Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

1/4/2021

In attendance: Karen Farrell, Rick Seime, Victor Molinari, Julia Phillips, and David Cox, guest

Absent: Robin Hilsabeck

1. David Cox, liaison to CoS from ABPP, joined the EC as a guest to discuss multiple topics. APA has continued to work with the Outreach and Communications Workgroup on the infographic material for the new website and a meeting will be held soon to continue this work. No new members have been added with the exception of Karen Farrell who joins David Cox, Scott Sperling, Lesley Lutes, Toni Minniti, John Piacentini as current members of the group. There are some inconsistencies in how the different specialties use the taxonomy that make the use of the new tool difficult. For example, there cannot be an overlap in numbers in a taxonomy. For example, if an exposure is listed as 1 course, and in that same taxonomy, an experience is listed as 1-2 courses, there is an overlap in the numbers that a quantitative tool cannot reconcile. The specialties need to delimit these instances and clarify which number goes with which level. David suggested the use of a powerpoint presentation as a teaching tool for the next full CoS meeting or even before that to assist specialty councils in reconciling these inconsistencies. Rick, Victor, David, Scott, and Ron have done quite a bit of work in identifying these inconsistencies already. It was noted that Toni Minniti has been a great resource, as well and could be invited to join. This group also put together a proposal for how to roll this initiative out to the specialties. There is a scheduled call on Friday, January 8, to discuss an action plan to be agreed upon by CoS. Essentially, the plan addresses what the specialties need to do to advance this work and how the CoS EC can facilitate getting the work done so that the tool is functional. It was David’s perspective that there is not much work that each specialty needs to do, especially given the workgroup’s guidance as we move forward.
2. David Cox also updated us on Summit 5.0 planning – he would like to see Summit 5 be an in-person meeting sometime in 2021. In the absence of an in-person meeting, David believes that a virtual meeting would be better than postponing the meeting. Such timing would capitalize on the momentum that has been built following Summit 4.0. The work of the Outreach and Communications Group can be highlighted at Summit 5.0 i.e., the promulgation of the taxonomy and the use of the new tool on the website. A second focus should be the transferring of the concept of using the taxonomy to describe programs to using it to describe individuals. ASPPB in particular would value this action.. Additional work that is to be done with the taxonomies by the specializations as noted in #1 will also mesh well with the goals of Summit 5.0.
3. Discussed the formalization of the Taxonomy Consultation Group which Rick, Victor, and Scott Sperling are working on. A policy proposal is being drafted for CoS to offer consultation services to various constituencies. A consultation group will be beneficial when we request that each specialty review their taxonomy grids. The policy proposal includes several elements, including a checklist for specialties to use as they amend their current taxonomy grids, development of a CoS template for each specialty council to use as they rework their taxonomies, and a recommendation that specialty councils identify an E&T champion to promote its use and identify five programs that can be models for that specialty. These proposed actions would lead to greater consistency across stages of training and the levels of the taxonomy. Inherent in this work is identifying how CoS will assist specialties to be consistently described in their taxonomies.. Process wise, the proposal will be finalized, the EC will vote on it, and then we will recommend to the full CoS to make it formal policy.
4. Karen Farrell reported that Caroline Claus-Ehlers indicated that she is unable to continue to represent Couples and Family Specialty on CoS. Karen will follow up on who will be the new representative.
5. Schedule for next full Council meeting will be mid to end of February such that we move to having quarterly meetings in February, May, and August, with the annual meeting in November.
6. Discussed the extensive work that Ron Rozensky has done and will do in 2021 on the promulgation of the taxonomy. The Executive Council voted to recommend to the full CoS that a one-time $2000 honorarium is appropriate and demonstrates the CoS’s commitment to this work.
7. Karen will reach out to Clinical Psychopharmacology as a new specialty to join CoS.