

Group Specialty Council Minutes, January 2025 Meeting

Date: 1/27/2025

Present:

Leann Diederich (Secretary), Noelle Lefforge (President); Leo Leiderman (AGPA President-Elect), Darryl Pure (Chair, Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health), Michele Ribeiro (Div 49 President-Elect), Steve Van Wagoner (IBCGP Chair)

Absent:

Le'Marus Alston (Council Membership Organization from St. Elizabeth's Hospital), Misha Bogomaz (Treasurer; ABGP/ABPP President), Joe Miles (Division 49 President), Vinny Dehili (Vice President), Kendra Jackson (ASGW Representative), Nina Brown (Past-President), Gary Burlingame (AGPA Past-President),

Agenda/Meeting Minutes Approval: We will approve the October and January minutes at our next meeting.

Agenda Items

Group as a Specialty Petition

1. Dr. Lefforge got the petition submitted. The committee appreciated her dedication and work.
2. The Specialty Council needs to get individuals and organizations to walk through commenting on the petition. The comments in particular need to come from the respective organizations that we all represent. We noted that organizational comments would be most helpful and other psychologists are helpful. If non-psychologists comment, it should speak to the “public good” that it serves. The petition makes the case that competent group training is essential for the provision of group services.
3. The petition is open for comments now, please go to [APA's public comment link](#). If you are an APA member, you can log-in, and see what's available for open comments. If you want to see what other comments are posted, you can click on “view all”, a good example is currently in “David Cox, on behalf of American Board of Professional Psychology”. The comments don't need to be elaborate. If you are making general comments, don't list a specific section, just make a “general comment”. Dr. Lefforge walked the committee through how we can make comments.
4. Please note that the portal closes on March 9, 2025. Note that we can't change the petition, so this is a bit of a different type of public comment than we might be used to in other situations. We'll be able to write a response to the public comment, but we can't change what has been written.

CUDCP, Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (“CUDCP”)

1. Dr. Lefforge was approached to present our training guidelines at their annual meeting and Dr. Lefforge submitted a poster for them, which summarized our Education and Training Guidelines at their recent meeting.
2. In the future, we'll be working to distribute our guidelines to make leadership of training programs aware that we exist.
3. We'll need to coordinate with our organizations to better educate training programs. We'll be moving into this later in the year.

Leadership

1. Dr. Dehili recognized that he hasn't been active as Vice-President and this doesn't align with his interests and areas of contribution. He's stepping out of that Vice President role, effective this year.
2. Dr. Lefforge noted she wouldn't be doing the writing for the next petition. The person should ideally be an academic writing, as well as with experience with APA accreditation. Potentials could be Dr. Joe Miles and Dr. Jill Paquin or a collaboration between them. We may need to consider an incentive for the work of writing of the petition, such as a stipend for writing the petition.
3. Dr. Leiderman noted a consideration of a write-up for recognition of Dr. Lefforge to Dr. Tony Sheppard as Editor of The Group Circle, and Dr. Treadwell will also publish a piece in The Group Psychologist, Division 49's Newsletter as well. There may be other avenues that we'll take to publish articles or announcements to promote awareness of our work.
4. We'll add Lisa Stern, President of ABGP, to the invitations for future meetings.

Action Items:

1. None.

Next Meeting: March 24, 2025, 1 pm Eastern

We'll continue meeting the 4th Monday of the month, with an exception for February, May, July, and December. Dr. Diederich will email out about an in-formal celebratory gathering at AGPA for those who are able to attend that in-person.

Next Meeting: March 24, 2025

LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81953133874?pwd=Q3ZVbGSnwSolqaq2dzlKNYtsy4b4KL.1>

Meeting ID: 819 5313 3874

Passcode: 431551

Meeting ID: 819 5313 3874

Submitted By:

Leann T. Diederich, PhD (Secretary)