



THE RECORD

Interagency Institute for Federal Health Leaders

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Letter from the Director

As you may know, both Interagency Institutes programed for 2020 were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, for the spring and for the fall Institute, the participants from all five federal agencies had already been nominated, the program schedule planned, and most of the faculty committed prior to the cancellations. A copy of the memorandum from Dr. Richard Thomas, President, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, announcing cancellation of the 136th Interagency Institute programmed for September is included on page 4 of this newsletter.

The other final, fateful impact on the Institute is that USU has cancelled funding beyond September 2020. Mr. McCaffery, ASDHA, confirmed the decision to eliminate the Interagency Institute in correspondence to an Institute supporter on September 1st. Evidently, this was in response to DoD requirements to make major expenditure reductions. We have only been under the umbrella of the university since 2013 when I agreed to move the Institute to USU, following its long relationship with me and The George Washington University. I felt that for the long term USU would be an appropriate and stable academic home, however, the university selected the Institute as one of the programs not to be funded as I was told, "Last In, First Out."

With the many ongoing financial and organizational issues and further contemplation about when Janet and I should withdraw from our roles with the Institute, it was with mixed feelings that I resigned from my part-time position at USU with effect from August 16, 2020.

I have told President Thomas that I am available to consult with him about restarting the Institute if funding is guaranteed, but that depends on many and multiple factors beyond my control. He has been "a strong supporter of the value of the Institute and appreciates its remarkable history of over a half century of preparing officers for leadership roles in the MHS" and expressed his desire to reestablish The IAI perhaps as soon as spring or fall 2021. I believe the strengths of the Interagency Institute include sessions and group work that address:

- National and federal issues related to health and health care,
- Global issues impacting public health and our society, and
- Interagency networking, relationships and collaboration to increase communications, mutual respect and expansion of services across health care systems.

These are important topics for senior leaders to understand and consider in their current and future roles.

My main purpose in this newsletter is to let you know how much I appreciate your outstanding support of the Institute and your personal friendships. Thank you.

On reflection, it surprised me to realize that my relationship with you and many of our 'permanent faculty' goes back to 1984 when I was invited to take on the role of Director. There have been almost 4,000 alumni during these past 36 years. It is most impressive that they have maintained the strong and active alumni association that was founded in 1953.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished together. Over time, the Institute has received consistent plaudits from the participants and they often remark that it is the best professional development program they have attended in their career.

In closing, I want to emphasize that I could not have achieved any of the successes with the Institute without the outstanding support - academic, administrative and professional - from my wife, Janet. It has truly been an enjoyable and stimulating team effort.

(continued on page 3)





Letter from the President, FHCEIAA

Well, it's been a very interesting year and we have missed a couple of Interagency Institutes and participant and alumni dinners. These important learning opportunities and social events have persisted for decades and we have really missed not having either one.

The COVID-19 pandemic has however shown us that we can continue to learn, and in some cases innovate, in the most demanding and harsh medically challenging environments that we have seen in our lifetimes. Our alumni are truly leaders across the federal agencies and are deeply involved in all facets of the response to the pandemic. From the DoD, to the Veterans Affairs, to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to local and national government level offices, graduates of the Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives are working around the globe on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Southby's message about financial constraints and termination of the Interagency Institute in its traditional format was unexpected. I am certain that many members will want to follow up with him, President Thomas, and our Surgeons General regarding the value of the educational experience to us individually and as a group and how important we think the IAI experience is for future senior federal health leaders. Please think about how we may come together to influence the current leadership to continue the support for the IAI! If you have ideas, please let me know how if I or anyone else on the board can be of assistance. [See page 6 for names and email addresses]

American Hospital Association (AHA) Federal Health Care Executive Special Achievement Award: Congratulations to Jennifer Koget, a graduate of the 135th Interagency Institute, selected as the 2019 recipient! This annual award recognizes a federal career health care executive who has provided distinguished service through singularly significant leadership or innovative achievements that have contributed substantially to the mission of the federal health care system. Jennifer was nominated by Dr. Lucille Beck and selected from a field of highly accomplished colleagues. She serves as VA's National Program Manager Fisher House & Family Hospitality Program. Again, congratulations to Jennifer!

