

Meeting of the Transitional Council of the College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario — September 25, 2014

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

This was a ½ day meeting.

REPORTS

Registrar's Report:

- Proclamation
 - Still no news or even hints about a possible proclamation date
 - Similarly, no news or hints about possible exemptions or a delay in proclaiming the authorized act
 - March 31, 2015 government funding runs out, appointments for all Transitional Council members and the Registrar run out Dec. 31, 2014
 - Ministry's response to questions is that "this is now at a crisis point"
- Applications
 - So far 5700 accounts have been opened, 4800 people have paid for the jurisprudence module, and 1400 applications for grandparenting have been submitted
 - Regular Registration application is being piloted and it is hoped that Regular Registration can open by the end of October
 - Introduced new staff members hired to deal with application reviews
 - Staff is working with applicants for "essentially equivalent" training
 - Assessment of education programs is going well
 - Staff is reaching out to indigenous communities to build a task force to evaluate indigenous training programs for psychotherapy
 - Interviews have been conducted for non-council members for committees, especially the Registration Committee and the ICRC

President's Report and Executive Committee Report::

- President contacted TC members about their interest in standing for elections at the first election: 3 will most likely stand for election; 2 are undecided; the remainder will most likely not stand for election
- Working on broadening the ICRC and Registration Committee, maybe the QA Committee later as well
- Thank you to all colleagues for "marching on" even in the face of illness and loss
- Executive Committee had 3 meetings, one for planning, one teleconference, and one in-person meeting. Worked on...
 - proclamation question and best approach towards the Ministry
 - financial year-end
 - interviewing process for non-council committee members
 - election protocols and by-laws
 - indigenous task group
 - response to the "stop therapy" movement
- Evaluation of training programs is going very well and running very smoothly and the first program has just been formerly approved

Fitness to Practice Committee Report:

- One meeting on June 11th
- Discussed and developed references, rules, and procedures based largely on the QA requirements
- FtP hearings will be held in private
- Once completed the rules will be posted on the CRPO website with a request for public input

Registration Committee Report:

- The role of the Registration Committee is changing; it is becoming more about dealing with difficult applications and less about making policy
- Yet, policy is still being made. The Ministry has pushed some details about requirements from the Regulation (law) back into policies and the Registration Committee is now working on building these requirements into policy in such a way that they are firmly established and not too easily changed in the future
- Applications are being reviewed in the order they came into the College
- Successful applicants can't be notified of their provisional membership until a proclamation date has been set and the Registration Regulation has been officially accepted. At that point the CRPO will notify successful applicants.
- Working on getting the Regular Registration application out
- Discussions about the possibility of posting a declined training institutions on the website
- Working on questions re: "substantially equivalent" training programs
 - primary concern is with the training of core competencies on the entry level
 - question of requirements of the program (Undergrad requirement) or level of degree (University degree) is secondary
- Working on policy for exemption of rules re: liability insurance for some specific situation, e.g. nurse working in a hospital setting and practicing psychotherapy may be covered under her professional liability as a nurse and not require separate liability insurance
- Responding to questions from training institutes, the Registration Committee clarified that students / interns can not use the title "psychotherapist" until they are members of the CRPO. They can refer to themselves as "intern or student therapists"
- Discussed in more detail the scoring of the write-up re: SEUS in the grandparenting application
- **Q&A:** national exam is ready and the group is waiting for the CRPO to send them their first applicants

Quality Assurance Committee Report:

- One meeting on June 20th
- Discussions re: the QA program: policy, tools, practice, etc.
- Working on implementation and sketching out details about...
 - self-assessment
 - record keeping
 - schedules of participation
 - consequences of refusal

BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

- Liability insurance by-laws were aligned with draft registration regulation
- Election dates were changed to reflect delay in proclamation and to avoid colliding tasks around CRPO's annual renewal deadline
- Moving-of-Office restrictions for Council and Committee members has been discussed and certain exemptions have been put into place

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The audited 2013/2014 financial statements were brought to the TC's attention for their information. No questions arose in the moment.

APPROVAL OF FITNESS-TO-PRACTICE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference were passed as presented without questions or discussion.

APPOINTMENT OF NON-COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Appointments are for one year
 - Out of 50 applications, 12 were short-listed after staff review.
 - Out of those 4 were chosen for interviews after review by the Registrar, Registration Committee, and Executive Committee
 - After interviewing these 4 applicants all four were invited to join the Registration Committee
 - At this meeting 3 were announced; the 4th has asked for a couple of week's time to consider if she / he can join at this time, will hopefully be announced at the next meeting.
- All three appointments were carried.

COUNCIL MEMBER FEEDBACK

- Delay of proclamation is creating some frustration and anxiety
- Discussed if talking to the Minister directly would make a difference but it is felt that this is not yet the right time
- Equally, encouraging stakeholders to take action could create more tension and delay rather than being helpful
- It seems the main delay is because the Ministry is starting to fully grasp the difficulty in creating exemptions and the ripple effect of that far beyond the CRPO

Q&A FOR THE GALLERY:

- *Q: how can associations help with getting their members' membership verified?*
 - **A:** The CRPO's first line of reference is the membership listing on the association's website. If an applicant can't be found there, the CRPO reviewer will contact the association directly.
- *Q: what happens with the TC member appointments coming up in December?*
 - **A:** In the past the appointments have been extended. Hopefully that will happen again.
- *Q: how does an endorsement on sites like LinkedIn relate to the No-Testimonials rule of the CRPO?*
 - **A:** LinkedIn endorsements are generally professional to professional and not from clients. However, if they are from clients, since the therapist didn't ask for a testimonial or endorsement, that would be okay. If the therapists asks directly, it wouldn't be okay. Also, endorsements aren't full testimonials in form and wording. So the main question is are they solicited or unsolicited.

Public part of the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 27th, 2014

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 are purely the notes of the meeting as understood by the author from her position as silent observer.

For official minutes of the meetings, visit the College's website at http://www.cprmhto.on.ca/pages/Home/Council/Council_Minutes