



MOCPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2022

Meeting called to order at 11:36 am

In attendance: Tamara Latawiec, Lauren Gerardi, Ben Steinberg, Robyn Koslowitz

I. Welcome

II. Meeting Minutes (Tamara Latawiec on behalf of Robyn Koslowitz)

Meeting minutes from the December 5th board meeting in 2021 were reviewed and approved.

III. Treasurer Report (Ben Steinberg)

The Treasurer Report and Profit and Loss Statement were reviewed and approved.

IV. NJPA Meetings and Initiatives (Lauren Gerardi)

Lauren attended the NJPA annual orientation, the first NJPA board meeting of the year, as well as the annual NJPA continuing education workshop training. She reported that NJPA's virtual spring conference in April on the business of psychology garnered low turnout, but a fall conference in October on neuroscience has been scheduled to be a hybrid in-person/virtual event at the Pines in Edison and will hopefully attract more people. A family-focused wellness event in Scotch Plains has been scheduled in June as well. Staffing changes include Brianna Cox becoming President-Elect, the listserv monitoring chair is also stepping down, and the NJPA board is looking for Members-at-Large. NJPA is considering hiring a consulting firm regarding prescription privileges for psychologists to assess what position NJPA should take on this issue. The NJPA website will also change in October to a new format, which will offer automatic dues renewal and better continuing education tracking. A two-year endorsement agreement with the Trust has been made, as we are among only a few states not already connected with them. The Trust gives NJPA a stipend and provides insurance to NJPA if we advertise their services. There will be a bill proposed about training psychologists in pain psychology, and there was discussion that it potentially be named after Raymond Hanbury.

V. Membership Status (Tamara Latawiec)

Last year, MOCPA did not charge dues in light of the pandemic, so all members received an additional year's membership for free. One new member joined the association during that year, so MOCPA numbered 56 members by year's end. This year, once dues were reinstated, attrition in membership

occurred, the first time since the association was re-founded. Membership decreased to 47 members, and then MOCPA member, Ray Hanbury, passed away, reducing membership to 46 members. Two more people joined the association recently, bringing membership up to 48 members. New members include: (1) a psychologist working cognitive-behaviorally with adults in Wall who has a school psychology degree and was a special needs teacher, and (2) a master's level counselor working with an integrative fashion with adults and couples in Long Branch with interest in trauma, chronic medical illness, and LGBTQ+ issues.

VI. Directories (Tamara Latawiec)

There is no new directory business for this meeting; directories were updated for 2022 and sent out to membership in March. New members will be included in next year's directory.

VII. Website and Email Account (Tamara Latawiec)

The classified ad section continues to be used sparingly by members. We have an active ad for office space right now.

We continue to receive questionable emails regarding our PayPal and Quickbooks accounts. They have been saved in their respective folders of our email account. Ben may wish to review them to determine if they are legitimate or not and if any untoward activity is taking place.

VIII. Bylaws (Tamara Latawiec)

Tamara asked that the board review the association dues and wondered if decreasing them might be prudent, given that MOCPA has the highest dues of all the affiliates despite being only occasionally active. Higher dues were necessary when the association was resurrected to build a cushion, but now that reserves are adequate, reducing dues by \$5 or \$10 may be considered. Current dues are \$55 for full members, \$45 for associate members, \$35 for emeritus members, \$25 for affiliate members, and \$15 for student members. According to MOCPA bylaws, any changes in the dues structure would need to be agreed upon by a two-thirds vote. The board discussed this issue and had difficulty making a decision. Ben suggested that the issue be tabled for the next meeting, as dues will not be collected again for some time. The board was interested to see how the association reactivates post-COVID. There was also the suggestion that more events could be subsidized, and perhaps the association will become more active in the future.

IX. Social Events (Tamara Latawiec)

Tamara would like to offer an outdoor social event during warm weather for members. Both the Ocean Grove Spring Flea Market and the Keyport Garden Tour are on Saturday, June 4th, which does not give members much notice. Additionally, the Garden Tour still does not have its full information posted to the website, so it is not known if there is a fee and where to pick up tickets and maps. The Ocean Grove Garden Tour and Art Walk is on Friday, June 24th from 11am to 4pm, which would provide more time for members to plan for it. Tickets are \$25 each, and MOCPA could subsidize a good portion of the fee and perhaps all of it. The Jersey Shore Jazz and Blues Foundation also offers free concerts on Sunday nights in West End Park in Long Branch during the summer, so MOCPA could offer one of those as well, perhaps more toward the end of the summer. The Seafarer in Highlands is also an entirely outdoor venue, and they have live bands all summer, so that is another weekend option. Members discussed

options and decided that Tamara should send out a list of these potential activities and possibly more with links, with board member to review and respond electronically.

X. Continuing Education (Tamara Latawiec)

All board members were asked to contact at least one person to inquire about them presenting a continuing education workshop for MOCPA. Tamara contacted Jennifer O'Scanlon, a psychiatric nurse, about a psychopharmacology presentation, and she declined, citing not feeling expert enough yet, but she reached out to another psychiatric nurse who mentored her, but she also declined, citing having too many obligations at the moment. Jennifer also asked other folks she knows in the discipline, but so far, there are no takers. Ben asked Michelle Jennings, a pediatric nurse practitioner, who deals with child abuse reporting and is a seasoned presenter. Her main issue concerned time, so perhaps she could do an hour on one presentation or an hour and a half on two different presentations. She may be interested, but is currently on vacation, so Ben will follow up with her when she returns. Lauren asked two psychologists if they would like to speak. One is Priya Alpern, who does perinatal mental health and is also a seasoned presenter, but she had an issue with the honorarium being too low. Lauren will try to negotiate something with her that is more to her liking, as the board agreed there could be flexibility with the fee now that we have built a larger reserve of funds. Lauren also asked Jillian Budreaux, who works in the area of parental affect regulation to help with children's behavioral issues. She seemed interested at first, but then disappeared. Lauren will return to her as well to see if something could be negotiated. Robyn spoke with her dissertation supervisor, who engages in temperament-based research with children, and she too was less than enthused with the paperwork requirements and the low honorarium (\$500 was more what she was expecting.)

XI. Technology (Ben Steinberg and Tamara Latawiec)

Ben investigated a variety of video chat platforms for future continuing education events. He reported on a number of different platforms. Discussion ensued regarding the meeting version vs. the more expensive and sophisticated webinar version of these platforms, and most agreed that the meeting version was sufficient. Zoom is the most popular, but also the most expensive. Microsoft Teams was the least expensive, but folks are less familiar with it. And Google Meet requires a sales call to determine pricing. Other options include GoToMeeting, Skype's Meet Now, WebEx, and BlueJeans. A decision was unable to be made, and the issue was tabled for the next meeting.

Tamara also wondered if Quickbooks was necessary going forward, or if a simple Excel spreadsheet might be all that is needed for crafting Treasurer Reports. According to Ben, Quickbooks is \$270 per year, which renews October 9th. We have simple bookkeeping for now, but it may get more complicated as we do more continuing education and social events in the future. Ben is familiar with Quickbooks, but he admits it is not very user friendly and is more sophisticated than we need. The decision to review this can be made again prior to October.

Meeting concluded at 1:12 pm.

Next meeting date is TBD via video chat.

Submitted by Robyn Koslowitz, PhD