Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology

Virtual Annual Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2020

Executive Session

1. Julia Phillips, Secretary, completed the roll call.
   1. Present: Karen Farrell, President/Clinical Psychology; Richard J. Seime, Past President; Victor Molinari, Treasurer/Geropsychology; Julia Phillips, Secretary/Counseling Psychology; Michael Roberts, Clinical Child Psychology; Lloyd Berg, Clinical Health Psychology; Robin C. Hilsabeck, Clinical Neuropsychology; Lori Hauser, Forensic Psychology; Jennifer C. Kelly, Police & Public Safety Psychology; John M. Watkins, Psychoanalysis; Michele J. Rusin, Rehabilitation Psychology; Carlen Henington, School Psychology; Shirley M. Glynn, Serious Mental Illness Psychology; Don Townsend, Sleep Psychology. Toni Minniti, APA Education Directorate. Danielle Rynczak, (guest Forensic Psychology);
   2. Absent: Sally Barlow, Vice President/Group & Group Psychotherapy; Linda Carter Sobell, Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology (joined at the end of the meeting); Caroline S. Clauss-Ehlers, Couple and Family Psychology.
2. Elections – President-Elect and Treasurer
   1. Motion made by Rick Seime to elect Robin Hilsabeck as President-Elect and Victor Molinari as Treasurer by general consent.
   2. There were no objections, motion passed.
   3. Robin Hilsabeck introduced herself. She works at UT-Austin Medical School and is involved with practice, research, and clinical neuropsychology training. She wrote a book on maintaining one’s sanity while pursuing board certification in clinical neuropsychology. Victor Molinari introduced himself as a professor in the School of Aging Studies at University of South Florida in Tampa. With these elections, we are moving into our new executive council roles/sequences as per the recent bylaws’ changes.
3. Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2020
   1. Michele Rusin noted three typos in #7 of minutes, She sent edits to Secretary.
   2. Carlen Henington made motion to approve minutes, as amended.
   3. Minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Bylaws Vote
   1. We made small edits to bylaws, including fixing typos and grammatical error, and updating CRSSPP’s name and acronym.
   2. Rick Seime moved to approve the bylaws as amended.
   3. Bylaws were approved unanimously.

Open Session:

