

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MINUTES**

**January 15, 2016  
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions  
[http://navao.org/documents/01\\_2016/Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions.pdf](http://navao.org/documents/01_2016/Open_Optometry_Positions.pdf)  
[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. Continuous Readiness in Information Security Program (CRISP)  
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/CRISP/>
  - f. Professional Development: VA MyCareer (<http://mycareeratva.va.gov/>)
  - g. Improve Your Customer Service Skills – TMS training coursework  
(<https://www.tms.va.gov/learning/user/login.jsp>)
  - h. Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Pilot Program  
[http://navao.org/documents/01\\_2016/010716\\_--\\_Audiology\\_and\\_Optomtery\\_Direct\\_Sceduling\\_Pilot\\_Program.pdf](http://navao.org/documents/01_2016/010716_--_Audiology_and_Optomtery_Direct_Sceduling_Pilot_Program.pdf)
  - i. VHA Directive 7706 Management of Mercury in VHA Facilities  
This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive assigns responsibility and describes procedures for the management, reduction, and virtual elimination of mercury and mercury containing compounds in VA medical facilities in a manner that is safe, protective of the environment and compliant with all applicable regulations.  
[http://navao.org/documents/01\\_2016/VHA\\_Directive\\_7706\\_Management\\_of\\_Mercury\\_in\\_VHA\\_Facilities\\_1-7-16.pdf](http://navao.org/documents/01_2016/VHA_Directive_7706_Management_of_Mercury_in_VHA_Facilities_1-7-16.pdf)
  - j. VHA Directive 7707 GEMS and Governing Environmental Policy Statement  
This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Green Environmental Management System (GEMS) Directive establishes policy to conform to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Directive 0057, VA Environmental Management Program.  
[http://navao.org/documents/01\\_2016/VHA\\_Directive\\_7707\\_GEMS\\_and\\_Governing\\_Environmental\\_Policy\\_Statement\\_12-29-15.pdf](http://navao.org/documents/01_2016/VHA_Directive_7707_GEMS_and_Governing_Environmental_Policy_Statement_12-29-15.pdf)
  - k. VHA Directive 1135 VHA Clinical Inventory  
This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy implementing the maintenance, updating, restructuring, and redesign of a Web-based comprehensive national clinical inventory detailing services available for Veterans at each care delivery site.  
[http://navao.org/documents/01\\_2016/VHA\\_Directive\\_1135\\_VHA\\_Clinical\\_Inventory\\_12-28-15.pdf](http://navao.org/documents/01_2016/VHA_Directive_1135_VHA_Clinical_Inventory_12-28-15.pdf)
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Brough - no new updates.
3. Optometric Education Programs – Drs. Slagle/Messer  
Dr. Townsend comment. The workgroup got together to review the requests for the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) that were submitted early n

January. By the end of the month the allocation of Optometry residency positions will be announced. No new VHA positions were given by the OAA this year.

4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick  
Dr. Hetrick comment. They have the first module COPE approved and are in the final phase with EES. They are trying to meet to streamline the process of COPE approval through EES in the future.
5. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin  
Dr. Townsend comment. There was increased productivity looking at RVUs compared to the previous year. He hopes that everyone is getting the resources they need to provide this excellent service to the veterans.
6. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger - unavailable for comment.
7. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/O'Connor/White - unavailable for comment.  
**One Source Document Site:** <http://onesourcedocs.com/member/index.html>
8. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program – Dr. Selvin - unavailable for comment.
9. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker - unavailable for comment.
10. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Mandese/Peterson  
Dr. Mandese comment. The next call will be on Monday, January 25@ 4pm to discuss patients at a level 2 and 3 VA setting and what equipment is needed for that care. Anyone interested in being added to the listserv should contact Ms. Gernhart.
11. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O'Connell/Brahm - unavailable for comment.
12. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough - unavailable for comment.
13. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Cantrell/Varanelli  
Dr. Cantrell comment. A memorandum was released involving a pilot for direct scheduling at Mountain home, White River Junction, and Bay Pines VA. It was reviewed and deemed a success with improved access, reduced wait times and a decrease in unnecessary consults. There is approval to continue the program on a permanent basis and this will plan on rolling out nationwide.  
[http://navao.org/documents/01\\_2016/010716 -- Audiology and Optometry Direct Sceduling Pilot Program.pdf](http://navao.org/documents/01_2016/010716 -- Audiology and Optometry Direct Sceduling Pilot Program.pdf)  
Dr. Townsend comment. They are developing a toolkit, webinar, and training materials to assist all VA facilities and it will be published soon to guide rollout nationally.
14. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil - unavailable for comment.  
**VA HSR&D Centers of Innovation (COINs) and Resource Centers:**  
<http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/centers/>
15. VHA Optometry Service Websites – Dr. G. Singh - unavailable for comment.
16. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt/Dalton - unavailable for comment.
17. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift - unavailable for comment.
18. AFOS Report - Dr. Engelke  
Dr. Rhodes comment. Regular registration for the AFOS meeting in conjunction

with SECO is still open. The registration will include the AFOS and SECO meeting as well as SECO University.

AFOS is still soliciting nominations for JR OD and OD of the Year Awards.

19. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Wong/Gustafson

Dr. Gustafson comment. The 2016 NAVAIO membership drive has begun.

There has been a good showing so far but they encourage all VA Optometrist to join. The deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup> after which a late fee will apply. For more information, please check the website at NAVAIO.org.

The 2016 winter newsletter has just been posted. Members can find a direct link in their email or you can log onto the website.

Open comments.

Inquiry about the Veterans Choice Program and how to coordinate ordering spectacles. When filling out the prescription for the lab, you need to adding the code from the consult that was generated when the veteran was approved for the choice program.

Dr. Townsend comment. Currently, the veterans choice contract does not include the materials such as glasses, but Central Office is working to have provider agreements so glasses can also be provided. This is going through a review and approval process and the status is currently unknown, but an inquiry has been made.