Electronic Resources: The FHCEIAA website has been revitalized. This allows us to project our purpose, needs, goals and objectives as well as post updates, maintain connections, collaborate and respond to one another much easier. You can locate us by name search or through our direct link: <http://www.fhceiaa.org/>.

Membership: Please consider becoming a member of the FHCEIAA if you have not already done so. This commitment assures the maintenance of essential connectivity and collaborative wisdom to maximize our resourcefulness and effectiveness. Additional noteworthy opportunities for members include receiving the newsletter and the ability for dependent children or grandchildren being able to apply for one of two \$1,500 FHCEIAA scholarships as well as members being able to apply for a \$2,000 professional development scholarship. Contact CAPT (ret) Gayle Dolecek at gjdolecek@verizon.net for further details.

Annual Business Meeting: Due to COVID-19 and the decision to hold the AMSUS Annual Meeting virtually, we will not have an annual breakfast meeting for the Alumni Association.

129th AMSUS Annual Meeting, 6—10 December: Through a virtual platform, attendees will experience engaging live and pre-recorded panels, live interaction for continuing education opportunities, pre-recorded breakout sessions with live Q&A, pre-recorded poster presentations, and a virtual exhibit hall. To participate, register at <https://www.amsus.org/events/annual-meeting-2/>.

Administrative Remarks: As FHCEIAA has transitioned to email notifications, please confirm that CAPT (ret) Dolecek's e-mail address is in your contacts list to assure receipt of alumni communications. It is also necessary to keep your personal email address up to date with him.

As always, we look to tap into the energy and enthusiasm of our highly respected alumni for fresh ideas on how to advance our organization. If you are interested in serving as a board member, kindly send an email to me at thad.sharp@outlook.com or to CAPT (ret) Dolecek.

It is an honor and I am humbled to serve as your president. Enjoy the upcoming fall and winter seasons and I look



forward to keeping in touch through email or the website. God bless, be well, and wishing you all the best!

Thad J. Sharp
President, FHCEIAA

(Letter from the Director continued from page1)

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Southby, PhD (Med), FFPH, FRSPH, FCHSM, FCLM (Hon)
Director (1984 – 2020)
Interagency Institute for Federal Healthcare Executives/Health Leaders
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This cartoon was presented to Dr. Richard Southby by LCol Andrew Currie on July 18, 2020. Perhaps three generations is a slight exaggeration!



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19 August 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR FACULTY AND ATTENDEES TO THE 136TH INTERAGENCY
INSTITUTE FOR FEDERAL HEALTH LEADERSSUBJECT: Cancellation of the 136th Interagency Institute for Federal Health Leaders

I want to thank Dr. Southby for sending this message to you on my behalf; I must cancel the 136th Institute because of the public health risks.

I am a strong supporter of the value of the Institute and appreciate its remarkable history of over a half century of preparing officers for leadership roles in the MHS. I also greatly appreciate those of you who planned to participate in this version during the second half of September, both students and faculty. I understand the commitment of the leadership and faculty to the Institute as demonstrated by their willingness to do everything they could to preserve its valuable interactions and new interagency contacts for students by in person participation. However, as valuable as those experiences are, we cannot take the chance of spreading the pandemic infection.

My preventive medicine briefing this week highlighted the dangers of in person educational efforts that become so real in universities across the nation – Florida, Ohio, and North Carolina just this week. All indications are others will reverse their plans. Interaction and discussion is a needed component of advanced education and we have always encouraged this mode of education, but the interaction is also what spreads this pandemic. Like many of you who planned to attend, I do not believe Google, Zoom, or any other electronic platform is a complete replacement for active seminar work between advanced students and experienced faculty. To make the electronic engagement as meaningful as it can be requires more time than remains before this Institute is scheduled to start.

