



MOCPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2024

Meeting called to order at 12:07 pm

In attendance: Tamara Latawiec, Nicole Martell, (Lauren Gerardi not present, but voted via email)

I. Welcome

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

Meeting minutes from the board meeting on 12/17/23 were reviewed and approved.

III. Treasurer Report (Nicole Martell)

The Treasurer Report was reviewed and approved.

IV. NJPA Meetings and Initiatives (Lauren Gerardi)

Although Lauren could not attend today's meeting, she reported in a prepared statement the following:

NJPA Meetings:

Only one full NJPA board meeting has occurred since Lauren's last report on 1/19/24.

Listserv:

NJPA has several new volunteers to the ListServ monitoring committee, making it a full committee for the first time in a few years. NJPA has been looking at ways to lessen some of the posting restrictions, but are limited by APA, who hosts the listserv.

Central Office:

Central Office is down a staff member due a staff member going out on parental leave. In addition, the new website is causing tremendous logistical difficulties and has made staff's work more cumbersome, rather than less. They ask that members have patience with them. This is also the reason why they have extended the timeframe for submission of Affiliate CE paperwork.

Insurance Committee:

There continue to be serious efforts made to form an insurance committee to better educate and advocate for members with regard to insurance companies. There has been some consideration of increasing the DPA hours in order to get this started. No resolution yet.

Spring Conference:

The spring conference will have an event to toast to new licensees, and affiliates are welcome to come as a recruiting opportunity. NJPA is also working on including more affiliate information in other new licensee outreach materials.

Fall conference:

The fall conference will now be the Fall *Convention*, reflecting attempts to make the event bigger and with more offerings. Plans continue to include RxP education as part of the programming, so that members can hear from both sides of the issue.

Membership:

NJPA is looking to restructure its membership categories, with new categories to take effect likely in 2025. The new categories will most likely be based on a package of benefits that members can self-select, rather than on the members' career status. The details are still being worked out and have yet to go to a vote.

V. MOCPA Status and Officer Transition (Tamara Latawiec and Nicole Martell)

Because Nicole Martell graciously volunteered to be our new treasurer, MOCPA is no longer paused; however, MOCPA is still in need of a representative to the NJPA board, a position that also serves on NJPA's Affiliate Caucus. The Affiliate Caucus is currently in transition itself, and renewed efforts to secure a representative should be undertaken once the Caucus enters its new form.

When MOCPA was faced with dissolution, there were a number of questions that revealed themselves during Tamara's dissolution research. Sara Tedrick Parikh at NJPA indicated that she would forward these questions to their bookkeeper; however, when Tamara followed up with Sara just prior to our last board meeting, Sara indicated that she had been so busy, she never reached out to the bookkeeper, but would do so. Tamara has not heard back from her on this issue since then and will follow up with her. Nicole indicated that her family members have business and accounting backgrounds, so she will forward these questions onto them as well.

Nicole will use her own manual bookkeeping method, rather than a commercial product, as her accounting method going forward. She received online access to all MOCPA financial and technology accounts from Tamara. Tamara had asked MOCPA's prior treasurer, Ben Steinberg, to coordinate with Nicole during the transition. There has historically been some difficulty with current association and treasurer mailing addresses on file with the bank and receiving new debit cards and checks. In addition, the branch where we opened our account has since closed, but there is a main customer service number that we can access for questions. Nicole reported that she will follow up with her local branch to transition the accounts fully away from prior treasurers to her instead and obtain new debit cards and checks, as needed.

VI. Membership Status (Tamara Latawiec)

One member joined the association right after we secured a new treasurer, so membership is currently at 50 members. The new member is licensed in both NJ and NY and has a lot of experience in teaching, training, and supervision at academic settings. Her clinical practice focuses on substance use and other addictions, which is most welcome in light of the paucity of these services in our area on an outpatient basis, and she also works with trauma, mindfulness, and to a lesser degree, parenting and maternal

mental health. She listed a Shrewsbury address for her office mailing address, but it may be not a physical space, so it is possible that she may provide telehealth exclusively, although this was not entirely clear in her application.

