

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL**

AGENDA

January 15, 2010

3 p.m. Eastern Time

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

1. Announcements:
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment: he had forwarded the information about the American Academy of Optometry requesting submissions of papers and grand rounds, etc.
 - b. The CDC has a vision health initiative and APHA is looking for people to submit abstracts.
 - c. January is also glaucoma awareness month for the National Eye Health education program of the National Eye Institute.
 - d. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
<http://vaww1.va.gov/optometry/page.cfm?pg=35>
 - Tele-retinal readers in Little Rock, AZ
 - Part time optometrist position at the Cleveland VA in Brecksville
 - Full time, permanent optometrist appointment in Lake City, FL
 - Full time, permanent optometrist position in Coatesville, PA
 - e. VHA Handbook 1100.17, National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) Reports. This handbook contains the requirements for health care facilities' participation in VA mandated paid malpractice claim review process and the process for reporting information to the NPDB regarding physicians, dentists, and other licensed health care professionals.
http://www.navao.org/documents/01_15_10/VHA_Handbook_1100.17,_National_Practitioner_Data_Bank_Reports.pdf
 - f. VHA Handbook 1173.16, Driver Rehabilitation for Veterans with Disabilities Program. This handbook provides procedures for all matters regarding the Driver Rehabilitation Program for Veterans with disabilities and establishes guidelines for these procedures.
http://www.navao.org/documents/01_15_10/VHA_Handbook_1173.16,_Driver_Rehabilitation_for_Veterans_with_Disabilities_Program.pdf
 - g. VHA Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards, H1N1 Influenza Advisories: <http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/pubhealth/swineflu/index.htm>
 - h. Dr. Townsend comment: Check with your facility about the relief efforts in Haiti and how to make contributions to that effort.
2. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Grimes/Messer – unavailable for comment.
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. He has not yet heard that the office of academic affiliations has released its allocations to the field yet; please inform him if you have any further information.
3. Optometry Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Horn – unavailable for comment.

4. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/White – unavailable for comment.
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment: There is a list of SPD questions and answers on the website that can give you additional assistance if you are still getting inquiries from your VA facility.
 - b. Dr. Townsend comment: In the near future, *Haag-Streit* will be revising its recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting contact lenses such as gonio lenses, etc. As soon as he hears the final word he will share the information with everyone.
5. Teleretinal Imaging Program - Drs. Selvin/Cavallerano – unavailable for comment.
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment: The Office of Care Coordination has submitted a proposal to expand the Tele-retinal Imaging Program in conjunction with the Rural Health Program. That will hopefully lead to screening more patients for diabetic retinal disease.
6. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Townsend
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment: Hopefully, by the end of the month they will be advertising for the optometrist position. It is a research optometrist position and as soon as it is announced he will forward it to all VA optometrists. Please consider applying for this new position.
7. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. J. Kirby/Gagnon – unavailable for comment.
8. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Fuhr/Gagnon/Mancil– unavailable for comment.
9. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Norden
 - a. Dr. Norden comment. There are no, major new developments to discuss. One can anticipate that OPPE requirements are going to be ongoing and have increasing pressure to produce review programs. There will, likely, be requests for peer review programs as well. Their committee structure has been working on methods for accomplishing these things.
 - b. Dr. Norden offered to help on a case by case basis to help set up programs and get things moving. Please contact him through outlook email.
10. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Belkin/Ficarra
 - a. Dr. Ficarra comment. The website to VSSC to look at wait times and missed opportunities is at vssc.med.va.gov. The two main numbers to pay attention to are the wait time access list gold standard for 2010 and the second one is missed opportunities/cancellations/no show gold standard. Look at it carefully because the new goal is 68% of new patients need to be seen within 14 days. The missed opportunities will be either green or red which indicates passing or failing.
 - b. Dr. Ficarra stressed working as a team (technicians, clerks, physicians) in order to develop an “open access” type system. Make sure you work with your local system redesign committee which is the outpatient component.

11. VA Research Announcements & Solitations - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.
<http://vaww.research.va.gov/news/announcements/default.cfm>
http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/solicitations/default.cfm#All_ORD
12. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Cordes/Ficarra/Hamilton
 - a. Dr. Ficarra comment: On Feb 28th the current website will no longer exist. The website will be totally recreated so there will be three hour training for all webmasters on Tuesday. In the interim there is no reason to update the website, please keep that in mind when you look at the current website until Feb 28th.
13. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
 - a. Dr. Pewitt comment. They are waiting for more training and details from Dr. Ficarra about creating the directory on the new website when that becomes functional.
14. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang
 - a. Dr. Wang comment. They are continuing to announce the positions and hopefully there is a good response in the field for residency trained optometrists for these positions.
 - b. Dr. Ficarra commented that both service directories and residency trained optometrist directories are applications which are different from the website. This will make it easier for everyone to work on them in the future.
15. AFOS Report - Dr. Wasik – unavailable for comment.
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment: The annual AFOS meeting will be held Feb 9th and 10th. The afternoon of the 9th will be the breakout sessions and he will be there to discuss issues in VA optometry and all day Feb 10th continuing education will be offered as well as the annual business meeting and reception. This will all take place before the SECO conference.
16. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
 - a. Dr. Storer comment: Dr. Kawasaki would like to extend a “thanks” to all its members for their patience. NAVAIO is in the process of switching providers/ servers for the website, but in the process have had to redesign the website as well. They are heading toward completion in the next week or two and there should be a new look and feel to the website. There will be a lot of changes, but it will be similar in format gaining the same access to the minutes of the service calls, etc.
 - b. There is also a new look to the NAVAIO newsletter, which comes out quarterly. An email was sent out to its members with the link to the newsletter, but if you did not receive it, please send an email to info@navao.org.
 - c. Reminder: January is their membership month and all members should have received an email with a link attached to apply and pay dues. For those who are not a member already, we encourage you to join and you can go to www.navao.org for more information.

- d. NAVAIO has been working with the NBEO in regards to the ACMO examination. He would like to encourage all members to sign up to take the examination on June 4th and the deadline to register is May 4th. The eligibility requirements have been expanded so please reconsider sitting for the examination and if you have any questions, please refer to the NBEO website at <http://www.optometry.org>.

17. Request for other announcements/issues

- a. Dr. Chiara in Las Vegas inquired about information about the updates in FERS retirement. His comment was that in the end of October, president Obama signed an authorization bill which included a tack-on legislation which referred to the FERS retirement system. Those participating in this system can apply unused sick leave to service time for the purposes of retirement. Currently one can apply 50% of their unused sick time, but after Dec 31, 2013, 100% of unused sick time may be applied toward retirement. Notice should have gone out from OPM to the personnel departments at each facility.