

Minutes of the 2017 Meeting of the
Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology

Date: November 4, 2017

Time: 8:15 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. (executive session)
9:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (open session, liaisons in attendance)

Executive (Closed) Session:

A. Roll Call

In Attendance:

- Kevin Arnold, PhD (VP and Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology Representative); also serving as liaison from APA Commission for the Recognition of Specialties in Professional Psychology)
- Nina Brown, EdD (Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy Representative)
- Y. Barry Chung, PhD (Counseling Psychology Representative)
- David Corey, PhD (Secretary and Police & Public Safety Psychology Representative)
- Lori Hauser, PhD (Forensic Psychology Representative)
- Adam Lewin, PhD (substituting for Michael Roberts, PhD, Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology Representative)
- Victor Molinari, PhD (Professional Geropsychology Representative)
- Mary Ann Norfleet, PhD (Treasurer and Clinical Psychology Representative)
- Richard Seime, PhD (President and Clinical Health Psychology Representative)
- Thomas Sexton, PhD (Couples and Family Psychology Representative)
- Glenn Smith, PhD (Glenn Smith, PhD, Clinical Neuropsychology Representative)
- William Stiers, PhD (substituting for Glenn Curtiss, PhD, Rehabilitation Psychology Representative)
- Michael Tansy, PhD (School Psychology Representative)
- John Watkins, PhD (Psychoanalysis Representative)

Absent With No Substitute:

- Michael Smith (Sleep Psychology Representative)

Liaison Present:

- Antoinette Minniti, PhD (Associate Executive Director, APA Education Directorate)

B. By-laws Revision

President Seime asked Dr. Corey to lead discussion of the proposed bylaws revisions distributed to CoS directors on 10/27/2017. Dr. Tansy provided several housekeeping edits to improve readability and consistency, and he recommended revising Article VIII to include a reference to an Executive Committee consisting of the four officers. Dr. Norfleet moved to accept the proposed revisions, including Dr. Tansy's recommendation. (Approved unanimously; no abstentions or recusals)

C. Issues of Liability

President Seime led a discussion of Article XII of the bylaws, noting that Section 1 requires the CoS to indemnify its directors but it currently has no indemnification insurance or adequate treasury for such purpose. (NB: CoS is incorporated in Missouri, and Missouri law stipulates that corporations *may* indemnify directors, but it is not a requirement.) Following discussion, Dr. Glenn Smith moved to revise Article XII to state that “each person who is or was a Director ... ~~shall~~ [may] be indemnified ...” (inserting “may” in place of “shall”). (Approved unanimously; no abstentions or recusals) Dr. Smith requested that Dr. Seime investigate options for CoS purchasing Boards & Directors indemnification insurance and report back to CoS directors at or before our next annual meeting.

D. Elections

President Seime nominated himself for a full two-year term as President; no other nominations were made.

Dr. Corey nominated himself for a second two-year term as Secretary; no other nominations were made.

Dr. Molinari nominated himself for a one-year term (completing the second year of Dr. Norfleet’s term) as Treasurer; no other nominations were made.

By secret ballot, these individuals were elected to their respective offices.

E. Specialty Council Engagement

President Seime asked the directors for suggestions to facilitate cooperation by all specialty councils in (a) providing their bylaws and other requested documents for posting on the CoS website, and (b) ensuring that their representative (or a substitute) attend each annual meeting. Dr. Brown moved to request the Secretary to draft a letter to specialty councils that are not meeting these expectations, citing their requirement under CoS bylaws (Article V, Section 5) while offering encouragement and support, as needed. (Approved unanimously; no abstentions or recusals)

Open Session

Liaisons Present:

- David R. Cos, PhD (American Board of Professional Psychology)
- Alex M. Siegel, JD (Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards)
- Eddy Ameen, PhD (Director, APA Office on Early Career Psychologists)

Liaisons Absent:

- Allison C. Aosved, PhD (Association of Psychology Post-Doctoral and Internship Centers)

1. Agenda Order

Dr. Arnold moved to accept the agenda as the regular course of business for the day. (Approved unanimously; no abstentions or recusals)

2. Ratification of actions taken in closed session (Approved unanimously; no abstentions or recusals)

3. Webmaster

Dr. Norfleet discussed the need for someone to take over her duties as webmaster, as she prepares to leave the board. Dr. Tansy volunteered to take on this role. Dr. Norfleet will transfer the domain registration renewal fee information to Dr. Molinari to maintain in his role as Treasurer-elect. In light of the recent changeover to a new platform (Wix), editing has been fairly easy and the website is at the stage of just needing occasional content update, so it is expected to be a straightforward process. (Direct contact person has been Rebecca Parsons, thus far.)

