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Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA)

10-19-2007

2007-10-19 PCA Draft PACP Board Meeting, September 28, 2007

Pennsylvania Counseling Association

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Draft PACP Board Meeting 9/28/07

Present: Kathy Fogel, David Zak, Sherry Kristal Turetzky, David Arena, Kathy Kelly, Sue Morano, Sally Tice. Also attending and newly appointed by PARP as representatives to PACP were David Zak and Kathleen Fogel (rehabilitation counselors).

Minutes from July 20, 2007 were reviewed and corrections made.

David Arena motioned to approve as corrected and Sherry Kristal-Turetzky 2nd. Minutes approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

Information regarding the checking balance as of this date was reviewed. After paying all bills due through last year the PACP balance remains presently at \$2,436.00. Lobbyist & rent from July through Sept. is due and research conducted last year is still owed. Budget & Alliance Agreement will be reviewed at a later time in the meeting.

Organization Report

PARP: Board has approved continuation of support. Questions from this Board were raised concerning some areas of past budgets, such as rent and administrative staff. In response PARP is to be informed that one goal of PACP has always been to heighten recognition by creating an office with staff in Harrisburg as the Social Work organization, Psychologists and Psychiatrists. Each has a paid Executive Director with staff who works on and is involved in all professional credibility, including the expansion of language in licensing and other legislative and professional duties. The newness of our license and organization is one reason we have yet to fulfill this type of goal. However, maintaining an office with staff to help execute the plans we assign that cannot always be accomplished by volunteers is an important part of our credibility. PCA: Paul West, new President. Questions similar to PARP's issues were also raised by this Board. PCA needs a membership drive which would increase membership and thereby increase income. PCA is committed to PACP but there are insufficient funds to back up the commitment. PCA has difficulty keeping student members after they graduate. Close to 4,000 LPCs in the state but only over 200 are members of PCA.

PAMFT: Board agreed that PACP is in the middle of important issues and must continue with their effort. They have offered to commit \$2,500 over and above their half of the budget and to continue to increase visibility and credibility of the professions.

Clarification/discussion of how PACP can work with other professional groups.

Legislative Update: Per Sally Tice PACP spoke at two Legislative Hearings. On 8/7/07 on HB1693 concerning reciprocity which was started by the State Board. We reviewed the contents of HB1693 for the guests at meeting. Representatives presenting at the Hearing were Sally Tice for PACP, Sally Wilson, Pres., PAMFT, Paul West, Pres., PCA.

Presently, no one is objecting to the bill. We may need to lobby and get letters from grassroots for this to pass.

HB1177- requiring health insurance policies issued by insurance companies to reimburse for mental health services provided by all of us. Mental Health Services Reimbursement Act. Our exclusion means insurance does not have to include us on panels of approved providers. LCSW's wanted to change bill to include only them. Hearing was held in Harrisburg on

8/27/07 and presenting on our behalf was Sally Tice, PACP and Rich Kovaleski, LPC and Dan Marrow, LMFT for a client whose therapy was disrupted by lack of insurance payments. SWs also testified but at least one-half of their testimony was focused on reasons why we should not be included. Morgan spoke with Highmark rep who is willing to have us included. She then spoke with Rep. Fabrizio, sponsor of the bill, who still will not include us in the language. The Highmark rep says they will not kill the bill with LMFTs and LPCs included. The Clinical SW are not opposing us at this time but NASW-PA still remains opposed. Our next step is to meet again with Rep. Fabrizio addressing this issue and will call upon an LPC & LMFT to attend. We have a back up plan if Rep. Fabrizio continues to refuse. Morgan spoke with Rep Michael Vereb to introduce a bill that will contain all three of our disciplines. We will then have to lobby and use our grassroots membership to move this through.

Medicaid: Still looking to ID members who provide services to MA clients. Still working to get us included. Original meeting scheduled for 7/07 was postponed due to conflict in Joan's (last name?) schedule.

State Licensure Board Meetings: Monthly attendance was agreed upon by our Board members. Sue Morano has been covering these meetings. Kathy Kelly, Oct, David Arena, Nov, and Sherry KT in December. Presently there is no LPC on the State Board. LeeAnn Eschbach is making progress in getting appointed. PACP will need to send a letter of support. Sally Tice will prepare the letter. Sherry KT motioned, Kathy K. 2nd to send a letter to support the appointment of LeeAnn Eschbach to the LPC position on the State Board. We presently were informed that Amy Hooper Knox from Senator Punt's District is starting the process. Amy is presently the PCA Secretary. Sue Morano will touch base with her concerning her progress and follow up. Sally Tice attended the previous Licensing Board meeting and informs us that talk of a Practice Act for all of us was mentioned by the State Board members. If this is an option that is feasible we will need legislative support to start the process. Mentioned at our PACP meeting was the fact that the Gov. created the Office of Disabilities so this just might be a good time to start. This information moved us into talk about the budget and the fact that such full time legislative issues would need to bring Morgan's salary back to full pay.

Budget

A short discussion of our budget was offered. PAMFT offers \$2,500 towards our budget for this year. Office in Ft. Washington was offered by PAMFT, for its convenience to the Turnpike and ½ of rent is paid by PACP. Office rent is approx \$500 and offers an office, meeting space and storage. PAMFT carried PACP for several years with no charges but the PACP Board decided it was time to create its place and become a non-profit organization and pay its own bills. At this time we are going with a basic no frills budget as was presented earlier. PACP also pays \$50/month for use of all PAMFT's equipment, paper, fax and email access. This means that \$300/month covers all office expenses.

Sherry KT motioned to approve the budget, David A 2nd. Motion Approved.

New Alliance Agreements going out. Review of the agreement required changes to Paragraph 4. Reviewed cover letter, summary of PACP activities over 2006-2007 and list of priorities. Information to go to PACP Board members for their board Presidents and Board members as needed.

Diagnosis: Nicki Covey heading the Taskforce. Each participant to email their preliminary definition for the word "diagnosis." Would like to have time to include Kurt K. in development of definition of diagnosis we can all agree. Sue M. researched all PA Health Boards Acts and the only one with a definition for diagnosis was the Nurses Act. Psychologists do not have a clinical bill and do not use the words diagnose and treat in their language. Senate Bill #841 was introduced by SW for defining the "practice of clinical SW" and adding a definition of "diagnosis." Discussion of pros/cons of proceeding with developing acceptable language defining "diagnosis." *e.g. Diagnose within scope of practice and area of expertise to identify symptoms, identify treatment modalities to address those symptoms.*

Website: This was held up due to the hold on finances. Sue M. met with PAMFT's technical person. The technician suggested we create a page for the professional organizations to include in their websites, thus decreasing expenses for PACP. Discussion followed and PACP decided that having their own website is another way to create visibility and credibility, direct pipeline for legislative activity in our state. The consensus was to move ahead with our own website. Kathy K will offer information on the PAC, Sally T on Supervision, David A. the disclaimer. We will include links to other professional organizations' web pages

Future Meetings: 12/1/07 – Morgan's Home, 3/7/08 – Morgan's Home, 6/7/08 – Morgan's Home.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Crystal Turetzky, Secretary