook 1110.04, Case Management Standards of Practice
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook establishes procedures and identifies standards of practice for a collaborative Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) patient case management model.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2013/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1110.04\\_Case\\_Management\\_Standards\\_of\\_Practice\\_5-20-13.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2013/VHA_Handbook_1110.04_Case_Management_Standards_of_Practice_5-20-13.pdf)
  - j. Guidance on Site Visits and Other Professional Activities
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/06\\_2013/Guidance\\_on\\_Site\\_Visits\\_&\\_Other\\_Professional\\_Activities\\_05-14-13.docx](http://www.navao.org/documents/06_2013/Guidance_on_Site_Visits_&_Other_Professional_Activities_05-14-13.docx)
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin
    - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They received travel approval for those on the committee to travel to Washington, DC for the committee meeting as well as the joint meeting with Ophthalmology.
  3. Optometric Education Programs/Site Visits/Taxonomy - Drs. Messer/Slagle
    - a. Dr. Slagle comment. He wanted to remind everyone on the guidance that was recently issued on professional activities (see attachment above). It focused on accreditation site visits and the importance of VA staff to participate in those activities. There was also direction on how expenses would be reimbursed. There is a VISN Business Association Affiliation Agreement that has been in place between the VA and the ACOE. The major emphasis was on protected health information so it is recommended that if you participate in site visits that you consult your local facility leadership and regional council on guidance as to how that reimbursement should be managed.
    - b. The person class taxonomy code is essential for workload capture credit. It is also important for your local facility in being able to bill for certain services your residents provide. One in particular is for the medication copayment. If the resident is not coded correctly and a prescription is written, the facility may not be able to collect revenue.
  4. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin
    - a. Dr. Townsend. You should have been contacted by your optometry VISN consultants about properly coding your residents. There are separate codes for where you spend most of your time (i.e. within primary care or a specialty clinic like low vision). There will be different workload expectations depending on how you are coded. You should also be making sure your time is being properly mapped (administrative, education, clinical care, etc). It will be used to determine how much time is being used towards clinical care.
  5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger – unavailable for comment.
  6. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/O'Connor/White - unavailable for comment.  
**One Source Document Site:** <http://onesourcedocs.com/member/index.html>
  7. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin

- a. Dr. Townsend comment. Due to the launch of this program at CBOCs across the nation there has been a significant increase in patient encounters. There is a pilot program starting to look at macular degeneration and will hopefully help expand this program.
8. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. At the Galveston conference, there were some draft algorithms that were sent out and everyone that had been involved have sent back recommendations to make editorial changes looking at the assessment, management and rehabilitation of eye and vision problems associated with blasts and traumatic brain injuries.
9. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Dr. Eldred
10. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O'Connell/Mancil
  - a. Dr. Mancil comment. The low vision group held a conference call recently and there was a discussion centered on clinical pertinence reviews and the process for standardizing reviews among the various continuums of care clinics.
11. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough
  - a. Dr. Brough comment. There is nothing new to report at this time.
12. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Boyer/Horn – unavailable for comment.
13. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil
  - a. Nothing new to report.  
<http://vaww1.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/research.asp>
14. VHA Optometry Service Websites/Veterans Health Library - Drs. Hamilton/G. Singh
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There are a few updated pages including the nondiscrimination in federally conducted education and training programs on the education and training pages of the website as well as the patient identifiers policy update on the administrative page.
  - b. A workgroup has been working to create documents to include in the Veterans Health Library. They will be updating the patient education pages of both websites and links throughout this health library as resources for Veterans.
15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
  - a. Dr. Pewitt comment. There are no current updates at this time.
16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang
  - a. Dr. Wang comment. If there are any residents that would like to be included in the directory, please contact her. There are approximately 1600 resident included in the directory and about 950 in the group email.
17. AFOS Report - Drs. Meers/Wasik
  - a. Dr. Wasik comment. George Meers is the Vice Chair of the Membership Committee for AFOS. The new Chair is an Air Force Optometrist stationed in Germany. Due to the efforts of the membership committee and their executive directors, AFOS is now the 10<sup>th</sup> largest affiliate of the AOA. If you have not received an email blast, there will be a reception at the Marriott on Thursday night from 7-9 during the AOA conference and you can still RSVP to the executive directors to attend.
  - b. The annual meeting for AFOS is occurring before the AAO meeting in October. Registration is now open and discounted rooms are available. There is also a discount for those AFOS members in good standing to attend the AAO meeting if they are also attending the AFOS meeting. Please look at the website for more information.

- c. The call for awards deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>. The awards include: Student of the Year, Reservist of the Year and the Orion Award. If you have anyone in mind that qualifies, please submit their name and application online.
  - d. Dr. Wasik wanted to announce that there is an expansion of the Salus MPH Scholarship Award that is now open to AFOS members. This used to only be open to member's dependents in years past.
  - e. Dr. Wasik wanted to announce that Michael Middleman, an AFOS member, has officially retired from the Navy and has accepted the position of President of Salus University.
18. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
- a. Please mark your calendars for the annual NAVAIO Meeting which is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Thursday, October 24, 2013 in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry Meeting in Seattle. More details will be provided on our website as the date gets closer.
  - b. Please note that the American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) requires passage of the ACMO examination for those applying via Career Path #1 and, on August 1, 2013, both residency training with emphasis in medical optometry and passage of ACMO will become mandatory for all applications for ABCMO board certification in the specialty of medical optometry. For more information about ABCMO, please visit their website at [www.abcmo.org](http://www.abcmo.org).
  - c. This is an election year for the NAVAIO offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. I will be sending an email to all members on July 1 to announce the Call for Nominations. Nominations may come from any Member for him or herself or for another Member and will be kept confidential by the Teller of Ballots. Elections will be held in August. The President and Vice-President have a two term limit. The Secretary and Treasurer may serve an indefinite number of terms. The current President and Vice-President have reached their term limits.
19. Ms. Gernhart comment. For those attending the Field Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting in July please don't make any reservations at this time and she will provide notice when travel authorization is available and instructions on how to complete it.