

## **Minutes of Group Specialty Council Call Monday, June 15, 2015**

Present: Nina Brown (Chair), Misha Bogomaz, Martyn Whittingham, Les Greene, Eleanor Counselman, and Marsha Block.

1. The purpose of the call was to discuss next steps in light of the rejection of the Group Specialty petition by CRSPPP. Marsha Block, CEO of AGPA, and Les Greene, President of AGPA, were invited to attend the meeting.
2. A number of issues raised in the rejection letter were noted and discussed with special focus on the lack of Practice Guidelines specific to this organization and the lack of clear Education and Training guidelines. Nina is working with Division 49 to develop these, and Marsha said it is likely that AGPA's existing materials could be used (with permission) as template.

The rejection letter also cited the lack of courses on the pre-licensure level and this was hard to understand since we had applied at the post-licensure level.

Another issue to address is how to evaluate competency in group therapy.

3. The group noted the problem with trying to define group as a distinct specialty because "group is everywhere."
4. The rejection letter indicated we could not submit until May 2016, which would give a decision in 2017. Although this differs from what is stated on the website, it was decided to submit by December 2016 (the website submission date and the date verified via e-mail by the Associate Director of the Directorate that oversees CRSPPP). This is a more realistic time frame and will give us time to address the issues more thoroughly. A goal of getting Practice Guidelines and Educational and Training Standards written by December 1, 2015 was seen as reasonable and agreed on.
5. The possibility of obtaining more help with the next petition was raised. Nina noted that Dr. Antoinette Minniti is the CRSPPP liaison and will answer specific questions but does not consult beyond that. The idea of hiring someone to write the final version of the petition was raised; Nina said she thought Division 49 could help, and Marsha said it would be possible to approach the Group Foundation for Mental Health for assistance as well.
6. ASGW's absence in the effort is puzzling. They have not so far responded to outreach efforts from us. Martyn is friends with Amy Mishke, the newly elected president of ASGW and current Treasurer of The Society of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy – APA Division 49) and will discuss with her whether ASGW would like to join the Group Specialty Council.
7. It was decided that the next step should be a conference call with leadership of various constituencies that will be involved in continuing work on the petition: Division 49, AGPA, ABPP, and IBCGP. Eleanor agreed to coordinate a call with Nina Brown, Les Greene, Marsha Block, Tony Sheppard, Joel Frost, and Robert Gleave.

8. Nina will talk to the other APA groups that got rejected and subsequently re-approved.

9. Going forward, Barry Helfmann may also be able to help since he has been connected with APA as well as AGPA.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Counselman, Ed.D., CGP, LFAGPA

Secretary