

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL**

AGENDA

December 17, 2010

3 p.m. Eastern Time

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

1. Announcements:
 - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/12_17_2010/Open_Optometry_Positions_List_2010.doc
<http://www.vacareers.va.gov/index.cfm>
 - b. VHA Mission & Vision Statements
<http://vaww.ush.va.gov/Excellence>
 - c. VHA Directive 2010-051, Treatment of Active Duty and Reserve Component Service Members in VA Health Care Facilities
 - i. This VHA Directive provides policy for reimbursement and provision of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care services to active duty and Reserve Component (RC) Service members of the Armed Forces of the United States.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/12_17_2010/VHA_Directive_2010-051_Treatment_of_Active_Duty_and_Reserve_Component_Service_Members_in_VA_Health_Care_Facilities.pdf
 - d. VHA Directive 2010-052, Management of Wandering and Missing Patients
 - i. This VHA Directive establishes policy to ensure that each Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) medical facility has an effective and reliable plan to prevent, and effectively manage wandering and missing patient events that place patients at-risk for harm.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/12_17_2010/VHA_Directive_2010-052_Management_of_Wandering_and_Missing_Patients.pdf
 - e. VHA Directive 2010-053, Patient Record Flags
 - i. This VHA Directive outlines policy and guidance for the proper use of Patient Record Flags (PRF) to enhance safety for patients, employees, and visitors.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/12_17_2010/VHA_Directive_2010-053_Patient_Record_Flags.pdf
 - f. VHA Directive 2010-054, Catastrophically Disabled Veteran Evaluation, Enrollment, and Certain Copayment-Exemptions
 - i. This VHA Directive issues policy for the clinical evaluation, enrollment in Priority Group 4, and the discontinuation of inpatient, outpatient, and medication copayments of eligible Veterans who are catastrophically disabled.

- ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/12_17_2010/VHA_Directive_2010-054_Catastrophically_Disabled_Veteran_Evaluation_Enrollment_and_Certain_Co-Payment_Exemptions.pdf
 - g. VHA Handbook 1108.01, Controlled Substances (Pharmacy Stock)
 - i. This VHA Handbook provides procedures for maintaining accountability of all controlled substances and compliance with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Regulations.
 - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/12_17_2010/VHA_Handbook_1108_01_Controlled_Substances_\(Pharmacy_Stock\).pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/12_17_2010/VHA_Handbook_1108_01_Controlled_Substances_(Pharmacy_Stock).pdf)
- 2. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Messer/Slagle
 - a. Dr. Slagle comment. Decisions regarding funding support for trainees (for residents) are expected to be communicated from the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations to Directors of VA facilities and Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISNs) by **January 24, 2011**.
 - b. If there are any programs that have made a pre-arranged match agreement with a WOC applicant (Military etc), please notify Dr. Townsend's office so that the Office of Academic Affiliations funding may be temporarily distributed to another program. There is no risk of funding loss related to redistribution in this manner.
 - c. The ACOE published a modification to their Examples of Evidence for Standard 3.3 of the 2009 Optometric Residency Standards. This standard reads that "The school or college of optometry must have a director of residency programs who provides effective educational and administrative guidance to the program, who is qualified to provide this guidance, and who is allocated adequate time to perform this duty." The council added to the examples the statement that records of communication between sponsor and affiliate such as email, meeting agenda or minutes may be considered as an "example of evidence."
- 3. Optometry Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.
- 4. Optometry Recruitment Representatives - Drs. Bennett/Gay
 - a. Dr. Gay comment. Last month he contacted all the optometry schools and distributed the email list of VA representatives that were available to them to discuss the mode of practice in the VA as well as to distribute information available (i.e. PowerPoint presentation). He has had several schools contact him that showed interest.
- 5. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/White – unavailable for comment.
- 6. Teleretinal Imaging Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There is going to be a meeting in St. Petersburg, FL on January 19 and 20th to talk about the expanded scope of the teleretinal screening program looking into the area of macular degeneration and discussion about having regionalized reading centers.

For those who are attending, there is hope for new projects resulting from that conference.

7. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker
 - a. Dr. Barker comment. This Vision Center of Excellence (VCE) is a joint DoD / VA program that has been congressionally mandated to help smooth out the care coordination issues and best practices associated with care of wounded veterans that have TBI related vision loss.
 - b. At the present time, the leadership at the VCE is Colonel Donald Gagliano, an army ophthalmologist, deputy director Mary Lawrence, a VA ophthalmologist and Dr. Barker who works at the director for rehabilitation and restoration under the assistant director for research. His counterpart is Bobby Hillin who is a rehab specialist.
 - c. Their goal in the director for rehabilitation and restoration is to improve the coordination of care through direct action, to develop consensus documentation involving DoD/VA optometrists and rehabilitation personnel and to establish a research network and to foster and facilitate the production of valid research to support best practices.
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. For those unaware, there is a series of low vision rehabilitation video clips that were created and a whole coursework on how to utilize and prescribe all the various low vision and rehabilitation devices. He expects that it will be available on the LMS website sometime early next year that will be COPE accredited. This should improve the quality and standardization of the low vision care we provide throughout VA optometry.
10. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Norden
 - a. Dr. Norden comment. He wanted to spend a few minutes reviewing a few principles on quality assessment - there are principles established and refined by the national quality forum and Joint commission.
 - i. Any criteria for quality review should be objective (i.e. if more than one reviewer looked at data they would logically arrive at the same conclusions).
 - ii. They must be measureable.
 - iii. Criteria should be evidence based.
 - iv. Quality measures should represent some meaningful gap in patient care/health care that is known to exist (i.e. if there were any intervention, it would have a useful outcome as a result of that intervention).
 - v. Any review criteria should have concurrence among all state coders.
 - b. If you have any questions or aid in implementing or interpreting these principles, please contact Dr. Norden.

11. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Dr. Ficarra – unavailable for comment.
12. VA Research Announcements & Solitations - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.
 - a. Dr. Townsend. For those who are involved in research there is a handout available – please follow the link below.
 - b. http://www.navao.org/documents/12_17_2010/VHA_Handbook_1200_17_DVA_Nonprofit_Research_and_Education_Corporations.pdf
<http://vaww.research.va.gov/news/announcements/default.cfm>
http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/solicitations/default.cfm#All_ORD
13. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Cordes/Ficarra/Hamilton – unavailable for comment.
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. These websites are to be promoted soon and they will be available in the new year.
14. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt – unavailable for comment.
15. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang – unavailable for comment.
16. AFOS Report - Dr. Wasik
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Registration is now open for the annual meeting on March 2nd -3rd in Atlanta. Go to the website to register or join AFOS.
17. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
 - a. Dr. Kawasaki comment. The NAVAIO strongly encourages all eligible candidates to register for the next ACMO administration on Friday, June 3, 2011. Please visit their website at www.optometry.org for details. The deadline to register for the ACMO exam is May 3, 2011.
 - b. Please be sure to login regularly to the member's area of the NAVAIO website for news updates which appear on the first page you will see after logging in. We have announcements regarding such items as continuing education opportunities, as well as other news of interest to VA optometrists.
 - c. Please note that we also have a "VA Optometry Service News" announcement page in the member's area of our website. The link is under the "Member Area Pages" menu on the right side after you login to the website. Important announcements from the VA Optometry Service will be reposted here for your reference.
 - d. The Newsletter Committee is in the process of creating a continuing education section to help our members easily locate local CE outside of the major optometric conferences. They are asking that members submit information on small conferences that they have attended that they felt were a good resource for continuing education. Please also consider any announcements you may have for our *Keeping in Touch* section, which

includes personal and professional announcements for our members. Please email all submissions or ideas to Dr. Tomasini at dawn.tomasini@va.gov. The deadline for submission for the upcoming issue of the newsletter is Friday, December 31.

- e. We are currently in the process of updating the FAQ sheets in the member's area of our website and would appreciate member feedback about the current ones, as well as suggestions for other topics of interest. A revised Systems Redesign FAQ and Digital Imaging FAQ have recently been posted. Please send an email to info@navao.org with your comments.