

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MINUTES  
July 15, 2016  
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. Ms. Gernhart comment. Please see the links below for available open Optometry positions.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/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://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. Professional Development: VA MyCareer (<http://mycareeratva.va.gov/>)
  - f. Improve Your Customer Service Skills – TMS training coursework (<https://www.tms.va.gov/learning/user/login.jsp>)
  - g. VHA Handbook 1108.05, [Outpatient Pharmacy Services](#)
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides specific direction and procedures related to outpatient dispensing, outpatient clinical activities, automation, operational efficiencies, hand hygiene, and the appropriate handling and dispensing of drugs and supplies to outpatients.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1108.05\\_Outpatient\\_Pharmacy\\_Services\\_6-16-16.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/VHA_Handbook_1108.05_Outpatient_Pharmacy_Services_6-16-16.pdf)
  - h. VHA Handbook 1140.08, [Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers \(GRECCs\)](#)
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) handbook describes the purpose, authority, background, scope and goals, program standards, staffing, and quality management for Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (GRECC) in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1140.08\\_GRECCs\\_6-24-16.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/VHA_Handbook_1140.08_GRECCs_6-24-16.pdf)
  - i. VHA Notice 2016-11, [Project Access Received Closer to Home \(ARCH\) Transition to the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014](#)
    - i. In order to ensure continuity of care for ARCH Veterans when the statutory authority for the ARCH program expires on August 7, 2016, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has determined that ARCH Veterans are eligible for the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) under the unusual or excessive burden provision contained in the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) of 2014 (P.L.113-46, as amended). This makes all ARCH Veterans who still reside in the ARCH geographic areas eligible for VCP based on residence. All primary and specialty care services will be available to ARCH Veterans under VCP.

- ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/VHA Notece 2016-11, Project ARCH Transition to the VACAA of 2014, 6-23-16.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/VHA_Notece_2016-11_Project_ARCH_Transition_to_the_VACAA_of_2014_6-23-16.pdf)
- j. Employee Phased Retirement Information – 4 attachments
  - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/PhasedRetirement Employee Final 6-28.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/PhasedRetirement_Employee_Final_6-28.pdf)
  - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/Phased Retirement Conference Call Minutes FINAL.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/Phased_Retirement_Conference_Call_Minutes_FINAL.pdf)
  - iii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/Phased Retirement Comparison.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/Phased_Retirement_Comparison.pdf)
  - iv. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/Phased Retirement FA Q.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/Phased_Retirement_FA_Q.pdf)
- 2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Brough- unavailable for comment.
- 3. Optometric Education Programs – Dr. Slagle
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Registration for the American Academy of Optometry Meeting is open. There is no monetary amount to support resident travel through the VA, but their affiliate may provide some. More detailed information will be sent out in the next week.
- 4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick
  - a. Dr. Hetrick comment. Modules 1, 3 and 5 are COPE approved, currently. The link below will explain how to print out the COPE certificate as evidence of completion.
  - b. Dr. Hetrick encourages all those that are designing online education to consider submitting those courses to be COPE approved and available through TMS. For more information, please contact her about the process.
  - c. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/TMS Instructions for COPE Certificate.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/TMS_Instructions_for_COPE_Certificate.pdf)
- 5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger – unavailable for comment.
- 6. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Trout/White
  - a. **One Source Document Site:**  
<http://onesourcedocs.com/member/index.html>
  - b. [http://www.navao.org/documents/07\\_2016/Changes to RME.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2016/Changes_to_RME.pdf) --This shows the updates to RME, please review.
- 7. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program – Drs. Morris/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
- 8. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker – unavailable for comment.
- 9. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Mandese/Peterson – unavailable for comment.
- 10. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O’Connell/Brahm – unavailable for comment.
- 11. Optometry Quality Improvement - Drs. Brough/Horn – nothing new to report.
- 12. Direct Scheduling/Access/VA Systems Redesign - Drs. Cantrell/Varanelli
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Phase 2 for direct scheduling is underway and it will be implemented in the remaining VISNs from late July through the rest of the year.
- 13. VA Optometric Research & Development – Drs. Fuhr/Mancil/Sullivan-Mee – unavailable for comment.

**VA HSR&D Centers of Innovation (COINs) and Resource Centers:**

<http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/centers/>

14. VHA Optometry Service Websites – Dr. G. Singh
  - a. Dr. Singh comment. Nothing new to report at this time.
15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt/Dalton – unavailable for comment.
16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
  - a. Dr. Wang comment. Please send all updates of new residents to her for the residency trained Optometrist directory. She will be sending out requests for those that would like to be included in the email blasts about available open positions as well.
17. AFOS Report - Dr. Engelke
  - a. Dr. Engelke comment. AFOS was well represented in the House of Delegates at the most recent AOA meeting. They also had a successful reception on June 30<sup>th</sup> and she was glad to see how active AFOS members were during that meeting.
  - b. Reminder – AFOS has a bundled registration package with the American Academy of Optometry meeting. The AFOS meeting will be held November 8<sup>th</sup>. The early bird rate will be available until September 7<sup>th</sup>. The government rate hotel rooms are going fast so please register soon to capitalize on this rate.
18. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Wong/Gustafson
  - a. Dr. Wong comment. The summer issue of *Optimum VA* will be out shortly and can be accessed on the NAVAIO.org website.
  - b. The annual NAVAIO business meeting will be held in conjunction with the Academy meeting in November. Please register early to avoid any late fees.