

## Council of Specialties Annual Meeting (11.2.2019)

### Executive Session:

I. Introductions & roll call:

**In attendance:** Linda Sobell (Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology); Michael Roberts (Clinical Child Psychology); Rick Seime (Clinical Health Psychology); Karen Farrell (Clinical Psychology); Robin Hilsabeck (Clinical Neuropsychology); Julia Phillips (Counseling Psychology); Lori Hauser (Forensic Psychology); Victor Molinari (Geropsychology); John Watkins (Psychoanalysis); Carlen Henington (School Psychology); Don Townsend (Sleep Psychology); Michele Rusin (Rehabilitation Psychology)

**Not present – representatives from:** Group Psychology and Psychotherapy (Sally Barlow), Couple and Family Psychology (No Representative has been appointed by specialty council); Police and Public Safety Psychology (Jennifer Kelly); and Secretary, David Corey

**Liaisons:** Eddy Ameen and David Cox

**Observers:** Shirley Glynn, Serious Mental Illness Psychology Representative

II. Elections

- a. **Action:** COS voted to approve Dr. Karen Farrell for COS President for a two-year term beginning 1/1/2020.
- b. **Action:** COS voted to approve Dr. Julia Phillips for COS Secretary for a two-year term beginning 1/1/2020.

III. Application for Membership from Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Psychology Specialty Council  
This follows the approval of SMI Psychology as a recognized specialty by CRSPPP at its Spring 2019 meeting and APA Council of Representatives vote in August to recognize the specialty. Consistent with CoS bylaws, CoS was provided the organizations constituting the SMI specialty council, contact information for the SMI specialty council representatives, officers of the specialty council, and SMI specialty council bylaws.

**Action:** COS voted to approve membership to the Council of Specialties for SMI Psychology.

### Open Session:

I. Ratification of Actions taken up in closed session

II. Consent agenda

- a. Approval of 2018 CoS annual meeting Minutes
- b. Financial Report from Treasurer (see agenda book)  
All specialty boards are paid up in 2019  
There was \$4,257.26 expenses related to invited guests for the Specialty Summit  
Total amount in CoS coffers: \$15,934.90
- c. Specialty Council Reports in Agenda Book

- III. Announce Election Results
  - Dr. Karen Farrell for COS President
  - Dr. Julia Phillips for COS Secretary
  
- IV. COS updates
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Recent accomplishments primarily include (1) co-convening Summits; and, (2) serving as a conduit for identifying Postdoctoral Specialty Competencies for each specialty (see other items in agenda/book)
  - c. Webmaster (Bonnie Palmer) – need Website Editor, Bonnie Palmer has been effective as webmaster and has provided invaluable assistance. The wix.com account is currently associated with current President Rick Seime. With assistance of Bonnie Palmer he learned to do some of the editing of the website. Someone will need to take on the Website Editor role and work closely with Bonnie Palmer. More discussion of website editor deferred to December 2019 conference call.
  - d. Survey of Specialty Council representatives – discussion. Survey included three questions to obtain feedback about support, administrative, organizational aspects related to COS. Eight people responded, and a few others noted that they were new and did not know enough to answer the survey questions. Molinari shared comments/feedback regarding the four questions:
    - 1) It is unclear about the impact of the fourth inter-organizational summit.
    - 2) Regarding generating other initiatives, we need to do a better job of: educating psychologists about the professional & regulatory merits of specialty status; addressing specialty vs sub-specialty status; being a resource for current and possible specialties; getting the more established specialties to better describe and define themselves; determining how academic psychologists involved in training can get board certified; addressing masters level accreditation and its effect on specialization; strategic planning;
    - 3) Most of the respondents indicated that the Executive Board is in good communication with the Specialty board reps;
    - 4) It is split regarding having more time to devote to additional specialty initiatives.
  - e. Sobell also shared results from in-process/draft manuscript based on a survey conducted with 15 specialty boards related to reasons for psychologists seeking board certification – financial benefits of obtaining an ABPP were reported as primary incentives/rationale.
  