4. ASPPB Report

At President Seime's invitation, Alex Siegel, JD, PhD, ASPPB Liaison to CoS, provided the Council with an update on the development EPPP Part 2 (item-writing phase currently; beta testing in 2018; planned roll-out in 2020). Dr. Siegel spoke about updates related to EPPP Part 2 – this will go live on 1/1/2020. The EPPP Part 2 a computerized test that is organized into two parts, whereby the first part is taken closer to the end of one's doctoral program coursework, and this must be taken before the second part; and the second part of exam is taken at the end of postdoc supervision. There is a hope that this will also eliminate the need for an oral exam. The intention is that there should only be 6 opportunities to pass each of the 2 parts. Cost is \$600 (part I) and \$600 (part II) = \$1200. Six domains on the exam will be assessed – domains and weighting based on task analysis conducted in 2019. Again, not "knowledge" but "competence" assessment. For those licensed prior to 2020, and want to move to another state, individuals are not required to take EPPP 2.

5. Update on Level 3 Competencies

Dr. Seime provided the Council with an update on Level 3 competencies to be submitted to the Commission on Accreditation (CoA) by CoS by the July 1 submission target. Level 3 competencies outlined by the CoA- *Standards of Accreditation* apply to postdoctoral residencies in specialties recognized by CoA. Two specialties (Clinical Child and Couple/Family Psychology) have not submitted Level 3 competencies but intend to do so. The objective was to have a more "standardized" approach whereby specialties are assessed/reviewed in more clearly defined competency terms (e.g., essential elements that would be used to measure the competency, via skills, knowledge) by the CoA. Public comment on the product of the work submitted to CoA is forthcoming (2018), and CoS will also make public comment.

6. Summit 3.0 Report and Discussion (Dr. Seime/Dr. Arnold)

a) President Seime presented the agreement by the participants of the *3rd Interorganizational Summit on Specialty, Specialization and Board Certification* (Summit 3.0) to revise the definition of specialty, with attendees going back to their respective groups to have the agreed definition approved and incorporated into relevant documents. So far, ASPPB adopted the definition in June; CRSPBP adopted the definition in its Fall 2017 meeting; and ABPP will be reviewing at their December 2017 BOT meeting. [NB: At the time of the drafting of these minutes, the ABPP BOT approved the new definition.] The revised definition is as follows [language added to the definition is in red font]: "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 **formal** education, training, and **experience** 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 at the doctoral, **internship**, postdoctoral or **postlicensure** level as defined by the specialty.

*Except where APA or CPA program accreditation does not exist for that area of professional psychology.”

Dr. Arnold clarified that the modifying terms “an organized sequence of formal” apply equally and individually to education, training, and experience. Dr. Corey moved that CoS adopt the consensus definition. (Approved unanimously; no abstentions or recusals)

- b) President Seime facilitated a discussion about several issues identified in Summit 3.0 involving inconsistencies between the Commission on Accreditation’s (CoA) use of language pertaining to specialties and specialty training and the language used by APA, CRSPPP, ASPPB, ABPP, and CoS. Following this discussion, Dr. Glenn Smith moved that CoS Executive Committee draft a letter to CoA leadership in which we request them to (1) recognize and apply the recently adopted definition of specialty; (2) recognize and endorse the specialty taxonomy; and (3) defer the recognition of specialties to CoS (which, by our bylaws, consist of specialties recognized by APA/CRSPPP and ABPP-affiliated specialties. (Approved unanimously; no abstentions or recusals)
- c) Discussed a proposal first mentioned at Summit 3.0 to have CoS serve as first point of contact to coordinate the application for a specialty to CRSPPP and ABPP. The advantage of doing this would be assurance that applications move forward in sync. However, upon further discussion there appear to be conflict of interest issues if CoS becomes a “gatekeeper.” On this issue alone, further legal review would need to be conducted. Other concerns with the proposal involve logistics of administrative support and costs. No formal action taken at this time.
- d) Dr. Arnold discussed the need for APA convention programming focused on introducing practitioners to the implications of the taxonomy and specialty definition. Dr. Glenn Smith moved to (1) defer to Dr. Arnold to structure the presentation, (2) provide the CoS representatives with an abstract of the proposed presentation, and (3) ask each CoS representative to ask the chair of each specialty council to inquire of the APA division(s) affiliated with their specialty councils about their willingness to co-sponsor the proposal.
- e) President Seime observed that four of the specialty councils use titles for their specialties that differ from the titles recognized by ABPP and/or CRSPPP: (1) Clinical Child Psychology (CRSPPP) vs. Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (ABPP); (2) Family Psychology (CRSPPP) vs. Couple and Family Psychology (ABPP); (3) Professional Geropsychology (CRSPPP) vs. Geropsychology (ABPP); (4) Psychoanalysis in Psychology (CRSPPP) vs. Psychoanalysis (ABPP). Dr. Hauser moved that CoS request these four specialty councils to adopt on or before January 1, 2019 a single name to be used consistently across CRSPPP, ABPP and CoS. Upon selecting

