

**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Federal Advisory Committee
National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC)
Conference Call Minutes July 11, 2013**

The National Academic Affiliations Council met via conference call on July 11, 2013, from 1:00 edt to 3:00 edt. A quorum was present, affording the Committee the opportunity to conduct normal business.

Council members present: Jordan J. Cohen, MD, (Chair) President Emeritus, Association of American Medical Colleges; Norman B. Anderson, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, American Psychological Association; Geraldine D. Bednash, PhD, RN, FAAN, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, American Association of Colleges of Nursing; Malcolm Cox, MD (Ex-Officio), Chief Academic Affiliations Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; David W. Gorman, Retired Executive Director, Disabled American Veterans National Service and Legislative Headquarters; David M. Irby, PhD, Professor of Medicine and former Vice Dean for Education, University of California San Francisco School of Medicine; Darrell G. Kirch, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Association of American Medical Colleges; Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Kathleen A. Long, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean, School of Nursing and Associate Provost, University of Florida; Michael F. Mayo-Smith, MD, MPH, (Ex-Officio), Director, New England Healthcare Network (VISN 1), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; J. Lloyd Michener, MD, Chair, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine; Claire Pomeroy, MD, MBA, President, Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation; Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH, President, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

Council members unable to attend: Wayne J. Riley, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP, Senior Advisor, Association of Academic Health Centers, Professor of Internal Medicine Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

VA staff presenting on the call: William J. Marks, Jr., MD, Chief, Health Professions Education, VA Office of Academic Affiliations, VHA; Karen M. Sanders, MD, Deputy Chief, VA Office of Academic Affiliations, VHA; Stuart Gilman, MD, MPH, Director, VA Advanced Fellowships and Professional Development & Director, Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education, Office of Academic Affiliations.

Other VHA staff attending: Barbara K. Chang, MD, MA, FACP, Director, Medical & Dental Education, VA Office of Academic Affiliations, Mary Dougherty, DNSc, Director, VA Nursing Academy, Office of Academic Affiliations; Gloria Holland, PhD, MBA, Special Assistant for Policy & Planning, VA Office of Academic Affiliations; Robert A. Zeiss, PhD, Director, Associated Health Education, VA Office of Academic Affiliations.

**National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC)
Meeting Minutes January 10-11, 2013**

MINUTES

Thursday July 11, 2013

Welcome and Introductions: Jordan J. Cohen, MD, Chair, NAAC.

Dr. Cohen welcomed the members and guests to the summer conference call of the National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC).

Review and Status of NAAC Recommendations from January 10-11, 2013:
Malcolm Cox, MD, Chief, Office of Academic Affiliations, VHA.

Dr. Cox reviewed the progress to date on the six recommendations made by the NAAC at their meeting January 10-11, 2013. A formal response from VA is expected later in the summer.

Incorporate relevant metrics of key clinical learning environment domains as fundamental considerations in the design of future educational initiatives.

VHA will establish a work group to identify key domains of the inter-professional clinical learning environment and develop and test outcome measures (metrics) for incorporation into future education initiatives. Formation of the work group is expected by fall, 2013.

Endorse VA's ongoing plans to continue expansion of the mental health trainee pipeline.

On July 1, 2013, approximately 200 new training positions will be activated in disciplines including psychiatry, psychology, social work, nursing and pharmacy. Planning for the second phase of the Mental Health Enhancement initiative is also underway, with a Request for Proposals released to allow VA facilities to request new trainee positions for academic year 2014-2015.

Applaud VA's leadership role in promoting interprofessional education and practice, and encourage active collaboration with other Federal and State authorities and national professional associations and groups with similar goals.

VHA/OAA leaders have presented workshops on VA's experiences with interprofessional education and policy at several national meetings. Collaborations with HRSA are also underway, with meetings scheduled later this summer.

**National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC)
Meeting Minutes January 10-11, 2013**

Address information security issues for VHA academic and research activities

VA will likely “concur in principle” with this recommendation. However there are positive signs that more flexibility will be coming in addressing security issues. New leadership in the VA security office has been more responsive to issues with trainee security credentialing.

