

OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MINUTES

March 15, 2013  
3 p.m. Eastern Time

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_2013/Copy\\_of\\_Open\\_Optom\\_etry\\_Positions.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_2013/Copy_of_Open_Optom_etry_Positions.pdf)
    - ii. [http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optom\\_etrists\\_Positi\\_ons.asp](http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optom_etrists_Positi_ons.asp) or <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/>
  - b. VA Core Values and Characteristics (I CARE)
    - i. <http://vaww.va.gov/default.asp>
  - c. Continuous Readiness in Information Security Program (CRISP)  
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/CRISP/>
  - d. IL 10-2013-002, 2013 Marsha Goodwin-Beck Interdisciplinary Awards for Excellence in Geriatrics
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Information Letter announces that nominations are being solicited for the Marsha Goodwin-Beck Awards for Excellence in Geriatrics.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_2013/IL\\_10-2013-002\\_2013\\_Marsha\\_Goodwin-Beck\\_Interdisciplinary\\_Awards\\_for\\_Excellence\\_in\\_Geriatrics.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_2013/IL_10-2013-002_2013_Marsha_Goodwin-Beck_Interdisciplinary_Awards_for_Excellence_in_Geriatrics.pdf)
  - e. VHA Directive 2013-004, Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy for the prevention and control of seasonal influenza through the use of influenza vaccines for 2012-2013.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_2013/VHA\\_Directive\\_2013-004\\_Prevention\\_and\\_Control\\_of\\_Seasonal\\_Influenza\\_with\\_Vacci\\_nes.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_2013/VHA_Directive_2013-004_Prevention_and_Control_of_Seasonal_Influenza_with_Vacci_nes.pdf)
  - f. VHA Directive 2013-006, The Use of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) in Administering Medication
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy regarding the discretionary use of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) for medication administration.
    - ii. Dr. Horn comment. They left out optometrists and podiatrists in this directive, so Dr. Townsend is working on a national level to get that amended. .
    - iii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_2013/VHA\\_Directive\\_2013-006\\_The\\_Use\\_of\\_Unlicensed\\_Assistive\\_Personnel\\_in\\_Administe\\_ring\\_Medicatio\\_n.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_2013/VHA_Directive_2013-006_The_Use_of_Unlicensed_Assistive_Personnel_in_Administe_ring_Medicatio_n.pdf)
  - g. VHA Handbook 1605.05, Business Associate Agreements
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook is issued to provide policy and procedures for the establishment and management of Business Associate Agreements (BAAs) between VHA facilities and designated Business Associates.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_2013/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1605\\_05\\_Business\\_Associate\\_Agreements.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_2013/VHA_Handbook_1605_05_Business_Associate_Agreements.pdf)

- h. Professional Development: VA MyCareer (<http://mycareeratva.va.gov/>)
    - i. Dr. Horn comment. They are working on getting optometry listing within this site. This should be included and available around mid-summer.
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin
3. Optometric Education Programs/ORMatch Results - Drs. Messer/Slagle
  - a. Dr. Horn comment. The ORMatch program has been quite successful for its first year. She reports that 86% of VA positions were filled and there were approximately five applicants per position this year. There were approximately 526 applicants this year that participated in ORMatch and that was an increase from last year.
4. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin
  - a. Dr. Horn comment. There is a committee working with central office on optometry productivity. She stressed the importance of being coded correctly. VISN consultants will be contacting each facility to make sure each site (i.e. staff and residents) is coded correctly. They did find several staffing issues where staff was not coded correctly so please check your site.
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
  - a. Dr. Horn comment. Please keep checking the One Source Document site to keep up to date on any changes with SOPs for reusable medical equipment.
  - b. 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 – unavailable for comment.
  - a. Dr. Brough comment. Nothing new to report.
12. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Boyer/Horn – unavailable for comment.
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. Nothing new to report.
  
15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt –unavailable for comment.
  
16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang
  - a. Dr. Wang comment. Please have your residents contact Dr. Wang to keep up to date on open positions available within the VA.
  
17. AFOS Report - Drs. Hunter/Wasik
  - a. Dr. Wasik comment. They had their mid-year AFOS meeting in Atlanta and the first ever AFOS service specific awards were given out. For the VA, the Optometrist of the Year Award went to Dr. Angela Musick at the Salem VA and the Jr Optometrist of the Year Award went to Dr. Janel Chou at the Va Beach CBOC VA. She is proud to have these two individuals represent the VA within AFOS. They will be competing for the AFOS Optometrist/Jr Optometrist of the Year Award at the annual business meeting in Seattle this fall prior to Academy.
  - b. This is the end of the first quarter and she wanted to remind all members to pay their dues or to encourage other to join. There was an email blast, recently, from George Meers and if there are any questions to please contact Dr. Wasik, George Meers or the executive directors at [execdir@afos2020.org](mailto:execdir@afos2020.org) or you can go on the website [afos2020.org](http://afos2020.org) for more information. One of the most comment inquiries pertain to those that are already AOA members and may be affiliated with their state and are interested in transferring membership.
  - c. The meeting in Atlanta was successful. Due to some funding issues, the meeting was smaller than usual, but many were represented from VA to the DoD within the federal service and they all enjoyed the wonderful reception and excellent continuing education provided.
  
18. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
  - a. Dr. Kawasaki comment. The annual membership drive has been extended one more time to March 31. They ask that new and current members please login to the NAVAIO website to join or renew before the March 31 deadline, after which a late fee will apply. Dr. Jessica Fedor from the Minneapolis VA was the winner of our "early bird" membership renewal drawing and Dr. Bhagya Segu from the Houston VAMC was the winner of our membership renewal drawing for those who renewed by January 31. Drs. Fedor and Segu will receive free membership in 2014. There is still one more opportunity for a free 2014 membership drawing if we reach our goal of 500 members this year, so please join or renew right away to be eligible. We also ask that you also encourage other optometrists at your facility to join NAVAIO as well.
  - b. NAVAIO strongly encourages all eligible candidates to register for the next Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) exam on Friday, June 7, 2013. Please visit the NBEO website at [www.optometry.org](http://www.optometry.org) for details and read our ACMO FAQ sheet in the members area of the NAVAIO website. The exam fee is \$780; however, please note that there is a special reduced fee of \$480 for current residents who sit for the test during the year in which they complete their residency. They are asking

that residency coordinators to encourage current residents to consider taking the ACMO exam. He recommends that you register early to have a better chance of reserving a spot at your desired testing site. The deadline to register for the ACMO exam is May 13, 2013.

- c. 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 July 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).

\*\*\*Issues from the group: Eye Technician re-classification

Dr. Horn comment. They have asked for clarification about the reclassification of eye technicians and have not gotten a significant response. She believes it will include ophthalmology and optometry technicians. They will be grandfathered in at their salary but it may affect their promotions in the future because of a change in grade/step. She does not believe anything will happen for at least a year because the process still needs to be reviewed. According to some optometrists on the call some eye technicians have already been downgraded (grade/step) but the salary has not changed and new hires are hired a grade down from what they have been hired at in the past.