**Connecticut Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology**

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting**

**Saturday, September 21, 2013**

**8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

**Attendees:** Elaine Hunter, Anna Badini, Carlo Codato, Jill Delaney, Michael Kahn, Jane Keat, Dean Leone, Ira Moses, Ellen Nasper, Nancy Sachner, Mickey Silverman, Ann Singer, Wendy Stewart, and Rachel Torello

**Absentees:** Allison Brownlow, Lois Fox, Barbara Marcus, Dale Ortmeyer, and Inge Ortmeyer

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am. New Board members Jane Keat and Anna Badini were introduced.
2. Ellen Nasper moved that the minutes from the June 1st 2013 retreat be approved. Jill Delaney seconded the motion, and the **minutes were unanimously approved**.
3. The Board **agreed that points of information that do not require discussion be communicated by circulating committee reports before each Board meeting**. This will allow meeting time to be focused on resolving difficult issues. The Board also agreed that minutes should clearly highlight what issues were resolved, and how, so that resolved issues are not inadvertently re-opened. The idea of adding a second retreat, mid-winter, to allow for more free-flowing discussion of issues was suggested, and was formally approved at the end of the meeting (see below).
4. Registrars' Report—Carlo Codato.

37 attendees are registered for today’s clinical conference. This number often doubles at the door.

1. Treasurer's Report—Jill Delaney.

The organization is solvent, having made a net gain of $7,258 during the last fiscal year. Conference revenues exceeded expenses for each offering last year. CSPP currently has $14,731 in the checking account, and $7,235 in a CD. The Finance Committee will consider transferring the CD funds into a savings account, due to fees associated with the CD. Both the Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee are examining the costs associated with paper mailings and mailing-list management, since this contract represented the greatest individual expense last year—$10,524. The Board **agreed that some funds this year could be apportioned to a website overhaul**.

1. Joint Program Committee Report—Jill Delaney on behalf of Barbara Marcus.

Barbara Marcus, Dean Leone, Ann Singer, and Rachel Torello have been working with Western New England Psychoanalytic Society to plan for the next joint CSPP-WNEPS meeting. The meeting will be on men and masculinities. Potential speakers are currently being confirmed.

1. Continuing Education Committee Report—Ira Moses.
2. Clinical Conference Schedule: Virginia Goldner will present on October 19, 2013 on “Romantic Bonds, Binds and Ruptures: When Love Hurts.” Rosemary Balsam will present on “Women’s Bodies” on November 23, 2013. Miriam Steele is confirmed to present in May 2014. This leaves a March clinical conference still open. Ira Moses proposed a conference on **Psychodynamic Perspectives on Everyday Practice Problems**. This could involve bringing in various speakers to discuss issues such as working with insurance companies and managing ethical and legal concerns, while maintaining the nuance and sensitivity of a psychoanalytic perspective. The Board **decided to offer this as a half-day program**.
3. Outreach: The Board agreed that these upcoming clinical conferences present an opportunity to conduct outreach to a broader range of constituents, such as local marriage and family therapists and training programs. Ira Moses will ask committee members to volunteer to conduct such outreach. Carlo Codato suggested that a mass email to Connecticut members of NASW could be done for a $90 fee. **We agreed that Carlo should do this**.
4. Update on Registration for Mini-courses: The mini-courses did not launch, due to being under-subscribed. Ira Moses reported that other societies and institutes have had a similar problem. The Board **agreed to attempt one more email solicitation to see if more interest can be generated**.
5. Proposed Workshop on DSM-5 Changes: The possibility of providing a more nuts-and-bolts workshop on the DSM-5 was discussed. Board members shared their differing views on whether this kind of practical educational offering is in support of CSPP’s mission. After some discussion, the Board determined that a workshop on the new DSM may be helpful for some members. The Board **agreed that a member of the Continuing Education Committee should work on arranging this workshop**.
6. It was **agreed that we may reimburse speakers as necessary for travel and hotels in addition to the allowed honorarium**.
7. Diversity Committee Report—Ellen Nasper

The Diversity Workgroup met on August 28, 2013. Ellen Nasper, Rita McCleary, and Rachel Torello were in attendance. The initial discussion of this very small meeting of the Diversity Workgroup illustrated that the issues of “diversity” cover a wide range and can raise uncomfortable feelings. There were 3 primary frameworks that emerged during the meeting:

