Group Specialty Council Minutes  
April 25, 2022

Present: Noelle Lefforge, President; Vinny Dehili, Vice President; Katie White, Secretary; Misha Bogomaz, Treasurer; Lorraine Wodiska, AGPA Pres-Elect; Gary Burlingame, AGPA President; Darryl Pure, ABGP/ABPP President; Kendra Jackson, ASGW Representative; Farooq Mohyuddin, St. Elizabeth’s Representative; Nina Brown (past Council President); Molyn Leszcz

Excused: Farooq Mohyuddin, St. Elizabeth’s Representative; Amy Nitza, Div 49 President; Steve Van Wagoner, IBCGP Chair

Nina and Noelle began the meeting by sharing some exciting news: Their manuscript, Education and Training Guidelines for Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy was recently accepted by the journal of Training and Education in Professional Psychology. Noelle emphasized the manuscript’s importance for the Council’s efforts to provide doctoral programs with guidelines and language around which to design and advertise their group training programs.

Noelle reiterated the plan that was developed in the March meeting to obtain sustainable funding from supporting organizations (i.e., Division 49, AGPA, and ABGP) with prior commitment from DIV 49 to requested funds ($7325 annual contribution). ABGP President, Darryl Pure reported that the funding request ($3662.50 annually) brought to ABGP since our last meeting was approved in full. Darryl and Misha emphasized that when discussed at the last ABGP meeting, it was apparent that there was a great deal of support for the Council and its efforts amongst ABGP members.

The last step of the financial sustainability project will be to approach AGPA to discuss an annual contribution ($3662.50). The AGPA Presidential Trio (Lorraine, Gary, and Molyn) are tasked with bringing the request to AGPA between now and next meeting. They can utilize the Excel spreadsheet (which outlines past financial contributions and provides a basis for the requested annual contributions) and the proposal document (which provides a narrative explanation of the financial requests) to solicit the commitment.

Noelle brought up managing funds now that Division 49 and ABGP have approved their contributions. Misha agreed to reach out to Debra O’Connell (Division 49 Treasurer) to discuss utilizing Division 49’s accounting services to accept payment and hold the Council’s finances. Accounting will need to be sorted out so that the Council has independent authority over its balance which will be held in Division 49’s account/s.

A brief discussion of reaching out to training programs followed. Noelle emphasized that once the taxonomy is finalized, it will be important that the Council work directly with training programs on program development, so that they can accurately represent themselves as group specialty sites. The group discussed how to go about such efforts. The best first step may be to send Council representatives to the three main organizations of training directors. The representatives can present the training directors with information on the group specialty and introduce them to the tools available for program development. The database of training programs will also be utilized to identify programs that appear to currently offer specialty
training for outreach. Noelle emphasized that it will be important to coordinate such efforts with the Council’s supporting organizations.

The meeting ended with a review and approval of the minutes from the March meeting. Katie agreed to send the final meetings to Misha who will upload them to the Council’s website. The next meeting will be on Monday, May 30th, 2022 at 1 PM EST. The Council will continue to meet on the last Monday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie White, PsyD
Secretary