

Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers

BOARD CONFERENCE CALL

Monday, June 2, 2008, 5:00-6:00 PM, ET

DRAFT

Minutes

1. Welcome/Roll Call

2008 Board Members Present: John Linton, Kimberly McClanahan, Bill Robiner, Patrick Smith, John Robinson, and Rick Handel

Other Individuals Present: Barbara Cubic (JCPMS editor; ex officio member) Kim Dixon (APAHC 2009 Conference co-chair)

Absent: Ron Brown, Cheryl King, Bob Klepac (APAHC 2009 Conference co-chair) Barry Hong, Tracy LeDoux

2. Review/Approve Minutes from February Board Meeting

Minutes were not available for review from the May Board meeting.

3. President's Report

Dr. Linton announced that APAHC awards would be given this year. Dr. James Bray will receive the Research Award, and Dr. Scott Meit will receive the Teaching Award. Dr. Linton thanked Dr. Handel for his hard work on this issue.

Dr. Linton reported that a new secretary would need to be named since Dr. McClanahan has accepted a new position that will not allow her to participate fully in APAHC activities such as the APA convention and the APAHC conference in 2009. He asked Board members to consider bringing a person into the position who has not previously been very active in APAHC. No names were suggested during the call, but Board members agreed to consider options.

Dr. Linton also reported that after much discussion and thought, he believes that a venue for the 2009 APAHC conference needs to be decided upon quickly, and all roads are currently pointing toward St. Louis as a very viable venue.

4. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Smith reported that the financial situation remains essentially the same. He had made one small deposit since his last report.

5. APA Conference Program Report

Dr. Robiner reported that everything appears to be in place for the APA convention programming, although he is still working on making certain the audio-visual equipment requested will be available. A discussion ensued regarding advertising the APAHC events at the convention. Questions included when the information will be placed on the APAHC website and what other means should be used to circulate the information. It was suggested that all persons invited to the APAHC conference last year should be invited. It was also suggested that the information be placed on the Division 12 listserve. It was thought that Dr. Brown had written something about it for the *Clinical Psychologist*. However, it was suggested that APAHC might need to place a more

prominent advertisement, e.g., such as a highlight box, in the *Clinical Psychologist*, if possible, as well.

6. JCPMS Report

No report was made regarding the most recent issue of the journal.

7. Publication Committee:

No report was made from the Publication Committee.

8. APAHC National Conference 2009

The remainder of the meeting concerned the 2009 APAHC conference. Dr. Linton reported that the Board needs to make a decision regarding a venue for the 2009 conference. St. Louis, Missouri has been suggested as a location, and Dr. Linton thought this is a good idea, especially since Dr. Hong, as well as other people who will be helpful, are in St. Louis. St. Louis is easy to get to, and a \$4.00 train ride from the airport will transport people to downtown hotels. St. Louis also appears to meet the needs of sub-constituencies who may want to shop and visit trendy, boutique areas of the city while there. Dr. Robiner stated that Washington U. Medical School is a trendy area and a tour may be able to be arranged.

Dr. Dixon stated that things seemed to be moving the Board in the direction of deciding on St. Louis. Dr. Linton reported that he and several other Board members had been to a meeting in St. Louis some years ago, but he believes this will be a different, more satisfying experience for attendees.

Dr. Robiner asked whether St. Louis is a venue that will draw new, fresh faces to the organization, although Dr. Robiner did not have another location in mind. Pros and cons of St. Louis were discussed, and ultimately, it was decided that St. Louis is a central location that can draw from Chicago, Kansas City, Louisville, etc. It was also pointed out that the conference in Minneapolis did not necessarily draw new members.

Dr. Robiner also asked whether there would be a possibility of getting some funding through any of the universities in St. Louis, such as Washington University, St. Louis University, or University of Missouri at St. Louis. Dr. Linton reported that Dr. Hong would be a good resource for that as well as Dr. Danny Wedding.

A unanimous decision was made to have the 2009 conference in St. Louis.

The next discussion concerned themes and content for the conference as well as suggestions for potential speakers.

