Minutes from Group Specialty Council Meeting
July 26, 2021

Present: Misha Bogomaz (GPGPSC Treasurer), Nina Brown (GPGPSC Past-President), Gary Burlingame (AGPA President-Elect), Noelle Lefforge (GPGPSC President), Molyn Leszcz (AGPA President), Farooq Mohyuddin (St. Elizabeth’s), Amy Nitza (APA Div 49 President-Elect), Ana Puig (ASGW) Darryl Pure (ABGP President),

Excused: Eleanor Counselman (GPGPSC Secretary), Tony Sheppard (AGPA IBCGP Chair)

The agenda for the meeting were approved. April and July meeting minutes will be distributed and approved at the next meeting. No meetings were held in May or June.

Agenda Items:

1. Representative to Council of Specialties (CoS) - we are greatly indebted to Sally Barlow for her years of service to the specialty and ongoing representation on the Council of Specialties. I’ve been in communication with Sally about transitioning our representative (appointed by us). It would be great to have a few potential candidates. Ideally, our representative would attend Specialty Council meetings regularly and be able to navigate the bureaucracy that is APA.

2. Our own ongoing developing organizational structure - as Div 49 in particular sorts out its affiliation with the Specialty Council, we should update our current membership roster and clearly articulate our vision for the Specialty Council’s organizational structure. Until we have a solid understanding of this, it is difficult to continue executing the next steps of our strategic plan.

3. Updates on dissemination of the specialty - lots of reporting to do here of good news!

4. Honoring the retirement of Marsha Block, AGPA CEO.

Discussion

1. Discussed the role of CoS and the GPGPSC’s duty to appoint a representative (per our bylaws).
   1. Established qualities of an ideal candidate for the position:
      1. Organized and detail oriented
2. Able to navigate bureaucracy and knowledgeable about APA
   Commission on Accreditation, and GPGPSC.
3. Able to function as an effective liaison between CoS, CoA, and GPGPSC.
2. Ability to attend CoS meetings twice per year, follow CoA activities, and attend monthly GPGPSC meetings.
3. Began generating list of candidates who will be reached out to regarding interest.
   1. Stephanie McLaughlin
   2. Sean Woodland
   3. Martyn Whittingham
   4. Jen Martin
4. GPGPSC members can email President with additional names. Once we have willing nominees, the decision will be brought back to GPGPSC for a vote to appoint.
2. Discussed the current organizational structure of GPGPSC. Click HERE for bylaws. During this robust discussion we reviewed some history of the GPGPSC: APA Division 49 created an ad hoc committee to establish the specialty council. However, the GPGPSC has its own bylaws and governance. Once this body has been established, APA Div 49 has sent representatives. However, the DIV49 Board of Directors does not have oversight of GPGPSC, in contrast to its other committees. Therefore, there is some lack of clarity in the current organizational structure that needs to be clarified. It has been noted that for the petition resubmission to be successful, ties to DIV 49 will be apparent.

In further articulated the need for clarification of organizational structure, alarm was raised that while the mission of GPGPSC is vital, it currently has no stable financing. While GPGPSC has historically received funding from AGPA, DIV49, and possibly others, it has had to be requested as needed and is at the whim of what these organizations want to contribute. We highlighted the need for increased financial stability and access to financial resources when we need them. We also articulated the value that could come of increased infrastructure and formalization of the agreements between GPGPSC and related organizations. Various ideas were posed such as membership structure/dues, memorandums of understanding, etc.

There was general support for establishing a GPGPSC budget after researching other specialty councils and our own historic costs so that we know what we need financially. There was also support for establishing a formal understanding of GPGPSCs relationship with other organizations.

3. Dissemination Updates. Reported on dissemination of GPGP specialty, including:
   1. Article in the special issue of the American Journal of Psychotherapy
   2. Submission of the GPGP Training Guidelines to the journal, Training & Education in Professional Psychology. This was coordinated with
Group Dynamics and there is a need for another GPGP Training Guidelines article that summarizes the research/science that underlies each guideline.

3. 2 publications in the *The Group Psychologist* (APA DIV49 newsletter)

4. Discussed the need for education group people about the specialty and generated ideas:
   1. *Group Circle*
   2. *Group Connections*

4. Discussed the need for honoring Marsha Block’s involvement with establishing GPGP as a specialty. Agreed GPGP should send along these sentiments. Many shared personal appreciation for her work.

**Action Items:**

1. GPGPSC to research financial structure of other specialty councils and consolidate our history of finances.
2. GPGPSC to continue discussion of how to formalize agreements with other organizations, including articulating resource exchange.
3. Submit specialty publication in *Group Circle* and/or *Group Connections*.
4. Send Marsha Block a retirement ecard from GPGPSC to acknowledge her immense contributions to GPGP specialty establishment.

**Upcoming Agenda Items:**

- We need a Vice President to replace Noelle Lefforge who has stepped into the President role.

**Next Meeting:**

Monday, August 30 at 1pm Eastern Time (and every last Monday of the month)

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83463837955?pwd=U09mQ1pSajdEQ09oQTDdXN29lVkJpiQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83463837955?pwd=U09mQ1pSajdEQ09oQTDdXN29lVkJpiQT09)

Meeting ID: 834 6383 7955  
Passcode: 877962

Respectfully submitted,  
Noelle L. Lefforge, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP  
President