



MOCPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2022

Meeting called to order at 11:30 am

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

I. Welcome

II. Meeting Minutes (Robyn Koslowitz)

Meeting minutes from the May 22nd board meeting in 2022 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)

Three NJPA board meetings have passed (June, September, November) since Lauren last updated us about NJPA news. The wellness event and fall conference have also transpired. Lauren reported that she attended all board meetings and also the fall conference, where she hosted a table. There was also an affiliate caucus meeting that she attended as well.

The NJPA Executive Director (ED) was let go, and there is still no ED at present, but NJPA is interviewing and has some good candidates and hopes to have someone new situated by January 2023. There is also no NJPA President-Elect for next year. Daniel Lee will fulfill some of those duties until someone is found for that position. NJPA will hire a part-time Assistant ED as well, as it has become clear how large the ED role is. This person will focus on growing membership and continuing education and can step in when the ED is unavailable.

The current strategic plan is set to sunset this year, so the new plan is focused upon ramping up continuing education in a major way. The fall conference went well and was delivered in a hybrid fashion. There will be a spring conference next year.

NJPA is proceeding with a town hall to determine prescription privileges and have hired a consulting firm to determine what NJPA's stance should be on the issue.

Transferring to a new NJPA website has been delayed from October due to some problems with the new company that got entangled with the former ED. The current website will expire this month.

The “Psychologists in Pain Management” bill that will be passed will not be mandatory continuing education, but it will fund training psychologists in pain management.

The Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine collaboration with NJPA is also occurring, so there will be continuing education credits through NJPA now. The sister of Peter DeNigris, outgoing NJPA President, is at the helm of that association.

Susan McGroarty reported that there are some serious issues with the Board of Psychological Examiners (BoPE), particularly with respect to successfully contacting them via email or phone. Folks have had no choice but to go to the Newark office in person to have their questions answered. Susan McGroarty expressed concerns over the functioning of the BoPE. There is a new NJPA representative to the BoPE, so that person may be able to shed some light on the situation.

Susan also hopes to form an insurance committee and has some interested members. Most of her issues are insurance-related. She is working on the Change Healthcare/Horizon letters; she has been collecting the letters and sending them to APA, which has sued regarding these letters in the past.

The Affiliate Caucus meeting revealed that all affiliates are struggling with membership and activity/engagement, except for the Morris County group, especially in continuing education. One of the things that was discussed was having NJPA assist the affiliates in planning continuing education events more. We could share a list of continuing education presenters, which could be shared amongst us, as well as continuing education events that NJPA has conducted. Many affiliates are also having difficulty filling their leadership positions.

At the NJPA board meetings, it has been difficult attaining a quorum for voting, so there is some discussion about having non-voting affiliate members potentially vote. There is already an Affiliate Chair who votes, but the individual affiliate representatives do not vote. Discussion ensued about potentially doing polling among the membership to see what folks think about certain NJPA issues.

V. Membership Status (Tamara Latawiec)

Two more members joined the association since our last meeting in May, bringing membership up to 50 members. New members include: (1) a psychologist who just moved to Interlaken from the Philadelphia area and who does private practice with adolescents and adults in an integrative fashion and who also does forensic evaluations in Philadelphia family court on the side, and (2) Rick and Julie Zakreski’s son, Matt, who lives and works in Morris County, and who works with children, adolescents, and adults in autism, giftedness, ADHD, and cognitive assessment.

VI. Directories (Tamara Latawiec)

Once dues payments for 2023 have all been submitted, directories will be edited and distributed among the membership early next year. The four new members who joined MOCPA this year will be included in next year’s directory, assuming they renew membership.

VII. Website and Email Account (Tamara Latawiec)

The classified ad section has been getting some more action from our members. We have had ads going pretty much throughout the year. Otherwise, everything else remains the same, and our email account seems mostly normal again.

VIII. Dues and Bylaws (Tamara Latawiec)

At the last meeting, Tamara had asked that the board review the association dues and consider decreasing them, given that MOCPA has the highest dues of all the affiliates despite being only minimally 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. This issue was tabled at our last meeting and now needs to be revisited. The board agreed to reduce dues by \$5 each this year, and potentially again next year, but it will be revisited next year before making that decision.

IX. Social Events (Tamara Latawiec)

An outdoor social event at Fox Hollow Vineyards in Holmdel was held in July during the heat wave. Seven members signed up, but one canceled due to the extraordinarily hot weather. Two other folks said they would have liked to come, but they already had plans that day. Some people brought significant others, so about ten people participated in total. It was a very nice time, and it might be good to do that event again at other times during the year so that others can attend.

The board discussed how to handle social events going forward, in light of COVID still being an issue to some degree. Warmer weather would permit outdoor events that would not pose much risk. Ideas included a farm event where kids could attend as well. Tamara will research Oak Hill Farms in Holmdel.

X. Continuing Education (Tamara Latawiec)

In October, Ben's contact at HMH, Michele Jennings, presented a continuing education workshop virtually on child abuse reporting. Twenty-three people signed up, and 10 of them were non-MOCPA members. One person canceled ahead of time, and another person failed to show. The survey feedback was mostly good, but one person was consistently quite negative. Several people reported afterward that they did not receive either the link to the survey or their CE certificate, even though all were sent out on time and to the correct addresses. It made for a rather frustrating email circus, given that one person involved NJPA and accidentally involved Rutgers GSAPP as well.

Regarding future speakers, the psychiatric nurse that Tamara had contacted prior to our last meeting now says that she feels ready to present. Tamara sent her the NJPA application elements, but she has not heard back from her. Our newest MOCPA member, Matt Zakreski, also indicated that he would like to present on neurodiversity, and he too was sent the NJPA application elements, but Tamara has not heard back from him either. Tamara will follow up with both of them.

Other board members were going to follow up with their prospective speakers as well given that the MOCPA board agreed to alter our honorarium fees. Over email since our last meeting in May, the board agreed to pay each outside speaker \$100 per credit. So a workshop that garners 3 CE credits for participants will garner \$300 for the speaker.

Board members reported their continuing efforts to recruit speakers, based on the higher honorarium now offered.

XI. Technology (Ben Steinberg)

Regarding our \$270 per year Quickbooks subscription, Ben reported that he will pay Quickbooks monthly until the end of the year and then switch over to an Excel spreadsheet. The subscription is too expensive and sophisticated for our needs.

Regarding virtual meeting platforms, the board was unable to decide on a platform at the last meeting. For the recent continuing education event, Ben was able to use the platform available through HMH, as both he and the speaker are employees there, which worked out nicely. So far, MOCPA has managed to avoid paying for a virtual platform, as either the speaker or the host has had access to their own platform through their jobs or other means.

Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, GoToMeeting, Skype's Meet Now, WebEx, and BlueJeans are all options. The board discussed tabling this for next time, as there is no urgency to pick something immediately. Questions arose as to who the user is and how it would work if different people hosted, etc. An email discussion among board members was suggested the next time this issue becomes pertinent.

Meeting concluded at 1:36 pm

Next meeting date is TBD via video chat.

Respectfully submitted by Robyn Koslowitz, PhD