

BRITISH COLUMBIA COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORKERS MINUTES

Date: **March 19, 2010**

Place: Granville Island Hotel, Vancouver

Chair: Liz Jones

Members present: Susan Hogman, Gary Mavis, Kathryn McCannell, Chi Ying Wong, Bruce Hallsor, Bruce Northey, Susan Noakes, Glen Schmidt, Geraldine Manson, Heather Stilwell

Regrets Lorna Dittmar

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

In attendance: Staff: Susan Irwin, Bonnie White

Liz Jones called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm

1. Opening Geraldine Manson opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Approval of agenda The agenda was approved as circulated.

3. Approval of minutes It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the BCCSW Board meeting held on January 16, 2010 be approved.

The motion was adopted.

4. Orientation Susan Irwin made a presentation on some aspects of the Social Workers Act and the relationship with the Health Professions Act. The SWA sets out a broad scope of practice for social workers and then provides that the Board may set standards, limits, and conditions on practice. At times such standards and conditions are in response to other pieces of legislation such as the Adoption Act or HPA. For example the HPA restricts making a diagnosis to specific professions (a diagnosis of mental disorder is restricted to physicians and psychologists) or as authorized under another Act. The SWA limits DSM diagnosis (for mental disorders and conditions) to Registered Clinical Social Workers through the Social Worker Regulations and the Bylaws.

	Chair
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Therefore, in order to change this bylaw, as recommended by legal counsel, the Board must first pass a proposed amendment to the bylaws which will require approval by the Minister for CFD and then must be posted on our website for 3 months.

5. EXECUTIVE REPORT: Liz Jones

Liz reported that the executive has met twice and they are becoming familiar with the current issues. They plan to meet regularly between board meetings.

Gavin Perryman has been contracted to update the personnel practices policy in accordance with current employment standards and consistent with the Policy Manual. It has been many years since there was a thorough review of this document. The plan is to bring this to the June board meeting.

6. REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Susan Irwin

A copy of the Registrar's report was circulated and received by the Board. Susan provided a verbal highlight of key activities:

- Renewals are completed for 2010
 - Standards of Practice have been printed and distributed
 - Newsletter & Annual Report will be prepared on time
 - New office staff are in place and working very well.
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7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Board reviewed a draft template on terms of reference for committees. Each committee chair will be invited to complete the template for their specific committee.

There was discussion of the appointment process when there are vacancies on committees. There will be a regular notice in the newsletter inviting interested registrants to put their names forward. Candidates in the fall election will be invited to put forward their names for appointment and committee members are also invited to make recommendations.

The process will involve interested people submitting a c.v. and the Registrar vetting for any outstanding complaints. Potential appointments will be discussed with the committee chair and the Board will make the appointments.

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Motion: It was moved and seconded that

The Board rescinds the appointment of Peter Quick to the Registration Committee and appoints Susan Waldron to the Registration Committee.

The motion was adopted.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

The Board rescinds the appointment of Richard Argue to the Quality Assurance Committee.

The motion was adopted.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

The Board appoints Shelley Pennington to the Quality Assurance Committee.

The motion was adopted.

7.1 FINANCIAL REPORT: Gary Mavis

Financial Statements

The financial statements for November and December 2009 and January and February 2010 were received and reviewed.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

The Board of the BC College of Social Workers receives the financial statements for November and December 2009 and January and February 2010.

The motion was adopted.

Budget

Gary Mavis presented a revised budget for 2010.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

The Board of the BC College of Social Workers adopts the 2010 budget, as revised in March and circulated.

There was discussion regarding the approach taken in preparing budgets and a review of some items.

A friendly amendment was accepted to revise the following items: meeting expenses will be \$14,000; insurance will be \$7,000 and legal costs will be \$50,000.

The suggestion to develop a contingency fund rather than increase specific items was taken under advisement.

The amended motion was adopted.

Funds

Gary recommended that the Board direct the accountants to revise the allocation of funds in the preparation of the year end statement. The Research and Policy Fund has not been used and can be moved back into the operations surplus fund.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

The Board instructs the accountants to eliminate the research and policy fund of \$20,000.

The motion was adopted.

Accountants

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

The Board of the BC College of Social Workers appoints Marsh & Marsh as accountants for 2010.

The motion was adopted.

7.2 REGISTRATION: Susan Hogman

The Registration Committee has scheduled their first meeting for Saturday March 20.

7.3 REGISTRATION APPEALS: Bruce Hallsor

The committee has received one new appeal and is currently reviewing this.

7.4 INQUIRY COMMITTEE: Kathryn McCannell

The committee presented reports to the Board on six files.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

After considering the report of the Inquiry Committee pursuant to section 28 of the Social Workers Act, the Board of the BC College of Social Workers confirms the decision of the Inquiry Committee on File 2009-04 to enter a complaint resolution agreement.

The motion was adopted.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

After considering the report of the Inquiry Committee pursuant to section 28 of the Social Workers Act, the Board of the BC College of Social Workers confirms the decision of the Inquiry Committee on File 2009-06 to enter a complaint resolution agreement.

The motion was adopted.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

After considering the report of the Inquiry Committee pursuant to section 28 of the Social Workers Act, the Board of the BC College of Social Workers confirms the decision of the Inquiry Committee on File 2009-08 to enter a complaint resolution agreement.

The motion was adopted.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

After considering the report of the Inquiry Committee pursuant to section 28 of the Social Workers Act, the Board of the BC College of Social Workers confirms the decision of the Inquiry Committee on File 2009-10 to enter a complaint resolution agreement.

The motion was adopted.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

After considering the report of the Inquiry Committee pursuant to section 28 of the Social Workers Act, the Board of the BC College of Social Workers confirms the decision of the Inquiry Committee on File 2009-12 to take no further action on the complaint.

The motion was adopted.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

After considering the report of the Inquiry Committee pursuant to section 28 of the Social Workers Act, the Board of the BC College of Social Workers confirms the decision of the Inquiry Committee on File 2009-14 to take no further action on the complaint.

The motion was adopted.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that

After considering the report of the Inquiry Committee pursuant to section 28 of the Social Workers Act, the Board of the BC College of Social Workers confirms the decision of the Inquiry Committee on File 2009-16 to take no further action on the complaint.

The motion was adopted.

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7.5 DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE: Bruce Hallsor

The Discipline Committee has a hearing scheduled for May 10 – 12.

7.6 QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE: Chi Ying Wong

This report was covered in the following discussion item.

8. CLINICAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE/DIAGNOSIS: Chi Ying Wong

The Quality Assurance Committee has met four times and has been considering the issue of revising the scope of practice for clinical registration following legal advice to the Board that the current scope is too broad.

As the process will take some time to complete, the QAC is proposing an interim strategy. This would allow some full registrants (non-clinical) to undertake some part of the scope of practice of clinical registrants. The committee circulated a draft form which would be completed by applicants. This would require information about their experience and a supervisor's assessment in lieu of completing the clinical exam.

There was detailed discussion about this proposal including the following points:

- The College should not delegate its authority by relying on supervisor's assessments, particularly when little is known about the supervisors
- Concern that some social workers are being asked to undertake diagnosis when they are not RCSWs
- Some social work jobs are being threatened by restrictions imposed by the College
- Since diagnosis is controlled under the *Health Professions Act* and authorized to social workers under our bylaws, a bylaw amendment would also be required to change the exam requirement
- Requiring supervisor approval and annual renewal of status would be cumbersome and require much staff time.

The Board referred to the motion adopted at the January meeting and requested that the QAC continue to focus on a review of the scope of practice of clinical registration. The QAC was requested to report back to the Board by making a recommendation as to what they think the scope of practice ought to be for clinical social workers. What should be the difference in scope between Full registration and Clinical registration?

9. ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORK BOARDS:

**Board
Member
Training**

Susan Noakes reported on the Board Member Training she attended last week. She found it to be very informative and helpful. One board member is registered for each of the remaining two sessions this year. The College has funds for all other new board members to attend so they are encouraged to register.

**Spring
Meeting**

Liz Jones and Susan Hogman will attend the spring meeting on behalf of the Board. Susan Irwin will attend the conference and the administrator’s meeting.

10. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

There was a discussion about strategic priorities. The transition from the Board of Registration to the College of Social Workers is nearing completion.

As the College grows, future issues will include

- Development of a comprehensive communications strategy
- Implementation of on-line renewals
- Review of facilities to accommodate increased staffing

11. MEETING SCHEDULE:

There was discussion regarding the best time to hold Board meetings. Following an informal vote it was decided that future meetings will be held on Saturdays starting from 9 am to 3 pm.

The next meetings will be June 12, and September 11. The time for a meeting in November in conjunction with the Annual Meeting on November 4 has not been set.

12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

CHAIR: _____ Date: _____

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