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Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA)

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2007-10-19 PCA PACP Board Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2007

Pennsylvania Counseling Association

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**PA Alliance of Counseling Professionals
Board Minutes
July 20, 2007**

Present: Sally Tice, President, Kathy Kelly, PAMFT Rep, David Arena, PCA Rep, Sherry Krystal Turetzky, PARP Rep, Morgan Plant, Lobbyist, Sue Morano, Admin., Guests: Kurt Kraus, Nicki Covey, Joan Sherman.

Meeting called to order at 10:30 am. Brief feedback on Summit Meeting – Reviewed.

Minutes: March 30, 2007 minutes reviewed and corrections made. Sherry KT motioned to approve/David A 2nd. Minutes Approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Payment not made for research on "diagnosis" throughout the US. Agreement to pay the amount when budget allows for such. Sherry KT motioned to approve/Kathy K 2nd. Treasurer's Report Approved with clarification noted.

Lobbyist Report: We were requested to offer a definition for "professional" for the Gambling/Addictions language. D&A professional vs MH professional. PAMFT & PCA offered two separate statements. PAMFT leaning towards support of PPA's position while PCA supports use of "licensed professionals."

Reciprocity HB 1693- There is a statement in licensure bill to have agreement with other states. This was discussed by the Licensure Board in-depth before language was agreed upon at their previous meeting. Bill requires a license from out of state, 5/7 years experience and 3000 hours of supervised experience. 8/7/07 Hearing at Temple Univ. PCA/PAMFT will present at hearing. SW will testify & PACP invited to do so. Review of what is needed was discussed. PACP is in support of the bill. Discussion offered about counselors having effective national standards so as not to have such widely disproportionate state standards. MFTs have a national standard but still state standards are highly variable. PAMFT will have their President present and PCA will have their President present.

SW introduced legislation HB1177, to include them in the definition of Health Care Doctor. SW is the only licensed MH professional providing services and paid for by the State. In the public sector not all licensed professionals included and very concerned about lack of inclusion. Sally Tice sat in on meeting with Community Providers Assoc. regarding this discussion. This presently is adversely impacting Community MH and D & A Sectors.

Morgan inform us that Rep. Mike Sturla is the new Chair, House Licensure Committee, D-Lancaster. No bill moved without hearing. Everyone on committee has about one year tenure. HB1000-PPA- PreAuthorization for clients, (longer timeframe for reauthorization MH clients). On hold till September when Legislative Committee returns. House Insurance Committee voted in favor, "should not have to have re-authorization"-open ended for each year.

Medicaid: 7/23/06 - Dan Marrow, Morgan Plant & Sally Tice and MFT student of Sally's had a meeting with Joan Ernie at DPW. Requested information on diagnosis. Will provide them chart on states with diagnosis in licensure law. Goal is enrollment in MA-licensed MH providers. Joan to make this recommendation. Met with David Kelly – Medical Director of the Office of Med. Assistance and gave him a copy of our Sunrise report. Also willing to consider idea. David Arena will explore additional counselors who work in the private sector.

Sally Tice requested each member organization represented needs to speak about the need for contributions to the PACP PAC.

Budget: per PCA President, Paul West - \$8,000 in their budget to contribute to PACP. \$2,000 less than prior year! PACP will need to up fees just to maintain even a bare bones budget. PCA needs to dedicate their budget to building membership. Will not be able to sign PACP Agreement unless the costs are changed to \$8,000. PCA's goal is to build membership before commitment of funds.

Sally Tice reviewed the fact of two different budgets for PACP, the second budget figure would be to raising the Lobbyist retainer up to full amount over three years. MFTs not going to go beyond ½ PACP budget amount. Legal, misc. office supplies, postage & travel all dropped. Website stalled, Morgan and Sue's salary and rent remain the same. Need \$5,000 more. Discussion among the professional reps to go back to their organizations to discuss money. Morgan willing to work with us despite budget problems. PAMCHA will look at \$500-\$725/Qtr, if possible. PARP will aim for fee raise. Further discussion about dissolving PACP, eliminating office, phone admin asst. etc. Further research of organizations funds will have to be reviewed and discussed prior to next meeting.

Place on hold on finalizing PACP Alliance agreement and budget until we hear back from PAMHCA and PARP and what both organizations can contribute to PACP

Sally Tice will forward a letter to PCA Board Members with impact of PCA's decision to lower its contribution.

Presently there are two openings on the PA State Board for LPC representatives. LeeAnn Eschbach has initiated her application. Still need another LPC for the position.

Highmark: More hostile to inclusion (who get paneled and paid). We should have some concern with consolidation of Highmark/BC.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Krystal Turetzky, Secretary.