OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL

MINUTES

April 18, 2014
3 p.m. Eastern Time

1. Announcements:
   a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
      i. Please reference the links below for available open Optometry staff positions.
      ii. http://navao.org/documents/04_2014/Copy_of_Open_Optometry_Positions.pdf
      iii. http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optometrist_Positions.asp   or http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/
   b. VA Core Values and Characteristics (I CARE)
      http://www.va.gov/ICARE/index.asp
   c. Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI)
      http://www.diversity.va.gov/programs/pwd.aspx
   d. Office of Resolution Management (ORM) – http://vaww.va.gov/orm/
      (three related links: EEO Complaint Processing
      http://vaww.va.gov/ORM/EEOcomplaint.asp ; Alternate Dispute
      Resolution (ADR) http://www.va.gov/adr/ + VA Directive 5978; and
      Resolution Support Center http://www.va.gov/orm/RSC.asp)
   e. Continuous Readiness in Information Security Program (CRISP)
      http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/CRISP/
   f. Professional Development: VA MyCareer (http://mycareeratva.va.gov/)
   g. ACES Conferences Registration Announcement
      i. Dr. Horn comment. ACES is a web based tool to process and manage VA requests to attend external conferences. This is a pilot program to keep track of federal funds used towards travel through the VAMC. The ACES registration towards the AOA conference has closed at this time, but please check out the website for further details and information about the program.
      ii. If the pilot program is successful, ACES will continue and you will have to request your travel through this program as well as with your local facility. This only applies to those requesting federal funding. Timing on registration is 90 days before the conference. Please refer to the ACES website for FAQs.
   h. Adding COPE Accreditation to TMS, Announcement
      i. Barbara Hetrick and Dr. Townsend have worked hard with EES (employee education system) to get COPE listed as one of the accredited CMEs on the EES website. When you go on to enter your external CE, it goes on to list COPE as one of the approved accreditations.
      ii. The next thing they are working on is getting COPE accreditation for some of the EES managed courses.
   i. 2014 David M. Worthen Award Call for Nominations, E-mail
      i. This is an award to recognize a VA Employee from any health care discipline who made contributions of national significance to education in the health professions.   Recipients will receive $7500 and a plaque for the individual as well as the facility. Nominations are due by April 30, 2014.
   j. VHA Directive 1075, Strategic Planning Process

      i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes a strategic planning process that assesses the health care needs of Veterans, plans how to accommodate those needs, and ensures compliance with applicable Federal and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) planning requirements.

      ii. http://navao.org/documents/04_2014/VHA_Directive_1075_Strategic_Planning_Process_3-10-14.pdf

  k. VA Optometry Service PACT Recommendations, E-mail

      i. This provides a guideline for how many Optometrists are needed per PACT team including space requirements and patient load. Please refer to the attachment for details.

      ii. http://navao.org/documents/04_2014/VA_Optometry_Service_PACT_Recommendations,_04-07-2014_FINAL.doc

  l. VHA Directive 1081, Procurement Process for Individual Prosthetic Appliances and Sensory Aids Devices Above the Micro-Purchase Threshold

      i. This Directive establishes procedures for procuring prosthetic appliances and sensory aids for individual Veterans and Service Members and defines the roles and responsibilities of the acquisition team members. It also provides the circumstances under which other than full and open competition can be used when procuring prosthetic appliances and sensory aids.

      ii. http://navao.org/documents/04_2014/VHA_Directive_1081_Procurement_Process_for_Individual_Prosthetic_Appliances_and_Sensory_Aids_Devices_Above_the_Micro-Purchase_Threshold.pdf

  m. VHA Handbook 1204.03, Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Centers

      i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides guidance for the establishment and governance of Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D) Centers.

      ii. http://navao.org/documents/04_2014/VHA_Handbook_1204.03_Health_Services_Research_and_Development_(HSR&D)_Centers_2-27-14.pdf

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

3. Optometric Education Programs – **Citizenship Requirements for VA Associated Health Optometry Trainees**
(http://vaww.va.gov/oaa/faqs/default.asp?TID=18&Cat=3) - Drs. Slagle/Messer

  a. Dr. Lum comment. All <u>funded</u> associated health trainees, including optometry residents, <u>must</u> be U.S. citizens. Funded training positions are considered to be national assets. No waivers will be granted based on local inability to recruit citizens. Exceptions require specific approval of the Under Secretary for Health and are generally not granted. Please ensure that you only recruit and rank US citizens if you desire funding for your residency positions. For more information, please reference VA Handbook 500, Part II, Chapter 3, Paragraph 3.g. (5) (c), dated August 12, 2005.

      i. If you desire to appoint a non-U.S. citizen for your residency, you must first obtain approval for a W.O.C. appointment. W.O.C. appointments of non-citizen trainees may be approved by the facility Director. If this should be approved, please promptly contact Dr. Townsend's office so that Office of Academic Affiliations' funds may be temporarily reallocated to another facility. (Reference: VA Handbook 5005, Part II, Chapter 3, Section G, 6 b. (2), dated August 12, 2005.)

    ii. The Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) FAQs that address the U.S. citizenship issue may be viewed at: http://vaww.va.gov/oaa/faqs.

4. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin – no new information to report at this time.

5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger
   a. Dr Horn comment. The Chief Information Security Officer has now stated that in order to gain external remote access to VA computers you must use your PIV card, this mandate will take effect April 30, 2014. If you are unable to use your PIV card you will need to go to your local facility and obtain a waiver.
   b. Dr. Ballinger comment. There is a CITRIX newsletter that talks about the gateways and configuration of PCs and PIV readers. Your local facility should have sent out information but Dr. Ballinger will send information to Dr. Townsend for dispersal.
   c. Testing and development on accessibility in terms of connections between various sources has proceeded and more details are to come soon.
   d. The module III of the training modules series for coding and billing should be coming out at the end of the month. This module will be on CPT coding. By now everyone should have in place most of their DSS stop codes set up correctly for their clinics. If you have not, please make sure you do so you can get credit for your workload.
   e. ICD 10 has been delayed another year until October 2015.

6. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/O'Connor/White
   a. Dr. Horn comment. Please refer to the OneSource Document Site to ensure you are up to date on all manufacturer recommendations for reprocessing reusable medical equipment.
   b. There are disposable forceps, scissors, scleral depressors, and other equipment you may want to investigate for your facility.
   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/Dr. Rakoczy – unavailable for comment.

10. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O'Connell/Mancil – unavailable for comment.

11. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough – unavailable for comment.

12. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Boyer/Horn – no new information to report at this time.

13. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.
    VA HSR&D Centers of Innovation (COINs) and Resource Centers: http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/

14. VHA Optometry Service Websites – Dr. G. Singh – unavailable for comment.

15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
    a. Dr. Pewitt comment. Dr. Lim has been working hard on the directory. They are having difficulties with updating the directory online so if there are any corrections, please contact them.

16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
    a. Dr. Wang comment. If there are any new residents that have not registered for the directory and want to be included to receive the open positions listings, please let her know. There are, currently, about 1700 in the database so far.
17. AFOS Report - Drs. Wasik/Meers – unavailable for comment.
18. NAVAO Report - Drs. Wong/Thomann – nothing to report at this time.