I apologize for the inconvenience I am causing for many of you, to include changing orders, revised clinical schedules, preparation of new course material, and I am sure other factors. Like you, I hoped USU could do some in person, interactive education this fall. But the accumulating experience of prestigious universities around the country says it is just unwise.

Please contact Dr. Southby if you need further information or assistance with details.

Richard W. Thomas, MD, DDS, FACS
President



It may be necessary, for financial reasons, to distribute future newsletters by email. Therefore, current email addresses of all alumni are needed. Email addresses are needed for the following life members. Please submit to Gayle Dolecek, Treasurer, FHCEIAA, at gjdolecek@verizon.net.

Adamski	Joanne R.
Adkison	Jerry B.
Alexander	David G.
Allen	Gary W.
Amick	Robert M.
Anderson	Alfred S.
Angelo	Ralph R.
Arndt	Judith E.
Arthur	Donald C.
Ashbaugh	Richard R.
Bacaner	Tobias
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Baker	Theresa S.
Baldauf	G. W.
Baldwin	Jeffrey W.
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Bauer	Richard
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Goff	James A.
Goodman	Thaddious
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Greenhalgh	Walter M.
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Henrikson	Ronald A.
Holihan	Francis L.
Hopper	Richard
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Hutchison	Gordon L.
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Johnson	Sally C.
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Karrat	Victoria J.
Kaufman	Paul
Kavaler	Florence
Kavanagh	Timothy P.
Kelley	Patricia
Kepley	T. A.
Kerchief	Karl R.
Kleiman	Jacob M.

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Klotsko	John A.
Knight	Leslie A.
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Konchan	Carol L.
Labow	Joel C.
Lahman	Ellen R.
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Langely	Ann
Layland	David H.
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Swindall	Victor A.

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Taylor	Darryl L.
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With appreciation to
 LCol Andrew Currie, former
 Health Services Attaché,
 Canadian Defence Liaison Staff
 (Washington), Canadian Armed
 Forces & alumnus of the 132nd
 Interagency Institute.



A Book Review - *Taming Your Stupid Monster* by Barry Wolcott, M.D. *

Everyone makes decisions daily. Some are significant and impactful while others are inconsequential in the scheme of life. Many decisions are made thoughtfully in a deliberate manner while others are made in the spur of the moment while distracted and/or in the heat of the moment. The author intends to help the reader avoid making a potentially stupid decision that could have unintended serious consequences or embarrassment – professional and/or personal.

Barry Wolcott, M.D., shares personal experiences and professional understanding in this book. He presents a practical approach to making appropriate decisions and responses in a deliberate manner whatever the circumstance. One goal is to help the reader develop a skill set to recognize when a stupid decision is about to be made. In the beginning, he describes the “stupid monster” that lives within and then “butt bites” (unintended consequences) when a less-than-appropriate decision is made. He identifies ways for readers to recognize their physical responses as a “pre-stupid warning.” These are called tells or warning barks of the guard dog.

Certain personality traits and behaviors that effect the decision-making process are summarized along with traps that may disrupt the process. Then, techniques for an easy-to-use decision-making analysis are presented as guidelines to help avoid making potentially stupid decisions. Successful decision-making requires an on-going analysis of the quality of your decisions, over time, along with ongoing evidence-based actions to improve your process.

Dr. Wolcott cites many practical examples, case studies and exercises to facilitate better decisions. He discusses these from the viewpoint of making personal decisions and how to examine and react to the decisions of others.

Humorous, inciteful, and a good read for leaders at any level.

* Discussion with the author was scheduled as a session for the 136th Interagency Institute for Federal Health Leaders.

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INTERAGENCY INSTITUTE FOR FEDERAL HEALTH LEADERS

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