



**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
*National Joint Committee*

**Committee Members**

Patrick M. Devine, USPS  
Manager, Contract  
Administration (NPMHU) &  
Employee Workplace  
Programs

Debby P. Szeredy, APWU  
Executive Vice President

Manuel L. Peralta, Jr., NALC  
Director, Safety & Health

**Ad Hoc Member**

Dr. Deborah J. Atkins, USPS  
EAP Administrator

**Meeting Minutes**

June 29, 2021

Present: Debby Szeredy, Patrick Devine, Manuel Peralta, Neil Ryan, Robert Blum  
Mary Milner, Eric Leslie

This meeting was hosted by the NALC.

1) The month end report for May 2021 was reviewed and addressed. There was concern relating to the high Average Speed to Answer (ASA) rate (11 seconds), which was explained as an anomaly. Factors affecting this number were Robo Calls and restructuring. The MyStrength activity (on line therapy) reached an all time high of 792 new sessions. Eric demonstrated the link to MyStrength through the USPS portal (EAP4YOU.com). Web hits continue at over 25,000 per month.

Eric explained that the on line utilization indicates an increase in attention to addiction and relationship issues which are closely linked to the pandemic.

2) The NJC discussed our attendance of the re-start of the Anchorage District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting in May. The NJC agreed to provide a model (sample) of an agenda to assist the committee while the committee regroup and sets its course.

3) Eric shared that there are a few technical issues hampering the posting of DAC minutes. If problems are experienced, the minutes should be forwarded to Eric for posting.

4) The NJC agreed that any DAC, who is submitting any project for our review, should submit their project and the necessary information to the attention of Mary Milner, who will distribute to the NJC.

5) The NJC addressed the reorganization and restructuring of the USPS and the impact on the existing DACs. The USPS advises that the process is not yet complete and we will address the next phase once complete. The APWU and the NALC have expressed concerns over consolidating districts and ending the existence of a number of DACs throughout the country. We are in agreement that we do not agree what will happen next.

6) The NJC was updated on the counselor vacancies in the Philadelphia and Los Angeles JCEAPs, indicating that efforts to hire from within were unsuccessful and the vacancies will now be posted outside of the USPS.

7) Eric shared that New Directions is preparing for deployment of necessary resources as we enter the hurricane season.

8) The APWU expressed concern over the announcement of the Consolidations of 18 mail processing plants throughout the country and making sure that sufficient EAP resources are available to assist the employees who have been notified of this plan and be made aware of how stressful consolidation actions can be to employees and their families. The USPS indicated that EAP presence will be coordinated and notification will be given to EAP concerning these events.

9) The NJC scheduled our next meetings for July 20th and August 24, at 1pm.



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