Area 3 Council Meeting

**D R A F T MINUTES**

February 1, 2020

Hackensack Meridian Health Center

Neptune City, NJ

ATTENDING:

Members: Drs. Mary Anne Albaugh, Lily Arora, Consuelo Cagande, Ken Certa (Area 3 Trustee ), Charles Ciolino, Constance Dunlap (by phone), Barry Fisher, Bill Greenberg, Carla Hammond, Annette Hanson, Barry Herman, Debra Koss, Mark Komrad, Melvin Melnick, Daniel Neff, Sherry Nykiel, Kathleen Patchan (by phone), Richard Ratner, Cristina Sacarea, Elias Shaya, Lan Chi (“Krysti”) Vo, Mani Yavi, Brian Zimnitsky, Hector Colon-Rivera (by phone), Eliot Sorel (by phone for his report)

District Branch Executive Directors: Patricia DeCotiis (NJ), Deb Shoemaker (PA)

APA Administration: Tim Clement (Regional Field Director DGR), Jennifer Medicus (Area 3 Staff Liaison), Kathy Orellana (Regional Director of DGR).

ASM Officers: Drs. Mary Jo FitzGerald (Recorder), Joe Napoli (Speaker-elect).

Guests: Drs. Stephen Brown (Candidate for Recorder), Ramon Solhkhah (Chair of the Department of Psychiatry of the hosting hospital), Dennis Borczon (proxy for PA), Adam Nelson (Candidate for Recorder), Vasilis Pozios (Candidate for Recorder), Mark Sutton (Proxy for DE).

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Bill Greenberg, Area 3 Representative, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM at the Hackensack Meridian Health Center in Neptune City New Jersey.

Dr Greenberg introduced Dr. Solhkhah who generously provided us with his very comfortable venue and welcomed us to his institution. Those attending introduced themselves and described their sources of income as part of the COI policy.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 2019 meeting were accepted as written.

AREA 3 REPRESENTATIVE REPORT (Dr. Greenberg)

Our Area 3 history has been posted on the website. It was suggested by Dr. Sorel and written by Dr. Peele. Dr. Peele is welcome to attend any Area 3 meeting as our historian.

Dr. Greenberg encouraged us to visit the Area 3 Website Agenda Page where there are ample materials posted.

Report of the AEC meeting of November 2019:

Budget discussed with reference to our council grant. If we don’t use the grant, unspent funds are returned to the APA. We were allowed this year only to carry over approximately $6000.

Dr. Sorel’s action paper for an RFM Merit Award was discussed.

A work group has been formed to deal with the Merit Awards for the entire ASM but it has been moving slowly. We will continue doing this in Area 3 this year, and expect that the ASM will soon take it over.

AREA 3 TREASURER’S REPORT (Dr. Melnick)

2020 Grant rounded up to $10.000

We have $6459 to be carried over from 2019 which we can only access through 12/31/2020 (this is a one-time only carry over)

Total expenses for last year were $14,904 mostly for travel and meetings.

For 2020 we have a new grant of $10,000 plus $6459 which we can only access through 12/31/2020.

There was a discussion of expenses related to special projects which we will not be able to afford to continue as a result of the reduction of our budget.

There was discussion of the use of the carry over for the RFM Merit awards until the APA takes it over.

Another discussion: funding for ACROSS Representatives to attend Area Council meetings. (MURs are not members of ACROSS). This includes the two Area 3 Council meetings that are not a part of the Assembly meeting.

\*\*MOTION FROM THE CHAIR for Area 3 to fund ACROSS Reps to attend our Area 3 Council meetings (the two meetings that are not ASM meetings) as well as funding the RFM awards this year anticipating that the APA will take this over next year. \*\*SECONDED.

There was a lengthy discussion about the absence of a policy about the reimbursement of expenses for ACROSS members to attend the Area 3 Council meetings which are not part of the Assembly meetings.

\*\*MOTION to reimburse the travel and lodging expenses, per APA guidelines, of ACROSS Representatives to attend the two meetings this year as described above. \*\*PASSED\*\*.

\*\*MOTION TO DIVIDE THE QUESTION:

1. Will we support having the RFM merit award sponsored by Area 3 for this year?

B. What is the amount of the honorarium?

MOTION TO DIVIDE THE QUESTION \*\*PASSED\*\*.

