

Minutes from August 9, 2014 meeting of Group Specialty Council

Present: Nina Brown, Loretta Braxton, Sally Barlow, Cheri Marmarosh, Martyn Whittingham, Kathy Ulman, Misha Bogamaz, Eleanor Counselman.

1. Nina Brown welcomed all attendees and outlined our shared goal of succeeding in getting group psychology named as an APA specialty. She outlined the purpose of the meeting: to form a synarchy and begin the process for successful application.
2. Sally Barlow gave a summary of the history of previous efforts that have failed. The group applauded Sally's multiple solo efforts. Sally emphasized that there is a growing need for specialty designation.
3. The need to delineate educational and research training requirements for group was discussed. The current lack of courses on group at the doctoral level is concerning. How do we promote group as a specialty in light of little available training? Should we designate the specialty as postdoc only? Cheri agreed to chair a subcommittee to develop group training guidelines for the application and will develop a draft to present to this committee.
4. We need to increase membership of this group. Possibilities include: Washington School of Psychiatry, affiliates of the A.K. Rice society, AGPA affiliate societies, APA Divisions 17 and 39, possibly some of the PsyD programs (Schools of Professional Psychology). ASGW was mentioned and seems important to include. Josh Gross and Andy Eig are interested but were not able to be at this meeting.
5. Nina agreed to serve as President for two years. Eleanor agreed to serve as Secretary. A synarchy is required to have one face to face meeting per year, which can occur during AGPA (Thursday a.m. breakfast was suggested.) Nina will set up a conference call in the meantime. Annual dues of \$100 were suggested.
6. Nina reported on her conversation with Kevin Arnold (who is chair of the Council of Specialties and on the CRSPPP board). He said three things are very important for a successful application: that references be current, to show how we are distinct in terms of theory and practice from other specialties, and to show a "competency matrix" (i.e. what competencies would we expect from training, and how would they overlap?)
7. For other areas of the application, Martyn wondered if we could use some of the SAMHSA evidence-based guidelines, found on the SAMHSA/NREPP website.
8. Nina will arrange our next meeting (conference call). The meeting adjourned to lunch with Dave Corey of the recently approved Police and Public Safety Psychology Specialty who gave us a very helpful hour of consultation.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor F. Counselman, Ed.D., ABPP, CGP, LFAGPA
Secretary