

## **Group Specialty Council Call July 27, 2015**

Present: Nina Brown (President), Tony Sheppard, Joel Frost, Les Greene, Marsha Block, Robert Gleave, and Eleanor Counselman (Secretary)

1. Nina updated the group: she requested a meeting with either the Director or Assistant Director of the APA Practice Directorate but neither was available and did not offer another option. She is aware that they are very preoccupied with the current APA scandal and coming convention. It was decided that she will try again after the convention.
2. She also had a quick consult with a former CRSPPP member who thought we were applying for proficiency. Nina wonders if this is the CRSPPP mindset. This person said that if we did not have an existing post-licensure program, that was of great concern. She also felt that CRSPPP wanted more information than we provided.
3. Dennis Kivlighan, current President of Division 49, says that Division 49 will help fund the writing of the petition if a writer is hired.
4. Marsha asked if the programs have to be APA-accredited. Nina said that while that is helpful, it is not required. It does have to be a Psychology program, however, not an interdisciplinary one. Marsha also asked if an international program could count. Nina will find that out.
5. There was an important discussion about the value of assessing the state of programs for group therapy training in all disciplines, not just Psychology. It was suggested that the Certification Board Practice Development Committee take responsibility for developing a survey about current programs in the field. This will be raised in the coming Certification board call.  
  
The goals of the survey would be to see if we can find a program or two out there that could be used in the petition, to learn who are resources for group therapy training, and to learn why there are not more group programs. Les noted that the mental health field is now more about content than about form or method.
6. Robert reported that he was surprised by how little interest there was in developing Practice Guidelines within Division 49. He has two people definitely committed to helping develop them and is waiting to hear from more.
7. Nina has two possible leads on petition writers but nobody definite. Marsha suggested putting out an RFP similar to one used for the curriculum manuals. She will send Nina a template of that RFP.
8. Eleanor wondered about approaching Stephen Rosenthal, the chair of the CRSPPP committee that reviewed our petition to get clarification about some of the points. Nina said that her understanding is that the committee members are not allowed to talk to us and that it makes more sense to talk to Practice Directorate since they oversee CRSPPP.
9. There will be a panel on Specialization in Psychology at APA, and Robert will make every effort to attend. We can also get the audio recording.

10. Action items: Division 49 will develop guidelines, the Practice Development Committee will proceed with developing a survey, we will all keep looking for a qualified writer, Nina will find out if programs must be American or can be international to “count,” and Nina will try again to talk to the Practice Directorate after the convention.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary