Group Specialty Council Minutes February 28, 2019
Held during AGPA

Present: Nina Brown, President; Eleanor Counselman, Secretary; Sally Barlow, Misha Bogomaz, Noelle LaForge, Tony Sheppard, Martyn Whittingham, Cheri Marmarosh, Molyn Leszcz.

1. Nina Brown called the meeting to order, noting the success of achieving specialty status for group therapy. A re-specialization petition will need to be filed in six years and it is not too early to think about steps for that process. She noted that the current Secretary had asked to step down (after five years of service), and Misha agreed to become Secretary. Noelle agreed to chair the next petition effort.

2. The Clinical Guidelines need to be completed. We have a draft and Eleanor agreed to work with Nina on them.

3. Nina clarified that the membership of the GSC is composed of representatives from organizations that are interested in and offer groups. Claudia Arlo had been invited to this meeting, as representative of an agency that does group therapy, but she was unable to attend. Greg Crosby has agreed to join as well but was also not able to attend.

4. We discussed the need to find more members to represent other organizations. Nursing, pastoral counseling were discussed. The lack of response from ASGW has been frustrating.

5. We need to get the word out that group is a specialty. CRSPPP wants us to publish our practice guidelines. Martyn thought Group Dynamics would be likely to publish them.

6. What are the implications of group being a specialty? Can Division 49 offer to train accreditation site visitors in what to look for regarding group therapy training? Training directors now know what they have to do to have group as a specialty offering. The group felt that post-licensure training is the best option for specialty promotion.

7. The meeting then turned to discussion of how to get training programs to offer group. It was agreed that consumer demand (utilization) could be a big factor. After graduation, students often go to settings where they are expected to lead groups, e.g. the V.A.

8. Can AGPA put something conspicuous on its website about the meaning of specialty approval?
9. Martyn reported on a possible trend towards master level psychologists being license eligible and that group could even become a foundational skill for that level.

10. Eleanor will provide Martyn and Cheri with a document that AGPA has created about the effectiveness of group and they will work on getting that publicized as part of specialty promotion.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor F. Counselman, Ed.D.,ABPP, CGP, LFAGPA
Group Specialty Council Secretary