1. \*\*PASSED\*\* FOR up to 2 AWARDS FOR EACH DISTRICT BRANCH FOR A TOTAL OF 10, for this year
2. \*\*AMENDED to leave it up to the officers to determine how much money is allotted to the expenses for the RFM merit awards, after reviewing expected Council expenses for the rest of 2020.

\*\*QUESTION CALLED \*\*PASSED\*\*

Amendment (B) \*\*PASSED\*\* Amount to be spent to be determined by the officers based on the budget.

CANDIDATES FOR Assembly RECORDER

We heard from the three candidates for Assembly Recorder: Drs. Stephen Brown, Adam Nelson and Vasilis (Bill) Pozios. Each candidate gave a four minute talk and then Council members posed questions to the group of the three of them. The questions were primarily about APA positions on scope of practice and affiliate membership.

LUNCH RECESS

SPEAKER-ELECT REPORT (Dr. Napoli)

1. New Assembly Procedure
2. RFM Merit Award
3. Conflict of Interest (COI) Procedure
4. Looking Forward.

NEW PROCEDURE for Action Papers (APs) beginning at the May, 2020 meeting.

Starts with the Rules Committee which decides if an AP will be placed on the agenda and if so to which Reference Committee (refcom) it will be assigned, or if it will be placed on the Reaffirmation Calendar, which is a form of a Consent Calendar. APs can be pulled from the Reaffirmation Calendar. The refcom report will become a consent calendar. This is a more efficient process. The AMA does this, as do other medical organizations. Most of the debate on APs will take place at the refcom.

RFM MERIT AWARD

There was an AP authored by Dr. Sorel as lead author for the Assembly (ASM) to take this over this process, which was approved by the ASM and went to the Assembly Executive Committee (AEC). The AEC saw this favorably, and referred it to this to a new workgroup, from which it has not emerged. This will be handled at the AEC next week but likely not ready to be implemented this year which is why our Council has discussed it today.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Background: Area 7 authored an Action Paper (AP) that the APA should adopt the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) position on safe prescribing. This AP passed the ASM and went to the Joint Reference Committee (JRC). The chair of the JRC wrote a position statement which was not the same as AACAP’s, which then went to the BOT which approved it and it was then sent to the ASM. Area 3 opposed this version, deeming it very weak, but the ASM voted its approval. The following year Dr. Geller wrote a stronger AP to replace the one previously adopted, substituting a revised and stronger position statement. Dr. Geller’s AP was approved by the ASM, and it went to the JRC. Dr. Geller, author of the AP, was chair of the JRC. Dr. Geller recused himself and Dr. Napoli was to take over, but he was a sponsor of the AP. Dr. Fitzgerald was also a sponsor. APA legal counsel determined that Drs. Geller, Napoli and FitzGerald could not be part of the discussion or vote and had to leave the room. The JRC sent the AP to the BOT. The people who had anything to do with either AP (Dr. Schwartz’s the previous year and Dr. Geller’s) each had 2 minutes to speak and then had to leave the room. The BOT went into closed session. The outcome was for the position statement to go to a workgroup which would come up with a Position Statement, which since went to the BOT. Dr. Napoli reminded the BOT that Position Statements go to the ASM before going to the BOT. BOT has sent it to the ASM.

SO, if you put your name on an AP in the ASM and then come to serve on the JRC or the BOT you are considered to have a Conflict of Interest (COI).

LOOKING FORWARD

Financial issues on the horizon. The APA has been having a balanced budget even though we spend more than we take in as a result of drawing from our investments. There is a concern about the value of our investments, and money will need to be withdrawn from our investments to pay for our new building in Washington DC. When Dr. Napoli becomes Speaker he is expecting to be told not to expect more money for the ASM, and the ASM may be asked to tighten its belt.

RECORDER’S REPORT (Dr. FitzGerald)

Dr. FitzGerald discussed the role of the ASM Recorder in monitoring the process of APs. She has sent out reports after meetings and emails to AP authors. APs go from the ASM or to the JRC, generally. Each AP is reviewed at the JRC. Often the staff say that “we are doing that already” which may sometimes be an overstatement. Coming out of the JRC, APs go to Councils and Committees. The vote of the reviewing Council does not mean that an AP will necessarily be approved. On another front, the Council on Communications has identified social media “gurus” to improve communications.

