

Group Specialty Council Minutes, November 2025 Meeting

Date: 11/24/2025

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), Misha Bogomaz (Treasurer; ABGP/ABPP Past-President),

Absent: Le'Marus Alston (Council Membership Organization from St. Elizabeth's Hospital), Lisa Stern (ABGP President), Joe Miles (Division 49 President), Kendra Jackson (ASGW Representative), Nina Brown (Past-President), Gary Burlingame (AGPA Past-President)

Agenda:

1. Minutes from September 2025 and June 2025 were approved.
2. **Report from President:** Dr. Lefforge attended the in-person Council of Specialties meeting a week ago. No further insight into CRISPP's stance on the current status of applications was offered at the meeting. Dr. Lefforge continues to advocate for an interorganizational meeting (with ABPP, Council of Specialties, CRSPPP, and APA's Council of Accreditation) to have a unifying framework for how specialties work in today's modern age.
 - a. Dr. Lefforge will submit the expense report to Dr. Bogomaz for reimbursement for the in-person meeting.
3. **Petition:** We have three options for how we respond to the public comments for our petition:
 - a. Leave the petition how it is
 - b. Write a letter in response to the public comments and commit to our intention in our future work in incorporation of those and keep the petition the same. (These materials would go out to Council when they review them.)
 - c. Update the petition to include name changes to population titles reflected on the public comments.
 - i. Dr. Ribeiro moved to recommend that we leave the petition as it is, but write a letter in response to the public comments (*2nd option above*) stating that we would consider their recommendations in the future and acknowledge the public comment. This was approved.
 - ii. **Action Item:** Dr. Lefforge will write a response letter and send it to the Council for review so we can submit it before the end of the year.
4. **Voting Members:** We clarified that the voting members to achieve quorum come from:
 - a. Division 49: 2 members, AGPA: 2 members, ABGP: 2 members, ASGW: 1 member, Executive Board 4 members (with one vacancy at VP), so 11 become to 10 people, so 6 of those members need to be present for quorum. We noted that this should be updated in the bylaws.
5. **Council Membership:**

- a. Dr. Ribeiro shared that she is working within Division 49 leadership, in the position of Division 49's Domain Representative for Practice would be to fill the role of the Vice-Presidency. We noted that APA's Research Domain position would also be one of the co-authors of our next petition. Our intention is that the President and Vice-President will be co-authors as well.
- b. We noted that our by-laws are in need of updating, which would help us distinguish voting members, association members and their contributions. It was noted that we do not have BIPOC members nor Early Career/Student members. It was noted that this is a heavy bureaucratic lift, and it might not be in the best interests of a limited volunteer pool, that this request be written into official membership. The group affirmed the importance of equity and representation and shared some history from their reflective groups what membership practices they have implemented.
- c. We may need to consider outreach to our member organizations and see if there are additional ways that that we can serve our membership.
- d. Dr. Ribeiro noted that within APA Division 49, when members are on the slate, but not elected for positions that may be an opportunity to engage them. We noted that we would welcome guests to this meeting and noted we do not want to marginalize members by bringing them in but not making them a voting member. We would like to be able to offer a new guest a mentor. There may be a consideration of creating member-at-large positions. This could include coordination with our membership organizations (and other group related organizations), marketing, and training/educating others around specialty considerations. If we proceed with this, we'd like to be able to specify our one-year goals, three-year goals, and link the tasks that we'd be assigning them. This could tie into our strategic plan initiatives, that we haven't been able to take action on. Potential members at large topics: communication and marketing, orientation and mentoring. It was noted that there may be a mentoring program being revealed at a member organization.
- e. Next meeting we'll continue this discussion and we encourage members to review our strategic plan and by-laws.

January 26th, 1 pm Eastern Next Meeting

Leann Diederich, PhD (she/her) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2026 Group Specialty Council Meetings

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85185986524?pwd=XmQdfESfp0ET4JctIbyaZV1wZQnLUU.1>

Submitted By:

Leann T. Diederich, PhD (Secretary)

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