
Meeting of the Transitional Council of the College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario — May 13, 2013

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, and Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting.

REPORTS

President's Report:

- It has been a busy time, dealing with Ministry requirements and communication
- Council has been contacted by many educational institutions expressing their desire to develop training curricula and programs
- Re-appointment of all TC members has been agreed.

Governance:

- Committees have been elected and confirmed:
 - Chairs:
 - Philip McKenna — Registration Committee
 - Kevin VanDerZwet Stafford — Quality Assurance Committee
 - Carol Cowan-Levine — Executive Committee
 - Members all as was

The TC acknowledged Pat DeYoung's work as Chair of the Registration Committee throughout the past years with a small gift and a card.

Executive Committee Report:

- This report was deferred

Quality Assurance Committee Report:

- Met twice since March.
- Most work on the *Standards and Guidelines*
 - Reduced to six sections
 - Section 1: Professional Relationship incl. client care
 - Section 2: Competence
 - Sections 3: Professional Conduct
 - Section 4: Supervision and Consultation
 - Section 5: Record Keeping
 - Section 6: Business Practice
- Much of the work is now in the editing phase
- Committee still plans to have the completed work ready for review by the TC in September 2013
- Also planning on some form of public consultation on this work

Registration Committee Report:

- First report by the new Chair, Philip McKenna; acknowledging Pat DeYoung's work
- One meeting since April.
- The draft Registration Regulation has now been submitted to the Ministry.
- Supervision requirement for grandparenting has been confirmed at 40 hours
 - Peer supervision will not be accepted.
 - All of the 20 clinical hours could be group supervision — for the grandparenting process only.
 - Group sizes of up to 12 supervisees will be accepted — for the grandparenting process only.
 - The committee urges associations to support their members in obtaining the necessary hours before registration.
- The committee agreed that client assessments will count as direct client hours.
- Agreement in principle:
 - Certificates and diplomas will be made available electronically in downloadable and printable files available with special passwords on a special section of the website
 - The public registry will serve as final authority on the membership status of a therapist

Education Framework Task Group:

- Deferred. Detailed information later on the agenda.

Prior Learning Assessment Task Group:

- One meeting since March
- The scoring table for the grandparenting process was reviewed for posting on the website and has since been posted.
- The application form for grandparenting has been developed and is in its first testing phase.
 - TG hopes for feedback and adjustments by June
 - Two more, larger testing phases are planned for June / July and August
 - A manual for the application process is being developed. TG hopes to have it finished by Aug. 13.
 - A webinar is also being developed with a proposed deadline of Sep. 13
 - Start of the pre-registration process is planned for Oct. 13

Registrar's Report:

- Working on setting up the Jurisprudence e-learning course and manual.
 - Hoping to have it up on the website and ready to go by the end of May.
 - Fee for taking the e-learning course will be \$60.
- IT system is being set up in parallel to allow applicants to open their accounts before doing the e-learning course.
- Bank systems are also set up in parallel to allow for online payments.
- Working on putting the Educational Framework review system online asap.

- TC hired new bookkeepers after some complications with the previously hired firm.
- Auditors have been chosen.
- TC has been informed that a private members bill has been introduced to deal with the regulation in the Regulated Health Act that prohibits practitioners from treating spouses (as that would, by definition of the Act, create a situation of 'sexual abuse' when the spouses engage in sexual activities afterwards). Since this Bill may have direct impact on members of the College, the TC will keep an eye on its progress.
- Now regular meetings with other Colleges allowed to practice the controlled act of psychotherapy. In the last meeting some Colleges expressed that they struggled with how to implement the changes in their own regulations:
 - **Nurses:** will allow members to use the title 'psychotherapist' and will allow private practice of the controlled act *if they have an initiating order from a physician*.
 - **GPs:** struggling with the title as proposed (GP-psychotherapist) due to the many different specializations
 - Other Colleges still discussing
- Social Workers College brought it to the attention of the TC that the Ministry had started a survey of hospitals and care organizations, asking practitioners about the scope of their work. Wording of the survey seemed to show that the Ministry was looking for practices in the fields psychotherapy and mental health but it wasn't clear on asking about the controlled act. The TC has communicated to the Ministry that as the regulating body of the field of psychotherapy they hope to be informed about such endeavours in the future and will be included in the sharing of the results.
- **Question: will other Colleges have to follow the rules and regulations of this College if pertaining to the practice of the controlled act?**
- **Answer: No, each of those Colleges will develop their own as it fits into their existing regulations.**

COLLEGE NAME SHORT-FORM

- Since the title of the RMHT has been deferred the question of the name of the College has been coming up again.
- The official name can't be changed but the College can adopt a trade name. Many Colleges have done so.
- Proposed trade name: College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario
- **Q:** Why do we need the "registered" in there?
- **A:** To distinguish our members from those who can call themselves psychotherapists but are members of another College.
- Motion to adopt the trade name *College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario* was carried with two objections and one abstention.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE BY-LAW

- Ministry requested this by-law to be done and implemented by June 20, 2013
- The following has been suggested after substantial research with other Colleges:
 - Coverage of at least \$ 1 million and up to \$ 5 million / person / occurrence
 - A 2-year run-off clause
 - A maximum of \$ 4,000 deductible
 - Including a sexual abuse fund / clause
 - If part of a group coverage, each member will still require an individual certificate with her / his name on it.
- **Q:** who will be talking to insurances about this?
- **A:** associations and individual practitioners
- **Q:** isn't sexual abuse a crime and thus excluded from insurance coverage?
- **A:** insurance companies say this exists already and occupational therapists have it. Also, sexual abuse in a therapeutic setting isn't the same as in a legal sense. E.g., as mentioned before, practitioners are currently prohibited from treating spouses because having marital sexual relations afterwards would be considered sexual abuse by the law regulating health practitioners. Insurance with this clause is available but will likely raise premiums.
- Motion to adopt this by-law was carried with one abstention.