DR NAPOLI:

ASM tracks APs approved by the ASM which do not automatically become policy. The ASM is a “recommending” body, the BOT is the “final arbiter.” But with regard to Position Statements, Guidelines, and DSM revisions the ASM must grant its approval, as well as the BOT.

TRUSTEE REPORT (Dr. Certa)

Budget issue: we don’t have as much money as we thought. The rule of 95 leads to our dues revenues going down for the next 2 years. Income from reserves will go down when we buy the new office. Most of the work is done by components and the ASM. Don’t underestimate the importance of the ASM.

There is task force to streamline components and procedures.

Annual meeting choices are to be based significantly on the potential of cities to generate revenue by drawing attendees.

No IPS meeting this year. Its future is being reviewed.

Board actions are on the website.

PAC REPORT (Dr. Certa)

Dr. Certa will be rotating off the PAC Board. Concern about specific issues and politicians who have some views which we support and some which we don’t. At times we support legislators in order to get passage of bills which we support for our patients and our profession even though we disapprove of other aspects of the legislators’ agendas. We need to raise PAC money in order for our voice to be heard.

CONGRESSIONAL ADVOCACY NETWORK (CAN)

The CAN encourages us all to develop and use a relationship with our congressperson for whom we are a constituent.

WORKFORCE WORKGROUP (Dr. Greenberg)

Concern about the future of younger psychiatrists. AEC created a workgroup with Dr. Greenberg as chair. Brief meeting in November. Dr. Greenberg wrote an opinion piece published in the Southern Psychiatric Association’s journal, Southlands. Information is posted on our website, including the article.

The two issues are access to care and the nature of the role that our younger colleagues will play in the future of psychiatric practice. Dr. Albaugh mentioned that there is a narrowing of the availability of spots for training for an increasing number of people who would like to go into psychiatry. The narrowing is as a result of cutbacks in federal funding for training programs.

DR. SOREL called in from Montreal with a report:

1. There is an Executive Order (5 C) by the US Government that “to the extent allowable by the law” MDs are equivalent to NPs and PAs for equal remuneration based on work performed no matter what the credentials. The Access to Care committee is talking to Dr. Levin about responding to this. Dr. Sorel believes that psychiatry’s response should be part of the house of medicine’s joint response.
2. November 2019 Milliman report documents thoroughly how insurance companies continue to discriminate regarding payments to psychiatrists perhaps in violation of the parity law.
3. A WPS leadership and advocacy workshop training RFMS and ECPS how to do APs was very successful.
4. Encouraged members to team up on the local and state level with house of medicine colleagues for a unified response to #1) above.

QUESTION: Deadline for RFM Merit Award nominations? February 29, 2020

DISCUSSION OF AP Regarding the APA’s name (Dr. Komrad)

The paper is on the website. The Resolve is for the APA *to initiate a study* (emphasis mine as a reminder that this is not a resolve to change the name but to initiate a study) to explore the financial, organizational and public relations consequences as well as member interest in changing the name of the APA to the American Psychiatric Physicians Association, the APPA. Dr. Komrad asked for discussion and ultimately endorsement.

\*\*Motion to endorse the AP \*\*Seconded. \*\*PASSED\*\*. (Unanimous)

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

September 17, 2020 is the AP deadline for the November (6&7) ASM meeting. Components meet September 24 and 25. APA state advocacy conference is September 26. Southern Psychiatric Association meets September 10-12 (in Baltimore). September 5 is Labor Day weekend. Suggested dates for the next A3C meeting: DECISION POSTPONED about when and where. Perhaps in Baltimore September 12. Dr. Shaya will look into his Institution’s availability, as it is close to where the Southern Psychiatric Association is meeting but far enough away that there shouldn’t be a problem with hotel room availability, and members being able to attend both meetings.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED and followed by a presentation of the APA DGR Prior Authorization Legislative Initiative in New Jersey with Tim Clement, Kathy Orellana, Patricia DeCotiis and Dr. Debra Koss.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melvin P. Melnick, MD

Area 3 Deputy Representative