

POC Call 2/14/19
Facilitated by Veronica Shead
Minutes by Christopher Watson

Opening comments (Veronica Shead)

SIG Leadership Announcements (Marcos Lopez)

We would like to welcome our new leadership:
Outreach & Hospitality Coordinator...Arti Sarma
Research Coordinator...Maurice Endsley
Social Media Coordinator.....Asale Hubbard

VACO Update (Gayle Iwamasa)

1. Increasing Capacity, Efficiency and Productivity Initiative (ICEP)
 - a. Nothing new, refresh of existing policy related to Business Operations
 - b. Many calls, including brief overview tomorrow during OMHSP TAS Office



Office Hours
2.14.19.pptx

Hours call, Third Fridays, 2 PM ET

- c. Be sure you are following policy
 - d. Utilize the many existing tools available on OMHSP Bus Ops SP:
https://vaww.cmopnational.va.gov/CR/MentalHealth/MH_Business%20Rules/Forms/AllItems.aspx
2. Mental Health Hiring Initiative
 - a. We have reached 1000 net new MH hires-yay!
 - b. VA Trainee Recruitment Event (VA-TRE)– Psychology: Monday Feb 19, closes March 1
 - c. Facilities must register NLT tomorrow. [Facility Registration Form Link.](#)
3. Mental Health Provider Survey is here and will be open until March 11:
<https://survey.htm.va.gov/Perseus/se/7FDA9EA73B58C6FA>
 - a. Please complete it and be sure your colleagues and staff have completed it
 - b. Your voice to facility management
 - c. Included in SAIL MH Experience of Care domain



MBC quick resource
list 1-2019.docx

4. Measurement Based Care initiative
 - a. Calls occur on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm ET
 - b. Reminder of MBC SharePoint site:
<https://vaww.portal.va.gov/sites/OMHS/omhostrongpractices/MBC/layout/s/15/start.aspx#/default.aspx>
5. Two VACO OMHSP GS-15 positions
 - a. Chief of Staff
 - b. National MH Director for Informatics

6. NEPEC FY18 Mental health utilization data has been recently released:
<http://vaww.nepec.mentalhealth.med.va.gov/NMHPMS/nmhFacSh.htm>

Requests/questions for meeting with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion

(Veronica Shead)

- What is the function of the office?
- What services do they provide?
- How might that office work with our SIG, and how might we work with them? We can be a resource to each other.
- How can they advocate for POC's?
- What are the separate sections of the office?
- How does this office coordinate/connect with MH Leadership?
- What authority does this office have?
- Are there psychologists in that office? What are their backgrounds in regards to what fields they work in?
- What effect does the office have locally, nationally?
- What are their key goals? What is their communication strategy?
- There has been turnover there. How has that impacted them?
- Do you have resources for recruitment of POC psychologists and trainees? How can these resources be made available to the field?
- Does this office provide unconscious bias training?
- How might this office partner with us on our MH Hiring initiative?
- We would like to share research/literature about the perspective of Veterans who are asking for diversity amongst VA providers.
- Maybe we can collaborate on cultural competence training for MH providers, as well as discussion about disparities.
- We appreciate the chance to have more interactions with this office.

ODI Strategic Plan of 2017: <https://www.diversity.va.gov/products/plan.aspx>

Would our SIG like to work on recruitment and retention of POC's?

Veronica will communicate the above questions/concerns back to Sam Wan.

Diversity Committees at the facility level (Veronica Shead)

--Due to limited time today, we will save this topic for next month's call. There's a lot of interest in this topic.

Mentoring Subcommittee (Josephine Ridley)

Josephine has been working with the AVAPL Mentoring Committee so that those who wanted a POC mentors can work with us. Kia-Rai Pruitt will be a co-coordinator for this committee. If you are interested in joining this subcommittee, please let Josephine know.

Education Corner (Kristin Powell)

This is a new element to the call. Kristin solicits our ideas. In honor of Black History month, it is important to reflect on our contributions to the field (e.g., Clark study, etc.). Also, google “King’s challenge to the nation’s social scientists, APA convention, September 1967”

Several attachments were added to the Skype meeting during the call including research reports pertaining to disparities in VA healthcare for Veterans of Color. For those who missed the call, these documents will again be accessed during the next call in March.

Concluding comments (Veronica Shead)

We had approximately 27 participants for this call.

Next call: March 14, 2019, 1-2PM EST