Dr. Kirsch and Pomeroy expressed thanks on behalf of the NAAC for advancements in handling security for VHA trainees.

Form VA-discipline liaison committees for additional disciplines.

Formation of new liaison committees will be underway beginning in 2014.

Include Education and Research leadership in official VHA leadership councils.

VA will likely “concur in principle” with this recommendation. However, more specific positive actions are expected over time.

Report from the NAAC Joint Venture Exploration Task Force and Developments within VA Concerning Joint Ventures and Partnerships: J. Lloyd Michener, MD, Chair, Joint Venture Exploration Task Force and NAAC Member and Malcolm Cox, MD, Chief, Office of Academic Affiliations, VHA.

Dr. Michener reported that Dr. Cohen had formally appointed a NAAC Sub Committee on Joint Ventures that includes a number of national figures experienced in various forms of partnerships.

Dr. Cox reported on a new VHA – Office of Management and Budget (OMB) study called the VHA Modernization Study. The purpose of the study is to plan for VHA’s future evolution as a health care system in the context of national changes in healthcare delivery. The study will inform development of VA’s future budgets, starting in FY 2015. One of the four work groups that have been established is on collaborations and partnerships and is being chaired by Dr. Cox. This work group includes VA experts in academic and research partnerships, partnerships with DoD and other federal entities, as well as representatives from VA’s business and strategic planning offices. The work group has been charged with developing specific recommendations for the future development of VA – Non VA partnerships and collaborations. The NAAC Joint Venture Sub Committee will be asked to react to these suggestions and provide advice on feasibility. The final report will go to OMB in spring 2014.

Dr. Cohen expressed support for these developments, and felt they were well timed for the expected rapid evolution of U.S. health care. He also expressed the hope that there would be the opportunity to develop pilot projects in specific collaborative areas.

**National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC)
Meeting Minutes January 10-11, 2013**

Accomplishments from VHA's Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education:
Karen M. Sanders, MD, Deputy Chief, Office of Academic Affiliations, VHA.

Dr. Sanders reported on progress made by the 5 sites selected as Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education. These Centers, selected in a competitive RFP in 2010, are exploring interprofessional education in VHA's Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACTs). Center Physician/Nurse co-leaders are engaged in clinical care, teaching, and research within these evolving new healthcare delivery models. Dr. Sanders noted that several schools have modified their overall programs to reflect the COE models and that some trainees have reported job placement advantages from their VA experiences.

Center leadership has also identified a number of challenges in implementing interprofessional education, including the complexity of developing strong relationships between previously isolated professions and how to measure such concepts as shared decision-making and "teamness". A briefing paper is being developed on academic PACT implementation, which will assist in the dissemination of this training model enterprise-wide.

NAAC members were impressed with the progress and look forward to a more detailed report at the fall 2013 meeting.

NAAC members recommended that VHA expand the Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education.

Proposal for a new Fellowship Program in Educational Policy and Evaluation:
William J. Marks, MD, Chief, Health Professions Education, Office of Academic Affiliations, VHA.

Dr. Marks presented the concept of developing a VHA Advanced Fellowship in Educational Policy and Evaluation. This is envisioned as a 2 year interprofessional pilot program for 3-5 sites. Partnerships would be developed between VA and academic partners for curriculum development and mentoring. Linkages would be developed with a number of VHA's existing Advanced Fellowships such as the National Quality Scholars, and the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program.

NAAC members expressed strong support for development of such a fellowship. Specific ideas expressed included the following:

- Narrowing the focus to evaluation, with any policy aspects related to educational evaluation itself rather than the broad area of health policy.
- Identifying pilot sites with the requisite expertise to mount such a program.
- Development of a shared curriculum.
- Definition of goals and metrics for measuring success.

**National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC)
Meeting Minutes January 10-11, 2013**

- Identification of the roles or jobs to be sought by graduates in order to inform the need for the program and curriculum development.
- Identifying experience/educational background of potential fellows. Should they be recent graduates or mid-career professionals?
- Possibility of developing a “MOOC” like offering for more widespread dissemination.
- Opportunities for VA – Academic joint ventures in the development of the program.