1. Introduction of guests and liaisons.
   1. Present: Toni Minniti, APA Education Directorate; David Cox, ABPP; Cathi Grus, Chief Education Officer interim as APA APAGS/CECP liaison; Alex Siegel, ASPPB; Ron Rozensky, presenter to COSPP.
   2. Absent: Linda Berg Cross, CRSSPP liaison; Matt Zimmerman, APPIC liaison.
2. President’s Remarks and Welcome – Karen Farrell welcomed attendees and shared her appreciation of Toni Minniti for her work in conjunction with COSPP. She also thanked attendees for sharing their time at this virtual meeting. She acknowledged the challenge of these times with the COVID-19 pandemic, the presidential election, and the racial reckoning in the country. She also shared her gratitude for the executive council, including Rick Seime, Victor Molinari, Julia Phillips, and especially, outgoing VP Sally Barlow, and welcomed Robin Hilsabeck as the new President-Elect. Finally, she shared gratitude to Ron Rozensky for doing a special presentation today and David Cox and all of those involved in the work on the Summit 4.0 Outreach and Communications Task Force.
3. COSPP members and liaisons introduced themselves and offered highlights of annual reports to the group.
   * 1. Clinical Psychology – Specialty Council focused on the racial unrest and managing pandemic issues, especially in training. ABCP is also making a drive toward integrating diversity into the board certification process and toward increasing diversity in the Board members themselves.
     2. Rehabilitation Psychology – Specialty Council worked on identifying funding sources for their work. Midyear meeting will be held virtually. ABRP Board conducted exams virtually.
     3. Counseling Psychology – Specialty Council worked on CRSSPP petition that will be submitted soon. The focus on the Specialty Council was on liberation psychology, consistent with the presidential initiative of Division 17 President, Anneliese Singh.
     4. Geropsychology – Specialty Council is supportive of the work of The Committee on Aging on its revision of the roadmaps for careers in geropsychology and its resolution on ageism. Organizations within the Geropsychology Specialty Council (The Society of Clinical Geropsychology and ABGERO) have reviewed and commented on CRSPPP’s revision of geropsychology postdoctoral competencies.
     5. Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology – received their 7-year CRSSP renewal. Specialty Council worked on training guidelines and recommendation across graduate, internship, and postdoctoral levels. Input from Child and Adolescent specialty council members was not sought for recent APA workforce analysis. Cathi Grus shared that there was an umbrella organization that did a multidisciplinary survey, funded by HRSA, for which APA provided the data for psychologists. She will talk with Center for Workforce Studies to collaborate with stakeholders for future surveys.
     6. Police and Public Safety Psychology – Specialty received 7-year CRSSPP renewal. Specialty Council has been working on developing videoconferencing webinars to facilitate training and board certification.
     7. School Psychology – received 7 year renewal from CRSSPP. Spent last meeting working on their response. Every ten years a futures conference is held in school psychology and the Specialty Council is working on the next conference which will be focused on social justice. Specialty Council celebrated Frank Worrell’s election as APA President-Elect, the first school psychologist to be elected.
     8. Clinical Neuropsychology – Specialty had its annual meeting and then the pandemic hit. One member of the Specialty Council, the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Neuropsychology, passed 100 members participating in the postdoctoral match. With COVID-19, the Specialty Council also did work to figure out how to do neuropsychology via telehealth. The Specialty Council is updating a guideline focusing on telehealth and multicultural issues.
     9. Forensic Psychology – the Education and Training arm of the Specialty Council had a conference planned that had to be rescheduled for next September. ABFP is working on validation evidence for the Forensic Psychology exam. They also did oral exams virtually. The Specialty Council focused on the effects of the pandemic on forensic psychology and they also made comments on postdoctoral competencies.
     10. Psychoanalysis – Specialty Council focused on diversity and increasing the number of graduate students and postdocs moving into the specialty. Division 39 is very diverse, but the specialty is less so. Thus, to diversify the specialty, the SC bylaws were changed, bringing immediate diversity to the SC, which highlighted barriers to becoming board certified. As a result, SC is working on decreasing those barriers with respect to training, which will open up board certification to a broader, more diverse group of people. Education and Training developed revised competencies, one set of which was published in the D39 journal.
     11. SMI – Specialty Council is waiting for approval of postdoc competencies by APA-CoA and is meanwhile working on building infrastructure.
     12. Clinical Health Psychology – Specialty Council has been very active this year with two virtual meetings and one to be held next week. Bylaws were updated to add an ECP and a Treasurer. Dues have also been realigned to fund the Specialty Council President and possibly the ECP to attend COSPP annual meeting in DC. The Specialty Council provided two public comments to CoA for postdoctoral competencies. ABCHP transitioned to virtual board exams during COVID-19 pandemic. Two webinars were provided to help people prepare for the board certification process.
     13. Sleep Psychology – Membership has grown for fourth year. Conference planning was disrupted by the pandemic but they held the conference virtually. The Specialty Council engaged in advocacy efforts to abolish daylight savings time. They plan to work on white papers on behavioral sleep medicine in the coming year. Their online CME has been doing very well with the pandemic.
     14. David Cox – ABPP has been busy moving to virtual exams. BoT meeting will be held in two weeks and they will discuss whether to continue allowing virtual exams. There are many benefits to doing so, e.g., accessibility of board certification is increased, thereby increasing diversity of ABPP, and the learning curve on implementation has been reached. ABPP was again recognized by CRSSPP as a credentialing organization. A policy change ensued whereby ABPP will not question entities approaching them for affiliation with ABPP as a specialty if they are already recognized by CRSSPP. In addition to providing ABPP the CRSSPP petition, future applications to ABPP will focus on viability of the specialty/subspecialty. Five new groups have approached ABPP for affiliation i.e., SMI, Addiction, Clinical Psychopharmacology, Military Psychology (ABPP suggested they go to CRSSPP first), and the subspecialty of Forensic Neuropsychology. David recognized the team effort across organizations with the Summit 4.0 Task Force on Outreach and Communications, as did Karen Farrell.