VII. Dues and Directories (Tamara Latawiec)

Given that MOCPA is getting off to a late start, Tamara thought it may make sense to forgo dues payments this year. The board discussed this idea and decided to forgo dues for current members, but accept dues for new members. Updates to the membership directories need to be made so that 2024 versions can be disseminated, so Tamara will reach out to the membership to ask for updates and make the appropriate changes.

VIII. Technology (Tamara Latawiec)

The website, AOL email account, PayPal account, OceanFirst online banking account, and Wix account all appear to be functioning without incident. MOCPA still remains without a virtual meeting platform; however, Nicole has graciously offered the association and any continuing education speakers the use of her Zoom Pro account.

IX. Social Events (Tamara Latawiec)

MOCPA has had a dwindling attendance at social events. For 2023, only one or two people/parties arrived at each event. Events in the recent past have been free, on weekends, and have been open to friends and family, including children. At a future board meeting when board member attendance is robust, the board might consider hypothesizing or investigating why attendance is so slim. For the immediate future, Lauren suggested that we hold an event at Source Brewery in Colts Neck, which is child-friendly and has an expansive outdoor area, to which the board agreed.

X. Continuing Education (Tamara Latawiec)

NJPA circulated a long and detailed document noting their new rules concerning gaining NJPA approval for affiliate continuing education workshops. The time, effort, and staff required to approve applications was heavily noted and reportedly translated into significant revenue loss for NJPA and time and attention away from NJPA business. Applications must now be submitted to NJPA no later than 90 days prior to the intended date of the workshop. If they are kicked back for errors, revised applications re-start the 90-day clock and are placed at the end of the queue. Attendance logs may not be handwritten and must be in electronic form, noting also if participants met attendance requirements to receive a certificate. The flow for paying for credits, completing evaluations, and receiving CE certificates has changed as well, and affiliates are responsible for heavily and repeatedly educating workshop participants about the changes. Participants will first register/pay for the workshop through the affiliate, then pay for their NJPA certificates prior to the workshop through NJPA, and then attend the workshop. The affiliate will generate and submit the electronic attendance log to NJPA within five business days of the workshop, and upon its receipt, NJPA will furnish evaluation links to participants who already paid for their certificates. Upon completing the evaluation, participants will immediately receive auto-generated continuing education certificates that may be downloaded. Certificates will no longer be emailed to participants by NJPA staff. Any communication regarding problems that participants may have with this new process must go through the affiliate first, and then the affiliate

must deal with it directly or backchannel NJPA about it, presumably without cc-ing participants. Affiliates may not send participants directly to NJPA and must be the conduit back and forth between participants and NJPA. Affiliates are required to attend a training about this new model, and NJPA will also furnish an FAQ page as well.

MOCPA is again in need of future speakers. Tamara can reach out to the psychiatric nurse that had previously indicated she might present on psychopharmacology. There is also a new psychiatric practice that opened up in Red Bank, part of a larger group with several offices in Illinois, one in Wisconsin, and another one in New Jersey, in Warren. The psychiatrist running the NJ offices is a psychiatrist with whom Tamara and Nicole once worked years ago at the Rutgers Counseling Center. This specialty practice offers transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), psychedelic treatment, and ketamine treatment, and given that these treatments are not as typical as the usual psychotropics, learning about them might be interesting for members who are likely not to be well versed in them.

It has been difficult for board members to find speakers. Honorarium was increased to \$100 per credit, but this figure may need to be augmented to secure future speakers.

Meeting concluded at 2:03 pm

Next meeting date is TBD via video chat.

*Respectfully submitted by Tamara Latawiec, PsyD on behalf of Robyn Koslowitz,
PhD*