- V. Interorganizational Summit 4.0
  - a. Planning Group members: Molinari, Phillips, Cox, Siegel, Ameen, Malcore, Seime
  - b. Goal 1 of Summit 4.0: All training programs shall describe their E&T using the language of the relevant E&T Guidelines (aka, Taxonomy)
    - i. Survey programs about current use of Taxonomy – highlights/slides from Ameen include:
      - 1. Response rate at 21% of over 1200 DCTs and TDs

2. A range of familiarity with Guidelines (25% were 'moderately' or 'very unfamiliar' whereas 75% had at least some familiarity)
  3. 93% somewhat to fully supportive the Summits' goal of 100% adoption of the taxonomy language to describe training programs / educational offerings
  4. 86% somewhat or fully supportive of COA requiring programs to use the Taxonomy to describe their educational offerings
  5. Overall, 47% indicated that their programs were presently using the specialty Taxonomy language to describe their training
  6. The ways that it has been used include program advertisements for prospective students/trainees, and next most popular was in the program handbook. Some programs discuss it in curricula, and fewer use the language in their syllabi and/or teach students to use the language
  7. Barriers to implementation include: resources (largely 'time' to learn and change materials), then 'no barrier' was 2<sup>nd</sup>-most listed, then 'influencing others' was 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 'lack of familiarity' with terms and 'conflict with institutional terms' as 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>-ranked barriers (with other reasons noted, as well)
  8. Question to COS: What could be improved to make the Taxonomy easier to implement? Response: Mainly, examples of implementation
  9. Of non-users, 68% indicated that they were 'unsure' or 'would/yes' use the Taxonomy in the next 1-2 years
    - a. Reasons for 'unsure' or 'would not/no' include that 61% were unclear of the benefits for their programs, and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> indicated that they didn't know what the Taxonomy refers to, with 25% indicated that they do not see the value for their trainees, 21% noting it was not a fit based on their structure OR they'd prefer different descriptors, 16% said they didn't know if the Taxonomy 'was for them'
    - b. Reasons for planning to use the Taxonomy included 55% noting they 'believe in truth in advertising', 52% noting that APPIC has adopted this language, and far fewer noting students are asking for it (5%) and 4% saying their training council is pushing it
- ii. Seime & Molinari will develop letter for joint signature by stakeholders represented at Summit requesting COA use the Taxonomy language, and to require such language of programs applying for accreditation or reaccreditation.
 

**Action:** Council representatives to take these requests back to their individual specialty councils to endorse the letter and reply to Molinari
  - iii. Maintain interorganizational summit stakeholders working group
- c. Goal 2 of Summit 4.0: Increase visibility of recognized specialty practice(s) for psychology

- i. Messaging/informatics work group updates – Dr. Cox shared EARLY draft of infographics that the Work Group has thus far developed. Feedback from Scott Sperling (WG Chair) included a few ideas/**potential actions** – i.e.,
  1. **COS**: Sperling has been collating a list of concrete action steps that different groups/organizations may be able to take in order to promote the taxonomy materials in development, as well as pathways to specialization and ethical practice. Once fleshed out a bit further, he would like to touch base to discuss specifics.
  2. **COS**: There is opportunity to use Specialty Council Reps to communicate information broadly. As one example a webinar/virtual meeting with the Specialty Reps outlining potential action steps could be helpful once materials are developed.
  3. **CRSPPP**: One recommendation for CRSPPP would be to require specialties to provide a taxonomy dissemination and adoption plan as part of their application/renewal for specialization and as part of their annual reports to COS. Having measurables may help bring the taxonomy out of the abstract and push progress forward.
- ii. Marketing and communication progress and plan (see 4<sup>th</sup> Interorganizational Summit Executive Summary for additional detail)
- d. Maintaining momentum
  - i. Looped back to Summit Planning group
  - ii. Discussed roles for COS and member Specialty Councils

VI. CRSPPP update on Taxonomy and subspecialty recognition – Currently the Commission is working on revisions to all policy documents, including the Taxonomy and development of Principles / criteria for subspecialty recognition. Given the interrelated nature of the policy documents, they will be submitted as one item to the APA Council of Representatives for approval.

