

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL**

**MINUTES**

**October 18, 2013**

**3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. Ms. Gernhart comment. Please refer to the attachments below for available open positions.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/10\\_2013/Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/10_2013/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. VBA Bulletin on Muscle Function Testing
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/10\\_2013/VBA\\_September\\_VSC\\_M\\_Bulletin\\_Muscle\\_Function\\_doc.docx](http://www.navao.org/documents/10_2013/VBA_September_VSC_M_Bulletin_Muscle_Function_doc.docx)
  - f. VATAS Leave Guide for Employees
    - i. Dr. Townsend comment. This is a new system for Time and Attendance that everyone must be trained on. He discussed a few issues that have come up and encourages everyone to monitor and ensure their own time and attendance is correct.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/10\\_2013/VATAS\\_Leave\\_Guide\\_4\\_Employees\\_rev\\_101113.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/10_2013/VATAS_Leave_Guide_4_Employees_rev_101113.pdf)
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.
3. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Messer/Slagle
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. The deadline has passed for facilities to have their request entered at the Office of Academic Affiliations website to request trainees for July 2014. They hope to determine what the allocations will be by early January before the OR Match process.
4. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Boyer/Horn – unavailable for comment.
5. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They will need to get productivity recommendations for all the specialties. The first quarter of this fiscal year they are tasked to try to ensure that they are using the proper DSS identifiers/ stop codes to capture current workload. He will send information out regarding the person class taxonomy code at the end of October or early November for specific sites. Please work with your facilities Health Information Management office.
  - b. They are then going to work on getting the correct labor mapping of all the VA Optometrists administrative, clinical, education and research activities with the help of local leadership. He encourages everyone to get up to date with coding encounters in order to get more accurate data. The last reported average RVU productivity per VA Optometrist was 4,245. Please ensure you are getting the correct workload credit.
6. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger

- a. Dr. Ballinger comment. They are in the process of beta testing on interconnectivity with instrumentation. If anyone is using instrumentation with connectivity (ex. OCT to VISTA imaging, etc.) please email Dr. Ballinger because he would like to ask questions about your process to gain more insight to proceed with beta testing.
7. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough – unavailable for comment.
8. 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>
9. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There are about 646 sites with cameras to perform teleretinal imaging. They have imaged a record number of patients, over 234,000, of which 2/3 of them did not have to be seen by the eye clinic. They are continuing their pilot study for the macula and optic nerve that they hope to roll out nationwide.
10. C&P and IDES Eye Examinations - Drs. LeStrange/Sink
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There is a VBA Bulletin on Muscle Function Testing. If you do not have a Goldmann Bowl perimeter to do the diplopia testing you can use with the tangent screen and transfer the results to a Goldmann recording sheet.
  - b. [http://www.navao.org/documents/10\\_2013/VBA\\_September\\_VSCM\\_Bulletin\\_Muscle\\_Function\\_doc.docx](http://www.navao.org/documents/10_2013/VBA_September_VSCM_Bulletin_Muscle_Function_doc.docx)
11. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker – unavailable for comment.
12. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Eldred/Rakoczy
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They made up a VHA clinical practice recommendation about the ocular health examination and other visual functioning tests that they hope will replace the expiring directive for the Polytrauma Rehab Centers.
13. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O'Connell/Mancil – unavailable for comment.
14. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.  
**VA HSR&D Centers of Innovation (COINs) and Resource Centers:**  
<http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/centers/>
15. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Hamilton/G. Singh
  - a. Dr. Singh comment. The issues they were having with access to update the website have been resolved.
16. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
  - a. Dr. Pewitt comment. They are updating the website and will hope to have the updates available within 1-2 weeks.
17. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift – unavailable for comment.
18. AFOS Report - Drs. Wasik/Meers
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Dr. Wasik wanted to remind everyone about the AFOS meeting preceding the Academy meeting in Seattle. The breakout sessions will be on Monday afternoon and the annual business meeting will take place on Tuesday with continuing education on both days.
19. NAVAQ Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer

- a. Dr. Kawasaki comment. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual NAVAIO Meeting which is scheduled for next Thursday, October 24, 2013 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry Meeting. Please visit our website for more details about the meeting, as well as the schedule of events.
- b. The results of the recent NAVAIO elections will be announced by the Teller of Ballots at our annual Business Meeting on Thursday, October 24 in Seattle. If you have registered for the meeting, please be sure to join us there to welcome our new officers for the next term.
- c. Also, as previously announced last month, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the International Engineering Technology (IET) Foundation, NAVAIO will be presenting four, \$250 scholarships for use at the upcoming American Academy of Optometry meeting to current, active resident NAVAIO members. The deadline to apply was September 30. The four selected recipients will be presented with their scholarships at the NAVAIO Meeting next Thursday.

Dr. Storer comment. He had a question about travel accommodations through the VA.  
Dr. Townsend comment: At this point all authorized reimbursement for travel has been cancelled. Each facility must decide who is granted Authorized Absence vs. Annual Leave.