Saturday January 24, 2015
Governing Council Meeting Minutes
IntrinXec

Present: Scott Palmer, Pearl Barner, Rhea Sullivan, Scott Slattery, Robin McLeod, Seymour Gross, C.J. Swanlund, Andre Mutschler- Supplee, Mimi Sa, Willie Garrett, Steve Girardeau, Mary Ann Lassegard, Beryl Wingate, Trisha Stark

Phone/Internet: Thomas Carrillo, Steve Vincent, Zachariah White, Sandra Sanger

Regrets: Harriet Haynes, BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, Michelle Trotter-Mathison, Bibi Neumann

Meeting called to order by Scott Palmer at 9am CST

1. Introductions and shout-outs

2. Review, amend, approve agenda (approved unanimously)

3. Consent Agenda (approved unanimously with changes to minutes)
    a. Minutes GC Dec 6, 2014 approval
    b. Schedule of Revised 2015 GC meetings
    c. MPA Government Relations Contract with Ewald Consulting
    d. Appointment of Steve Gilbert as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee

4. Financial Report and Motions (approved unanimously)
    a. Ended the year with $152,000 in cash
    b. Actual net as of 12/31/14 is $78,573 which is 27% of 2015 budgeted expenses
    c. MPA is budgeted to end 2015 with $31,000 surplus in addition to the $78,000 in cash currently available
    d. Motion to place up to 25% of 2015 operating budget in an interest bearing account that can be easily accessed without penalty
        i. The goal is to have 50% of annual operating expenses in "reserves"
    e. Motion to change all of MPA's banking from Allerus Bank to Associated Bank due to the higher fees at Allerus Bank
    f. Suggestion made that members be allowed to make contributions directly to the reserve fund.
        i. Will pass on to Jessica Bartram to put a button on the website for renewing and new members to donate to the reserve fund if they would like and add a place where members can donate to the reserve fund on the renewal form.
        ii. Also suggested that a "donation basket" be available at the annual convention
    g. Question posed about when reserve funds are allowed to be used. No policy is yet drafted. Will be considered at future EC meetings and be brought to GC for discussion.

5. Motion to limit benefits to MPA members with language modifications by membership committee (approved unanimously)

a. Suggested that a friendly amendment be made to item #1 on the motion to increase the Online Minnesota Psychologist price to non-members to be increased to $50/issue
b. A second friendly amendment to remove the last two "whereas" statements that discuss MPA's past financial hardships and how other state organizations limit access to benefit.
c. Rhea will talk to Jessica Bartram about ensuring that past issues of the MN Psychologist be accessible online via the new website.

6. Strategic Plan Review, Discussion

7. Protection Inventory

    a. Was tabled

8. Update from Legislative Committee

    a. Legislative committee is working on a 23.7% increase in Medicaid reimbursements for psychologists. MPA is working with social workers on this bill.
    b. Social workers are seeking same reimbursement rate for master's level social workers as doctoral level mental health providers. The MPA committee will remain silent unless the movement gains momentum and looks like it will require a response.
    c. Also seeking language that psychologists can be directors of behavioral health homes.
    d. Trisha is going to testify in support of a bill that will forgive rural providers student loans in addition to many other recommendations for increasing mental health providers in MN.
    e. Physician assistants are looking for legislation to be able to prescribe psychotropics in outpatient clinics. MPA is concerned that PAs will begin to set up private practices and serve SPMI patients with very little collaboration with physicians.
    f. Mental health day on the hill is the 12th of March. May have two school classes that are going. Patrick Lobejko and Trisha Stark will do education about the bills that are being considered. Will then go to the capital and begin meetings with legislators.
        i. Suggested that a summary of relevant issues be circulated to attendees before the 12th so attendees can become familiar with current issues and better able to discuss them with the legislators.

9. EHR Taskforce
    a. Due to some recent negative feedback, a presentation will be done at the annual convention which will allow for questions and answers.
    b. Request was made that GC make a public statement in support of the work of the EHR taskforce and Trisha Stark's leadership.
    c. MDH is looking at implementing sanctions for providers who do not comply with the EHR mandate.
    d. Suggestion made that the EHR taskforce should be directed to include advocacy of psychologists in addition to education of psychologists on the EHR mandate.

10. Update from the Division of Clinical Psychopharmacology and Collaborative Practice and motion (approved 9 to 4)
    a. Letter in support of the ND RxP bill will be drafted by the president and reviewed by the EC

b. Once completed, a copy of the letter will be sent to GC for their review

11. Announcements
    Mental Health Day at the hill – March 12th
    APA State Leadership Conference – March 14th – 17th
    MPA 2015 Annual Conference – March 27th – 28th
    APA Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award

12. Adjournment (12 Noon)

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Y. Sa, Psy.D., L.P.
Secretary, MPA

Next meeting: March 7, 2015