The process and anticipated timeline are as follows:

- Early 2020: CRSPPP to complete proposed updates to its policies
- Spring 2020: Public comment period for 60 days
- Fall 2020: CRSPPP to submit final updated policy documentation for COR approval
- 1/1/2021: Implementation of new policy/subspecialty recognition, and transitioning of elimination of proficiency recognition

VII. Update on Specialty Postdoctoral Program Competencies in accreditation decisions – COS coordinated submission of these to COA in July 2017  
 Status: Competencies for all but Sleep Psychology have been submitted and COS is awaiting feedback/further follow-up from COA.  
 Both Sleep Psychology and SMI Psychology are eligible to apply to have postdoctoral competencies recognized by COA. The steps necessary for applying to be recognized as a

postdoctoral specialty are outlined in Implementing Regulations related to the *Standards of Accreditation*, i.e. IR C-5 P.

VIII. Inclusion of ECPs on Specialty Councils

- a. Which Specialty Councils have ECP members? The Counseling Psychology Specialty Council recently voted to include an ECP on their council – implementation involved consideration of how to ensure this via their organizational structure, as well as practicalities related to costs. Other councils who have dedicated ECP positions include: Clinical Health, Clinical Psychology and Psychoanalysis. Others will be taking this back to their councils.
- b. How is this inclusion happening structurally and practically by Specialty Councils? Varies based on structures; and, for Counseling, the process is still TBD. The bylaws for Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology and Psychoanalysis address ECPs but like, Counseling, Clinical Psychology and Clinical Health Psychology have yet to address specifics in their bylaws.

IX. Specialty Council Representative Reports

- a. Issues/initiatives/concerns from the perspective of specialty council in light of submitted written reports – no issues were specified vis-à-vis reports
- b. Are there particular issues for which a specialty would like COS support? Two items were specifically addressed by COS:
  1. One COS member sought insight/shared practice from others regarding ways to improve interrater reliability for activities such as practice sample reviews for board certification.
  2. Another discussion item was related to subspecialty recognition, with the question being ‘how can COS provide support?’

**Action:** COS approved a motion to write a letter to ABPP BOT to request clarification related to what is expected of a specialty, and the rationale for affiliation of specialties and subspecialties. This letter will first be taken by COS representatives back to their specialty councils to discuss this for approval/feedback, before COS disseminates the letter to ABPP BOT.

**Leads: Draft will be written by Rusin and Molinari by 11/8/2019.**

Pending the outcome of the response from the ABPP BOT letter, COS also discussed the need to reconcile potential disparities between CRSSSP recognition of a specialty or subspecialty and ABPP affiliation of specialties and sub-specialties, and for ABPP to clarify the processes of recognizing a specialty or subspecialty .

- c. COS website information for each specialty during meeting
  - i. COS discussed who will take over the website master role, and updates that may be needed such as:

**Actions:** (1) Group Taxonomy to be added to its main page as well as being on the ‘Specialties’ dropdown. (2) Bylaws for Clinical Child need to be updated (were sent to COS and just need updating). (3) Karen Farrell’s email needs to be

updated to [kfarre@gmail.com](mailto:kfarre@gmail.com) (4) Some updates are forthcoming from Clinical Neuropsychology.

- d. Heads-up that **a number of** COS representatives will need to be replaced in 2021.
- X. **Dates confirmed for forthcoming meetings:**
  - a. Next conference call scheduled on December 11, 2019 at 5:00pm ET
  - b. COS Annual meeting next year – date set for November 14, 2020

Accepted draft for distribution and posting on CoS Website: 11/18/2019