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE HONORARIA

1) Honoraria of Professional Members after Proclamation

- After proclamation professional members will be elected and public members will be appointed by the Ministry.
- Public members will be paid an honorarium by the Ministry. The College has no influence on that honorarium.
- Professional members will be paid an honorarium by the College. Many Colleges pay professional members more than the public members receive because it is acknowledged that public honoraria are too low to attract professional members.
- Suggested honoraria:
 - Meetings and preparation days: president \$300 / other members \$225
 - Travel expenses and accommodation after prior agreement and comparable to general cost in the area.
- **Q:** public members have a steeper learning curve than professional members and should have equality with professional members.
- **A:** since the College has no control over the public members' honoraria there can't be anything done about those payments. The College isn't allowed to top up those honoraria.
- **Q:** it doesn't seem right to create in-equality in a College that has equal rights in its mission. It isn't right to fight an unjust situation with another unjust situation.
- The motion to adopt this by-law was turned down.

2) Honoraria of Temporary Community Members Until Proclamation

- Before communication community members will have to be part of committees and need to be paid an honorarium.
- Proposed honoraria: same rates as current Transitional Council members
- Motion to adopt that by-law was carried unanimously.

FRAMEWORK FOR REVIEWING AND RECOGNIZING EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

- The College developed an application package for educational institutions. It consists of:
 - Complete application form
 - Completed competency mapping tool
 - Supporting documents, e.g. policies, course descriptions, student guides, etc.
 - Statutory declaration attesting that the information is complete and accurate
 - Application fee
- Applications will be reviewed by three external reviewers who will write a combined report and recommendation.
- Possible recommendations: recognition granted or recognition not granted at this time
- Institutions who have not been recognized at that time will be told what they could do before re-applying in order to gain a recognition
- A pilot project with 10 programs is currently under way. Programs include:
 - The Living Institute
 - University of Yorkville
 - Adler Institute
 - ISIS
 - Gestalt Institute
 - Waterloo University Music and Spiritual Care program
 - CTP
 - Etc.
- Results are expected in June / July when adjustments will be made.
- Institutes that participated in the pilot project will have to complete the regular application later and won't receive special treatment.
- Motion to approve the process adopted by the Registration Committee as mentioned above was carried.

APPROVAL OF THE GRANDPARENTING APPROACH

- The application process was outlined again:
 - Payment of the application fee
 - Successful completion of the Jurisprudence and Professional Practice e-learning modules
 - Providing demographic and contact information
 - Demonstrating currency in practice
 - Disclosing past findings against the applicant
 - Providing information about past activities (training, practice hours, etc.)
 - Demonstrating language proficiency
 - Letter of verification and statutory declaration
 - Providing liability insurance information
 - Providing information about the practice as requested by the Ministry for statistical reasons
- Currency requirement of 750 hrs includes (for grandparenting only: 500 have to be in Canada)
 - Direct client contact hours
 - Professional development
 - Managing an institution of psychotherapy
 - Record keeping
 - Teaching in a psychotherapy setting
 - Supervision
 - Research in the field of psychotherapy
 - Preparation for client contact
 - Consultations
 - Writing in the field of psychotherapy

- Secure web-based online application:
 - Creation of a user account which allows access to the e-learning modules
 - Completion of the application form incl. collection of information regarding a portfolio
 - Uploading the letter of verification
 - Uploading the statutory declaration
- Once received an application will be reviewed by College staff
 - Routine applications that meet all requirements will be granted a certificate of registration.
 - Non-routine applications and those that don't fulfill all requirements will be reviewed by a panel of the Registration Committee.
 - If a registration application is refused, the applicant has several routes for appeal with the College and beyond.
 - Registration can be granted with Terms, Conditions, and Limitations if not all requirements are met completely.
 - Applicants that don't qualify fully for grandparenting at the time of pre-registration can apply for Qualifying membership and be grandparented into the College if they meet the grandparenting requirements within the two year grandparenting time-frame.
- Confidence of Interest issues on the review panel will be avoided as much as possible:
 - Panel members who know the applicant have to step aside during the review of the applicant's application.
 - Council will be working on a separate Conflict of Interest rule for indigenous people in whose training practice includes communal training and where most people know each other.
 - The College will ensure that a variety of people from different backgrounds and communities are sitting on the registration review panel to ensure that applications are viewed by peers without creating Conflict of Interest situations.
- The application form will have many help tools such as drop-down lists, help bubbles, and notifications.
- The applicant will be notified when he / she reaches the minimum required hours in any of the four required categories for grandparenting as well as when he / she meets the maximum countable hours. The TC suggests that applicants don't stop at the maximum countable hours but continue to enter most (or all) of their hours and experience to avoid falling short should any of the entered information be dismissed.
- Pre-registration for grandparenting applications is planned to start in Oct. / Nov. 2013.
- Pre-registration for regular applications is planned to start in Jan. / Feb. 2014.
- The motion to approve the approach as outlined before was carried.

At this point I had to leave the meeting. Further points on the agenda were *Complaints Process Overview, Approval of Auditor, Feedback and Reflection of the Meeting, New Business, and Closing Remarks.*

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 17th, 2013.

Disclaimer:

The notes in this document are **not** official minutes. The author does not claim the content to be 100% correct or to express the intent of the discussions perfectly. These is purely the notes of the meeting as understood by the author from her position as silent observer.

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