- the name, each specialty council is asked to initiate the process to have that name utilized by each organization. (Approved without opposition; Dr. Lewin abstained)
- f) Other activities/actions in support of promoting uniform use of the new specialty definition and the Taxonomy include:
- 1) CoS will take the lead on the 2018 Convention proposal re: definition and E & T – in parallel, CRSPPP has obtained 1 hour with Division 42 for programming, so there will need to be a “practice” focus [implications for practitioners, and (as per discussion summarized below at paragraph [X]) understanding/respecting scope of practice]. CoS to defer to CRSPPP to define currently-approved hour with D42; and Dr. Arnold to provide a title that can be shared with respective Division Chairs of CoS members and APAGS; and, finally, CoS to confirm co-listing this hour.
 - 2) CoS to work with CCTC to have training councils adopt and use taxonomy language – Ron Rozensky and President Seime to conduct a workshop presentation with CCHPTP, but no other work has been done on this with CCTC to-date. Counseling and Geropsychology training councils have already endorsed the use of the Taxonomy. President Seime to write a letter on behalf of CoS to CCTC to seek update/status in relation to adoption/use of the Taxonomy by training councils.
 - 3) CRSPPP Taxonomy Distribution Activities – several proposed actions to targeted groups – and “Questions to consider asking training programs.” CoS to draft letter to CRSPPP, including a thank-you to Ron Palomeres, and ask how they can best assist with the distribution activities, as well as asking who the best person is with whom to collaborate on development of the video proposed in Summit 3.0.
 - 4) CoS to engage APAGS and CECP involvement
 - 5) CoS to contact APPIC re: potential presentation about Taxonomy at its forthcoming May meeting
 - 6) Discussed development of a tool that “walks” viewer through each specialty and helps them understand what each specialty requires according to their established Taxonomy. (Action plan not developed at this time for this idea, i.e., which organization or who should take lead.)
- g) For purposes of disseminating specialty-related information, the following work assignments were made:
- 1) Drs. Arnold, Molinari, Cox, and Seime to take the lead in writing an article for TEPP focused on “truth in advertising” whereby trainees know what they’re getting when they apply to training programs.
 - 2) Dr. Corey agreed to take the lead in preparing an article for *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* that focuses on how a practitioner can assess when general practice ends and specialty practice begins (i.e., when in the course of performing specialty services the practitioner would need to have developed specialist-level competence), and the implications of this for the general practitioner. Dr. Sexton, Dr. Hauser, and Dr. Cox expressed interest in participating.

- 3) Dr. Seime agreed to take the lead in developing a video for use in educating stakeholders in the use of the taxonomy.
- 4) Dr. Cox agreed to take the lead in writing an article for the *American Psychologist* summarizing the work of the three Summit meetings, with assistance from Dr. Arnold and Dr. Steve DeMiers (ASPPB).
- 5) Dr. Cox agreed to take the lead in contacting the APA Office of Continuing Education in Psychology (CEP) to explore specialty-related training.
7. Dr. Glenn Smith asked whether CoS might ask CRSPPP to (a) formally adopt a recognition/renewal criterion that requires each specialty council to demonstrate how it integrates the taxonomy into its education and training guidelines and practices, and (b) recognize specialties for a 10-year period rather than the current policy of 7 years. Following discussion, Dr. Smith moved that CoS formally make this request to CRSPPP in a letter drafted jointly by the President, Secretary, and Dr. Smith, on behalf of the full Council of Specialties. (Approved without opposition; Dr. Arnold abstained and left the room during the vote)
8. Dr. Watkins raised an issue involving activities by one member organization of the Psychoanalysis in Psychology specialty council that is engaged in activities that run counter to the requirement of CoS Bylaws Article V, Section 2 not “undermine the mission of the CoS or promote policies that impede the development or practice of a psychological specialty.” He requested, and President Seime agreed, that President Seime write a letter to his specialty council citing this requirement and instructing either it to ensure that the activities and policies are modified or remove that organization from its council. In the alternative, the CoS will no longer recognize Psychoanalysis in Psychology as a specialty council.
9. Dr. Arnold reported that the Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology scope of practice has been intruded upon by Behavior Analysis. Dr. Chung moved that the CoS Executive Committee (except for Dr. Arnold) draft a letter to the Council Leadership Team requesting reconsideration of an amendment passed in the February 2017 meeting, including a 6-word amendment to the resolution passed in F17 COR meeting re: the concern/issue that APA has effectively stated that competencies do not need to be demonstrated in a practice area that requires competency. (It needs to be made clear that this is not an effort to ensure/require ABPP board certification.) (Approved unanimously; no abstentions or recusals)
10. Council set the date of the next annual meeting for Saturday, November 3, 2018.
11. Meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.