

THE RAPID PULSE

September/October/November 2009

Faces & Places

WELCOME

El Paso, TX:

Blanca Meza

Eloy, AZ:

Audrey Verge

Jena, LA:

Michelle Paul
Lana Hawkins

Miami, FL:

Quowanda Ford

Pearsall, TX:

Pamela Cook

San Diego, CA:

Sophia Hsu
Kimberly Starkey
Fortunato Macaranas

Special Ops:

William Futch

Stewart, GA:

Tereon Glover

Tacoma, WA:

Giles Durano

Taylor, TX:

Tara Daugereau

Willacy, TX:

Sudhir Perakathu
Maury Meredith

Washington, DC:

Michie Stradford

THE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By CAPT Marsha Davenport, Acting Director

Welcome to the September/October/November issue of *The Rapid Pulse*.

For the Division of Immigration Health Services (DIHS), this issue of *The Rapid Pulse* highlights and celebrates some of the changes for us as an organization. It also reminds us of the challenges that frequently accompany change.

One of the key changes for DIHS is related to the re-organization of the Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) Directorate within Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As you are aware, DIHS is a component of DRO. We are a component where our Director is at the equivalent level of an Assistant Director (AD) reporting to the Deputy Director for DRO. Within DIHS, we will continue our search for strong leadership as we move forward with recruiting a new Director.

Further, our DIHS Deputy Directors are on par with the DRO Deputy Assistant Directors or DADs. Since January 2009, DIHS leadership has been placed at these levels. So, these roles are not new. However, what is new under the current re-organization is that as a result of the

process that the DRO leadership undertook as they developed the organizational structure, and because of the wide-spread roll out of this structure, it is clear where DIHS sits within DRO. Our position at this level in DRO clearly reflects the importance of our contributions as the medical authority for healthcare for the detainees in ICE custody. It also represents a challenge and increased responsibility as leaders, clinicians and healthcare subject matter experts (SMEs). As an organization, I know that we welcome that challenge and stand at the ready.

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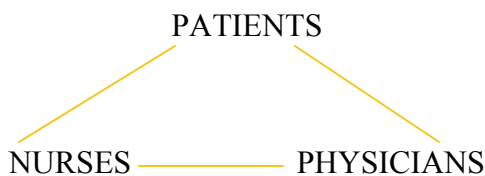
NURSING

By CDR Wanda W. Gonzalez

“Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles.” (International Council of Nurses)

Nurses are a group of healthcare professionals that have a body of competencies. As professionals we are very versatile and our practice field is extensive. As very well described by our N-PAC Logo we can practice in administration, education, investigation and of course care practice.

We are part of such indispensable healthcare triangle:



Patients, as recipients of the care, are the leaders with the decision making power; therefore, at the top, symbolizing the most important part of the triangle. At the bottom aligned: nurses and physicians. Nurses and physicians have the same importance in patient care. Nurses assist patients by providing holistic care, and the physician assists patients by providing scientific cures. Together we work as a team to maintain and improve the patient’s health.

In DIHS, nursing is the largest body of professionals, and many agree, the backbone of the organization. We care for detainees by providing daily direct care, medication administration and supply, sick call, physical exam, laboratory services, education, emergency care, and emotional support. In addition, nurses in the field are taking care of medical escorts, infection control, health and safety, JPATS, mass evacuations, mass influx, accreditations processes, visitors/ VIPs, and facility statistics. We also cover ancillary medical services such as medical records and pharmacy when necessary.

We are proud contributors in this organization!

DIHS Commissioned Corps Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following DIHS Commissioned Corps award recipients for a job very well done!

THE HAZARDOUS DUTY AWARD

CAPT Michael B. Anderson
 CAPT Yvonne L. Anthony
 CDR Timothy R. Bowman
 CDR David L. Ransom
 LCDR Roger D. Ballard
 LCDR Teresa Baptiste
 LCDR Sandra Duncan
 LCDR Aldrin J. Jaranilla
 LCDR Jesse M. Larson
 LCDR Jerald L. Mahlua-Heinert
 LCDR George H. Persac
 LCDR Gerarda W. Persad
 LCDR Rhonda L. Plake
 LCDR Flordeliza J. Villareal
 LCDR Julie Wood
 LT Amy J. Alvis
 LT Kelly A. Cricks
 LT Violet M. Hart
 LT Elizabeth A. Hoang
 LT Patrick N. Humphries
 LT James A. Lane
 LT Celia P. Nguyen
 LT Joseph M. Shurina II
 LT Amanda L. Stewart Wright
 LTJG Lorener E. Brayboy
 LT JG Julie M. Clement
 LTJG Thomas P. Gammarano
 LTJG Davide A. Kekeocha
 LTJG Naisha L. Lee
 LTJG Darin Smith

THE CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICE AWARD

CAPT Yvonne L. Anthony
 CAPT Orville D. Brown III
 CAPT Abelardo Montalvo

CDR Linda J. Belsito
 CDR Barbara A. Fuller
 CDR Cristino J. Gavarrete
 CDR Nancy E. Lawrence
 CDR Peggy J. Mathis
 CDR Antonio Palladino
 CDR Deborah L. Smith
 LCDR David J. Beckstead
 LCDR Alan R. Condon
 LCDR Jennifer R. Jones
 LCDR Carol A. McAlman
 LCDR Maria A. Morel
 LCDR Dale K. Thompson
 LCDR Vanetta J. Thompson
 LCDR Victoria L. Vigil
 LT Grafton G. Adams
 LT Mark D. Cruz
 LT Violet M. Hart
 LT Christian A. Meyer
 LT Tiffany M. Moore
 LT Mark A. Nienbuis
 LT Kelly A. Royce
 LT Tania D. Thorne
 LT Enrique Vega
 LTJG Leslin M. Coachman
 LTJG Evangelina Vasquez-Luevano

