

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL**

MINUTES

September 20, 2013

3 p.m. Eastern Time

1. Announcements:

- a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions – please check out links below for more information.
 - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/Copy_of_Open_Optom_etry_Positions_\(2\).pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/Copy_of_Open_Optom_etry_Positions_(2).pdf)
 - ii. http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optometrists_Positi_ons.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 1032, Health Benefit Appeals Processing
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy guidance regarding Health Benefit Appeals and certification of these appeals to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). It identifies timelines, policy, and guidance when completing a Health Benefit Appeal and certification of such appeal to the BVA.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/VHA_Directive_1032_Health_Benefit_Appeals_Processing_8-16-13.pdf
- f. VHA Directive 1009, Standards for Addressing the Needs of Patients Held in Temporary Bed Locations
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy for the care of admitted patients placed in temporary bed locations when the appropriate acute care beds are not immediately available.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/VHA_Directive_1009_Standards_for_Addressig_the_Needs_of_Patients_Held_i....pdf
- g. VHA Directive 1004, National Center for Ethics in Health Care
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines the responsibilities of the National Center for Ethics in Health Care. This is a revised VHA directive that:
 1. Expands the range of ethical practices of concern to the National Center for Ethics in Health Care to include ethical practices at the beginning of life.
 2. Provides examples of topics in each domain of health care ethics in order to highlight the range of ethical practices relevant to VHA and of concern to the National Center for Ethics in Health Care.
 3. Updates the descriptions in the responsibilities section to reflect current office structure and services provided to staff and Veterans.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/VHA_Directive_1004_Na_tional_Center_for_Ethics_in_Health_Care_9-6-13.pdf
- h. VHA Handbook 1200.15, Eligibility for VA Research Support
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook defines the criteria for eligibility to receive research support from the Office of Research and Development (ORD). The major change in this VHA

Handbook is reflected in paragraph 4, which adds the requirement for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) investigators to use VA email when corresponding about VA research issues. The 5 year limitation for eligibility for Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development Service and Clinical Science Research and Development Service was removed as the allowable term may change, subject to funding priorities.

- ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/VHA_Handbook_1200.15_Eligibility_for_VA_Research_Support_8-16-13.pdf
- i. VHA Handbook 1204.04, Under Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides procedures related to nomination and selection for the "Under Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research."
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/VHA_Handbook_1204.04_Under_Secretary_Award_Outstanding_Achievement.pdf
- j. VHA Handbook 1004.06, IntegratedEthics
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook sets forth procedures and operational requirements for IntegratedEthics® (IE). This revised version of VHA Handbook 1004.06:
 1. Updates and consolidates requirements to align the Handbook with current IE program performance standards and implementation in the field.
 2. Incorporates input from Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) and facility staff who suggested policy revisions to assist them in more effectively implementing IE in their respective organizations.
 3. Includes new paragraphs that summarize the framework for IE, including its goals, core functions, and organizational structures at the national, VISN, and local level, and designated IE staff roles.
 4. Clarifies the role of the VISN IE Advisory Board, VISN IE Senior Lead, VISN IE Point of Contact, Facility IE Council, Facility Director, Ethical Leadership Coordinator, IE Program Officer, Ethics Consultation Coordinator, Preventive Ethics Coordinator, Ethics Consultants, Preventive Ethics Team members (new), and removes the roles of ECWeb Administrator Consultant and Ethics Consultation Evaluator.
 5. Provides additional explanation and examples of ethical leadership behaviors that support an ethical environment and culture.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/VHA_Handbook_1004.06_IntegratedEthics_8-29-13.pdf
- k. VHA Handbook 1174.02, Blind Rehabilitation Service National Program Consultant Procedures
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook defines and describes the VHA Blind Rehabilitation Service (BRS) National Program Consultant program. This is an update to VHA Handbook 1174.02 defining the scope and operational procedures of the BRS National Program Consultant Program.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/VHA_Handbook_1174.02_Blind_Rehabilitation_Service_National_Program_Consu....pdf

2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.

3. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Messer/Slagle
 - a. Dr. Slagle comment. Those who have residency programs in place or are interested in starting a residency program, please submit your *Standards of Excellence* as well as your *Funding Request* through your Education Office. The deadline is October 15, 2013 and keep in mind that everything needs to be uploaded so try to get those documents in at least a few days early to be processed. He also encourages those programs to coordinate with their affiliates and try to get candidacy pending status as soon as possible to aid in the decision process when funding is available.
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/2015_AH_Allocations_Memo-130820.pdf
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/09_2013/2014-15_AH-Nsg_Allocations_Program_Announcement-130823.pdf
4. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin
 - a. Dr. Horn comment. Optometry is being included in productivity numbers within the VA and it is very important that all the individuals in your department are mapped correctly and appropriately. Please check on this frequently for any errors or changes.
5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger
 - a. Dr. Ballinger comment. He attended the Open Source Electronic Health Record meeting on September 6, 2013. Essentially, the organization is a group of key stake holders that are moving forward in the development of an open source electronic health record. The cost of IT infrastructure and management within the VA is very cost prohibitive and the goal is to develop a universal electronic health record which is more robust than the current system. There is ongoing testing using beta software in regards to the new open source platform of which there are plug-in modules that will allow certain services to operate within their environments in terms of patient data.
 - i. There are four centers slated for beta center but only one is operational at this time. The entire hospital at this site is working entirely on open source code.
 - ii. Along with that there are other players that are developing various modules that will be plugging into this as well as developing system wide capabilities such that all of VA will be on the same uniform platform.
 - iii. There are various stations around the country that have their own IT groups that have developed plug-ins for the current system that allow them to do certain things and what is happening now is that updates that are occurring nationwide are not compatible with some local software which is causing interference. There are mechanisms in place to correct for this but universal systems would be more ideal.
 - iv. VA, IHS and commercial vendors are involved in this universal system currently. The DoD is looking at this but planning on going in a new direction. Interestingly enough, there are currently 11 different countries using the Veteran CPRS system.
 - b. They are now working on a pilot program on Dicom and instrument connectivity. They are one of the first to develop a different system that will allow the acquisition of images and they will continue to keep everyone up to date on their progress.
6. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/O'Connor/White

- a. Dr. Horn comment. Continue to check out the OneSource Document Site for updates on infection control and RME reprocessing.
One Source Document Site: <http://onesourcedocs.com/member/index.html>
7. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
8. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker – unavailable for comment.
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. Brough
 - a. Dr. Brough comment. Dr. Townsend sent out a reminder about having Joint Care Collaboration reviews with ophthalmology.
12. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Boyer/Horn
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. Singh comment. They hope to continue their updates and new updates should be available in the next two weeks on the intranet once Access is restored.
15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
 - a. Dr. Pewitt comment. They have been having some access issues but they will be resolved soon and updates will be posted.
16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
 - a. Dr. Wang comment. There are about 70 new resident additions to the directory and database. There are about 1900 residents within the database at this time.
17. AFOS Report - Drs. Wasik/Meers – unavailable for comment.
18. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
 - a. Dr. Kawasaki comment. Today is the last day to register without a late fee for the annual NAVAIO Meeting which is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, October 24, 2013 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry Meeting. Please visit the website for more details and to register for the meeting.
 - b. NAVAIO elections closed on August 31. As per our By-Laws, the results will be announced by the Teller of Ballots at the annual Business Meeting on Thursday, October 24 in Seattle. Thank you to all of the members who voted and to all of the candidates.
 - c. Also, as previously announced last month, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the International Engineering Technology (IET) Foundation, NAVAIO would like to announce the availability of four, \$250 scholarships for use at the upcoming American Academy of Optometry meeting available by application to current, active resident NAVAIO members. Details and application instructions have been emailed to residents and an email blast was sent to members. The deadline to apply is Monday, September 30.