



MOCPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2020

Meeting called to order at 11:18 am

In attendance: Tamara Latawiec, Deirdre Waters, Dolores Reilly

I. Welcome

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

Meeting minutes from the May 17th board meeting were reviewed and approved.

III. Treasurer Report (Dolores Reilly)

The Treasurer Report and Profit and Loss Statement were reviewed and approved. The association's Annual Report will be recalculated and resubmitted.

IV. NJPA Meetings and Initiatives (Deirdre Waters)

Deirdre attended several NJPA Board Meetings as well as an Affiliate Caucus Meeting. Deirdre reported that there has been significant legislative action at NJPA, including a bill to reduce postdoctoral training hours, as well as efforts to permit practice interstate legally beyond the pandemic. NJPA is also seeking approval from New York State to offer continuing education credits for those NJPA members also licensed in New York. Also considered are potential credits that may be offered for social workers or counselors. In addition, on the NJPA listserv, there has been a shift to front channel review of listserv posts to reduce contentiousness, and thus far, the new model appears to be going well. The affiliate caucus continues to consider generating a speaker list for continuing education, possibly sharing speakers with NJPA, splitting CE fees, and developing a home study model for affiliates. Having a welcoming committee or hospitality point person at each affiliate to welcome new members and introduce existing members might be helpful for social events. Some affiliates are participating in reading groups/book clubs, film discussions, non-CE presentations for 30 minutes to one hour in order to promote connection, and also networking events.

V. Membership Status (Tamara Latawiec)

Two new members joined the association since the May board meeting, so MOCPA now has 55 members.

VI. MOCPA Directories (Tamara Latawiec)

There is no new directory business for this meeting; directories will be updated at the end of the year.

VII. MOCPA Website (Tamara Latawiec)

Two members each placed a classified ad for a job opportunity for three months, and another member has expressed possible interest in an ad for office space. Tamara deleted all the photos of past events on the website, which were causing the page to load slowly, and in light of restricted socializing due to the pandemic, it may be a while before MOCPA can offer new events. Instead, a list of past events organized by date has been posted to the website and will be easier to manage going forward.

VIII. MOCPA Bylaws (Tamara Latawiec)

No new bylaws changes are requested at this time.

IX. Social Event Planning (Tamara Latawiec)

Discussion ensued as to whether or not it makes sense to attempt socially distant outdoor socialization during the pandemic. The board discussed the risks of meeting in-person and felt that any meeting at all would likely be virtual, at least for the first half of 2021. It was decided to conduct a poll among the membership for interest.

X. Continuing Education Planning (Tamara Latawiec)

Our intended November speaker fell through, so Tamara reached out to the Rutgers GSAPP Alumni Organization listserv for possible alternatives and received five responses. Milton Fuentes offered a very short presentation on implicit bias; Jeffrey Axelbank offered his classic presentation on chronic pain using John Sarno's ideas (which also included a \$350 movie showing); and David Yusko, Anton Shcherbakov, and Meir Flancbaum all offered presentations largely based upon behavioral therapy techniques for various anxiety disorders. In an exchange of emails among board members in between board meetings, a majority of members of the board preferred David Yusko, in light of his extensive training under Edna Foa and the opportunity to learn about emetophobia treatment, about which David is currently writing a book with a former patient. David confirmed that he could present likely in early 2021, pending his submission of materials for the NJPA application, which Tamara will submit. The other prospective speakers were told that we would likely reach out to them to present for us at some point in the future, in particular Milton, who may be able to construct a somewhat longer presentation. MOCPA board members Deirdre Waters and Robyn Koslowitz also offered to develop workshops related to ACT (Deirdre) and parenting (Robyn) perhaps some time next year, if their schedules permit.

A virtual platform will have to be selected in order to accommodate a live streamed continuing education event during the pandemic. While a webinar format is ideal, a general meeting format for larger numbers of people may suffice as well. Tamara has investigated a number of different options, and board members may be asked to pilot some ahead of time in order to confirm the functions necessary to support a continuing education presentation, including the ability to take attendance as

well. Deirdre offered to host continuing education events through Zoom, but she needs to confirm the meeting length limit and explore any functions for attendance and tardiness tracking.

XI. Business Meeting, Elections, and the Future of MOCPA (Tamara Latawiec)

Despite engaging in very little business this year due to the pandemic, a public end-of-year business meeting has nonetheless been conducted just prior to this board meeting in order to maintain the association's tax-exempt status as a 501(c)6. In keeping with the board's intent to have staggered elections, positions for President and Treasurer are now available. Both Benjamin Steinberg and Deborah Riviere expressed general interest in becoming more involved with the board, and when presented with the options for President and Treasurer, Ben confirmed that he would like the Treasurer position, and Debbie did not respond, despite a follow-up attempt. Ben also stated that he did not wish to run against anyone in an official election, but would merely volunteer himself informally for the position. The board discussed Ben's interest in becoming Treasurer and the fact that no interest has been expressed for becoming President. The board also explored how to possibly handle board vacancies generally, as well as the current inability to find a new President and the likelihood that this may be a long-term condition. It was suggested that some tasks, particularly those of the President, might be parceled out to other volunteers who might be inclined to volunteer for smaller tasks rather than take on an entire board position.

In addition, in light of the association offering only one activity throughout 2020--Bonnie Gorscak's workshop on complicated grief--in addition to the impact that the pandemic continues to have on association activities, Tamara proposed that MOCPA refrain from charging member dues for 2021 and grant current members another year of membership gratis. The board discussed this proposal and agreed with it.

Meeting concluded at 1:08 pm

Next Meeting Date is Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 11:30 am via video chat.

Submitted by Tamara Latawiec, PhD on behalf of Robyn Koslowitz, PhD