THE FIELD MEDICAL READINESS BADGE (GOLD)

CDR Antonio Palladino
 LCDR Carol A. McAlman
 LT Violet Hart
 LT Mark A. Nienbuis

THE FIELD MEDICAL READINESS BADGE (SILVER)

CDR Jamie Muniz
 LCDR David J. Beckstead
 LCDR Zita Y. Guerrero
 LT Grafton G. Adams
 LT Christian A. Meyer
 LT Kelly A. Royce
 LT Enrique Vega

DIHS Establishes New HQ Unit

By CDR Elizabeth Osborne

One of the challenges DIHS routinely faces is responding to the capacious volume of inquiries regarding the wide variety of services we provide on a daily basis to fulfill our mission. Historically as well as today, immigration is a complex issue and the provision of health care to our detainees is a topic that captured and maintained the public's interest.

In November 2008, the DIHS Taskings Unit was created to serve as the communications fulcrum for the division and provide timely, standardized replies with accurate and up to date information. The unit was modeled after a similar unit, DRO Taskings, in our parent organization Detention and Removal Operations. Through coordination with DRO Taskings and other respective ICE components, DIHS Taskings builds understanding and maintains support for the DIHS mission. The provenance of requests may be the U.S. Congress, the media, the White House, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) such as advocacy coalitions, community groups and human rights organizations.

Currently, CDR Elizabeth Osborne serves as the acting chief for the Unit and LCDR Christa Hrynshen-Trimmer heads the day to day operations of the unit as the assistant chief. The DIHS Taskings unit relies entirely on DIHS staff and senior leaders to provide the information to fulfill each tasking.

One of our goals is to create a searchable database from which to retrieve information to eventually ease the burden of redundant or similar taskings. To achieve this goal and also to increase the resources dedicated to the high priority nature of taskings, DIHS welcomed two new officers to the tasking unit in July. They are both not only new to DIHS but new to PHS as well. LT Daniel "Lieutenant Dan" Baker is a dietician who makes PHS his third uniformed service after serving in both the US Air Force and the Army, where he obtained experience

with readiness and fulfilling taskings for deployments. He describes his impressions of DIHS Taskings by saying, "This is my first job in PHS and I am enjoying the interaction with individuals from different entities and the opportunity to be exposed to so many facets of the DIHS and ICE missions. Whereas in my former position, I was deploying people and sending supplies out to accomplish the mission, now I am deploying information." LTJG Darielis "Dottie" Williams also has prior military service with the US Air Force. She is in the HSO category and contributes experience as a project and information manager as well as previous clinical experience. LTJG Williams also served at the Pentagon with the US Air Force Communications Agency and sums up her perception of the value of her new position, "The information is so diverse. It not only allows me to learn my particular role and responsibilities, but also exposes me to all the components of DIHS and so many other agencies. I had no idea how interrelated and complex detention health care could be."

Staff members throughout DIHS all play vital roles in the ultimate accomplishment of the mission and particularly through the efforts of those who provide and supervise care for our population on a daily basis, the DIHS Tasking Unit is able to communicate our spirit and accomplishments to the world.



Director's Perspective– From Front Page

Within DIHS, we have also made a few changes to meet our potentially expanded roles and responsibilities. We have aligned the support functions all under CAPT Jarres, as the Deputy for Administrative Services. Within his chain of command, we have established an Information and Technology Unit, and have renamed Mission Support as the Finance and Procurement Unit. We will post both of these positions on USAJOBS as general schedule (GS) positions. In addition, we have transferred the medical records program to our Field Operations Unit, under CAPT Anderson.

With respect to Clinical Services, we have re-established the Statistical Unit (STATs), with Dr. Wulu as the unit chief, under CAPT Anthony as the current Acting Deputy Director for Clinical Services. We have also expanded the number of managed care coordinators (MCCs) under CDR Nielsen-McArdle, as the unit chief, to better meet the needs for outside clinical services and case management of the detainees.

We are continuing to recruit staff both for Headquarters and the field sites. It is a slow process and it is just one of our many challenges. However, under CAPT Dandridge's leadership as the Acting Chief for Human Capital, we have already seen improvements in the organization and coordination of the program and increased hiring to fill our vacancies.

In closing, as this is my final column to you as the Acting Director for DIHS, I want to let you know how much I appreciate your dedication and hard work. I want to extend a personal "Thank you" for all that you do, each and every day to make sure that the medical services provided to detainees under our care is outstanding. I salute each of you as I say "Thank you for a job well-done." Farewell!

DIHS Headquarters Deputy Directors and Unit Chiefs**Deputy Director (Clinical Services)– CAPT Yvonne Anthony:**

Chief Medical Officer:
Dr. Olga Grajales

Chief, Compliance and Health Policy Unit:
CAPT Yvonne Anthony

Chief, Statistics Unit:
John Wulu

Managed Care Program Manager:
CDR Cynthia Nielsen-McArdle

Epidemiology Program Manager:
LCDR Jennifer Jones

Deputy Director (Administration)- CAPT Philip Jarres:

Chief, Taskings Unit:
CDR Elizabeth Osborne

Chief, Field Operations:
CAPT Michael Anderson

Chief– Resource Management:
CAPT Beverly Dandridge

Chief– Finance and Procurement Unit:
VACANT

Chief, Information Technology Unit:
VACANT