     15. Alex Siegel – ASPPB. PSYPACT has 15 states with another two potential jurisdictions and 2300 psychologists from those 15 jurisdictions have signed up for PSYPACT, a number that exceeded expectations. A task force with relevant stakeholders was convened to focus on unintended consequences of the pandemic and their implications for education, training, and licensing. A form was produced to help training communities and licensing boards to supplement licensure applications. The form addresses how training was adapted during the pandemic to ensure competencies were reached. The EPPP2 is operational and 8 jurisdictions have signed on to use it. ASPPB has also continued work on IPCP – International Project on Competence in Psychology to identify international competencies.
     16. Cathi Grus – APAGS/ECP. Shared appreciation to ASPPB for the collaborative way they worked on the pandemic forms. Rapid shift to virtual convention for APA made interactive nature of ECP programming more difficult for APA this year. They had interest in developing a structured pipeline to ascend into leadership positions and piloted a succesful program for leadership development with a group of 14 ECP/graduate students, a program which will be continued.
4. Victor Molinari gave the Treasurer’s Report – COSPP has approximately $19,600 in the bank and no outstanding debts. Only two specialty councils are in arrears. SMI will follow up with APA on their payment. Thus we can fund additional initiatives as we move forward.
5. Introduction and Historical Context for E&T Taxonomy – Rick Seime gave brief presentation on the historical context for E&T Taxonomy. Effort to get all specialty councils to develop their taxonomies began around 2012. We’ve had four interorganizational summits, out of which one goal was to promote use of E&T Taxonomies. Letter to CoA to use the E&T Taxonomies was sent with many signatories this past year. CoA was not willing to pursue this recommendation further for a number of reasons. The Taxonomy ensures truth in advertising for programs. Because there is spotty adoption of the E&T Taxonomy, it is important for specialty councils to take ownership of the taxonomies they developed. CoS also needs to identify what its role is with respect to these taxonomies, e.g., archiving, evaluating, quality assurance, or all of the preceding. The “ask” is that specialty representatives truly understand the E&T Taxonomies and promote their use.
6. CRSSPP Update on E&T Taxonomy – Toni Minniti shared information about CRSSPP and recent updates to documents related to their mission, e.g., updating E&T Taxonomy Guidelines, removal of proficiency recognition and addition of subspecialty recognition. CRSSPP wants to collaborate, lead, and engage with stakeholders related to specialty, subspecialty, and taxonomies. They actively worked on the Summit 4.0 Outreach and Communication Task Force (Toni Minniti, David Cox, Scott Sperling, John Piacentini, and others) to plan how to engage stakeholders on use of taxonomies. CRSSPP is developing resource materials to put on website – general support materials, criterion support resources, subspecialty items document, and specialty items document. The first three should be up in the next few weeks. Please look at these and other updates on the CRSSPP website. CRSSPP wants to continue to work with COSPP moving forward – please offer feedback. For specialties working on petitions for 2022, there are very few changes – the current petition criteria will be included with the material that CRSSPP sends when notifying that the petition is due. For petitions for subspecialties, these will be separate from specialties, but must be attested to by the specialty. It is strongly suggested that each subspecialty only have one parent specialty at a time, at least to start.
7. E&T Taxonomy Presentation and Discussion – Ron Rozensky shared a primer on the E&T Taxonomy. He shared appreciation for all the people working on the E&T Taxonomy over the years. A taxonomy is an orderly classification of concepts with rules defining the components. The taxonomy is designed to provide consistent descriptions of specific offerings in E&T programs in health service psychology. Previously, programs were extremely inconsistent in their descriptions of the training they provided. In 2020, guidelines were updated and passed by Council of Representatives. New definitions of specialty and subspecialty were included and the use of proficiencies was sunsetted. A SPECIALTY is a **defined area** of professional psychology practice characterized by a **distinctive configuration of competent services for specified problems and populations.** Practice in a specialty requires **advanced** knowledge and skills acquired through an organized sequence of education and training **in addition to the broad and general education** and **core scientific and professional foundations** acquired through an APA or CPA accredited doctoral program. \*Specialty training **may be acquired either** at the doctoral, doctoral internship, postdoctoral, or post licensure level as defined by the specialty (APA, 2020). \* Except where APA or CPA program accreditation does not exist for that area of professional psychology. **A [recognized] subspecialty is a concentrated area of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that: a) exists within at least one recognized {parent} specialty; b) requires additional education, training, and/or professional experiences; and c) involves specific (1) problems, (2) populations, and/or (3) circumscribed approaches.** Levels of training include exposure, experience, emphasis, or major area of study. Doctoral programs, internships, and postdoctoral programs can describe their training using these levels as defined in the taxonomy. Doing so will ensure truth in advertising for students. Ron’s recommendations included:
   1. Cos adopts the “new” definition of Specialty in the Taxonomy.
   2. CoS completes a Taxonomy for each specialty.
   3. CoS appoints a “team” to review Taxonomies to make certain each Specialty uses the Taxonomy consistently (QA).
   4. CoS agrees to continue to work with other organizations to help promulgate the use of the Taxonomy across the field.
   5. Remembering that the Taxonomy is designed to help students understand the content of education and training programs by the use of consistent language.
   6. CoS and other organizations work with CoA to help CoA adopt the Taxonomy as an instrument of consistent language that is used across the field of health service psychology.
   7. The Taxonomy is APA Policy already.
   8. The Taxonomy is a Guideline, not a standard, and by APA’s definition, it is “ASPIRATIONAL” not required.
   9. CoS partners with CRSSPP and its ongoing efforts to help promulgate the use of the Taxonomy.
   10. CoS works with training councils to encourage the use of the Taxonomy as policy of each Council.
   11. Each CoS Specialty Council adopts five graduate programs, five internships, and five post doctoral programs and helps them rework their webpages and programmatic materials using the Taxonomy to describe their programmatic offerings (NOT change offerings, but use the Taxonomy to describe their programs).
   12. Work with Continuing Education Committee to see how CoS can help them make certain that CE programs utilize Taxonomy language for programmatic offerings in recognized specialties.