1. Personal relationship to issues of diversity. Discussion of issues of diversity raises significant personal anxieties for people, limiting our ability to discuss freely how to address people who are under-represented at CSPP and invite them to join us, collaborate, explore, and connect.
2. Otherness. Using the theoretical framework of internal perceptions of “otherness” and processes of “othering,” which asks us to reflect on our own assumptions of similarity and difference, might be a useful framework for CSPP to consider issues of diversity.
3. The usefulness of psychoanalytic thinking. Psychoanalytic thinking has lots to offer people who work in mental health, regardless of setting or economics of the population. One goal of the workgroup might be to present psychoanalytic ideas to people who work in community settings and people who are in training in terms of relevance to their work (e.g., the usefulness of attachment theory for understanding the impact of trauma) and invite them to join us in dialogue.

Ellen Nasper shared a tentative idea the workgroup has discussed for a series of workshops featuring CSPP members and their work on identity and other-ness. The workgroup is still considering issues such as whether workshops are the best approach, and whether some sensitive matters should be explored in a members-only forum first. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled. The Board engaged with the ideas raised. Responses included the suggestion of adding a column on diversity issues to the Newsletter and the importance of addressing the broader issue of psychoanalytic thinking often being considered not relevant to the daily realities of marginalized communities.

1. Corresponding Secretary’s Report—Ellen Nasper

The Membership renewal letter and information form for the CSPP Membership Directory are being finalized this weekend, and should be distributed to members early next week. The letter includes the new status of “Early Career Member” at an annual fee of $50. Due date will be October 31st. APA defines ECPs as 7 years post-receipt of doctorate. This matches our current definition, which is under 7 years since receipt of degree. This definition could be revisited at the next retreat if necessary.

1. Membership Committee Report—Rachel Torello
2. We have welcomed 4 new members since May. They are as follows:
3. Jeffrey Asmar, LCSW (Hartford)

Jeffrey is a 2004 graduate of Smith’s MSW program, and has just begun the Western New England Two-Year Psychotherapy Program. Prior to establishing his private practice in Hartford, he worked at Capitol Region Mental Health Clinic, Northwest Mental Health Authority, and the Yale Child Study Center.

1. Kiera Boyle, Psy.D. (Hartford)

Kiera is a 2013 graduate of George Washington University’s doctoral program in clinical psychology (child track). She has recently completed her pre-doctoral internship at The Village for Families and Children in Hartford, and is beginning her postdoctoral fellowship at The Institute of Living’s Grace Webb School in Hartford.

1. Vally Coggshall, LCSW (New Haven)

Vally maintains a full time private practice in New Haven. She obtained her MSW from UCONN, and her MA and BA at University of California, Berkley. She has held a number of positions at agencies throughout New Haven County.

1. Luz Cotto-Charneski, LCSW (Fairfield)

Luz completed her MSW at Smith College School of Social Work. She is engaged in post-graduate studies in relational psychotherapy at the Stephen Mitchell Center for Relational Studies in NY. She currently maintains a full time private practice.

1. Rachel Torello now sends names of members interested in being mentored or becoming a mentor to Michael Kahn, as part of the Early Career Initiative.
2. The Board discussed the issue of why we request CVs or resumes when members apply. Some members were concerned that this may be intimidating. Since we do not offer membership to students in undergraduate programs, for example, some information about educational background is required. The Membership Committee will review what information is needed and when and how it should be requested.
3. Website Committee Report—Rachel Torello.

Some changes to the website’s design have been made, and the committee is working to keep the website regularly updated. An “In memoriam” piece for Michael Davies was on the homepage over the summer and has now been moved to a separate section. The website committee will now investigate options for a larger overhaul, given the technical limitations of our current web-host. The Board agreed that efforts should be made to guide more members to the website more frequently. Suggestions included: a discussion board for members, links to articles of interest, adding Member Spotlights, and adding the Newsletter.

1. Newsletter Committee Report—Mickey Silverman.

While all current committee members are continuing, there are some additions to the Newsletter Committee. George Hagman will serve as associate editor, and Margaret Pellegrino will join the committee.

1. Michael Kahn moved that **a mid-winter retreat be held in addition to the spring retreat**. Dean Leone seconded the motion, and the motion was passed. Elaine will host the retreat in her house. She’ll survey board members to pick a date in either December or January.

Elaine Hunter thanked the Board members and adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane E. Keat, Psy.D.

Acting Recording Secretary