1. Summit 4.0 Outreach and Communication Task Force Update on Infomatics – David Cox shared the website psychologytaxonomy.org which is in development to help people identify how best to describe their programs using the taxonomy at various levels of training i.e., doctoral, internship, postdoc. Website was developed using taxonomies on COSPP website. Specialty Council representatives – please check your taxonomies to make sure the numbers are logically consistent i.e., 10-19%, 20-39% and not 10-20%, 20-30%, as some are not. Please check the website out, but do not widely distribute this website as it is not finished yet, pending the changing of the logical inconsistencies. Other things the TF is working on – infographics to provide from the perspectives of students, psychologists, insurance panels, etc. It is believed that these tools will aid in helping programs describe themselves more easily. David shared that everyone currently working on the TF are eager to continue and Karen Farrell will also join this group.
2. Discussed Summit 5.0 planning. It was noted that the starting point is to identify the purpose and the goals. A number of goals were identified, including the promulgation of the taxonomy; consolidating the work that has been done by Outreach and Communication Task Force; and making a transition to the utilization of the taxonomy from programs to individuals. ASPPB is also very interested in accessing something (web tool, booklet) to utilize for board/college complaints. Additionally, ASPPB is interested in potentially using the taxonomy to identify competency areas for individual psychologists. The process of moving from describing programs to describing individuals will require addressing the challenges involved in doing so, e.g., describing specialty training and describing individuals’ competencies are quite different. Ron suggested a goal be that 50 programs in each specialty are using the taxonomy. David would like to see us start planning for Summit 5.0 and that it be held in 2021. Discussed makeup of the planning group. Karen will approach those involved on the Outreach and Communication Task Force. David Cox, Alex Siegel, and Toni Minniti all would like to be involved. Karen Farrell will reach out to people to start this planning process.
3. Engaged in discussion regarding when we will next meet and decided to meet mid-January to avoid the holidays. We will ask people to come to that meeting ready to discuss our ideas about the Vision of the Board of Directors for CoSPP, as well as the meeting schedule for the next year.
4. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julia C Phillips, Secretary

Approved by CoS Board of Directors, 2/20/2021