Dr. Cubic suggested that it would be helpful to talk to someone in St. Louis about obtaining CE credits.

It was suggested that the convention budget be sent to the convention planners, and it was noted that this had already been done.

Dr. Linton reported that he continues to like the idea of a focus on young faculty, and Dr. Dixon agreed, stating that immediately subsequent to her first attendance at an APAHC conference in 2007, Dr. Robinson sent her an article about women in academic health settings, which was an excellent follow-up to her experience at the conference itself.

This brought up the issue of whether to have anything for students, interns, and/or post-docs. It was noted that the focus should probably be toward post-docs and new career psychologists as opposed to students and interns. It was also stated that Dr. Ron Margolis at St. Louis U has post-docs, and he may be able/willing to help in that area. Given that there are three clinical programs in St. Louis, there is the potential to contact people in each.

The following points were made during the discussion of themes, speakers, and specific issues for the conference.

It was noted that it is unclear as to what drew people to the conference last time because that was not a specific question that people were asked.

The main idea is to help academic psychologists in health settings to learn what they need to know to progress in an academic medical center and what they need to be able to do so. Listening to very successful people talk about their advancement might be a good way for newer psychologists to hear about what they need to advance.

Collaboration with AAMC was suggested, and it was thought that having a representative of AAMC at the conference could be a nice thing in that greater alliances could be forged with AAMC with APAHC members, not just APAHC Board members. Dr. Hong has connections with AAMC, so he might be approached on this issue. It was noted that the current leader of AAMC is a psychiatrist. The AAMC Council of Deans has Larry J. Shapiro, M.D. at Washington University, and he might be a contact. It was noted that Dr. Hong would likely have a sense about the deans at his academic setting and who would be a good speaker and open to accepting an invitation to speak. Additionally, Dr. Wedding would likely have information to contribute on this issue as well.

The Association of Academic Health Centers was also mentioned as an organization with which to consider forging an alliance in terms of asking someone to speak at the APAHC conference.

Another question was whether some further connection with NIH would work. Since Dr. Ron Abeles is going to be a speaker at APA for APAHC, it was wondered if someone like him might be able to come in to help people with grant pursuits.

It was suggested that having deans come in to speak to young faculty about the road to tenure from the dean's perspective might be an excellent idea. Depending upon the mission of the academic health center, the road to tenure might be very different in different settings and getting deans' perspectives on that could be very useful. It was suggested that having the people who make those decisions in a panel or discussion group would be good.

Helping young faculty forge relationships in the academic medical setting was also discussed as important in their development. This issue of "how to survive" in the setting is an important one.

Something else to keep in mind is to appeal to the VA because there are lots of psychologists in the VA; their advancement might be very different. APAHC gets a few VA psychologists connected to medical centers. It was suggested that getting VA psychologists on board would be good. VA psychologists often have more money for conferences and so forth than psychologists strictly in academic health care settings.

There are two VAs in St. Louis. With regard to speakers associated with the VA, it was suggested that Dr. Bob Kearns would be a great person to speak.

A discussion then ensued about military psychologists and how they are largely ignored even though their work in the field is highly admired. Dr. Debra Dunnivant would be a good contact for the military; she is still at Walter Reed.

Dr. Linton asked whether a speaker should be brought in to speak who is well known and would be a big draw for potential attendees. Dr. Kelly Brownell, Yale University, was mentioned as someone to be considered. He is an expert in obesity research and might be a great speaker. Dr. Linton asked whether Dr. Brownell would have something to say about academic medical centers above and beyond what he would say about obesity. This led to a discussion regarding the epidemic of obesity in our country, how academic psychologists should learn about this, and how much money is going toward obesity research at this time. Dr. Linton suggested that perhaps Dr. Kelley could do two talks, one on obesity and one on the application in academic health centers.

The above led to a discussion of how to frame the periodic conference meetings. If they are to be periodic, perhaps there should be a focus on some certain illness, like obesity, diabetes, etc. that academic health psychologists should know about at each one. It was noted that a clinical focus would allow CEs to be applied for and granted more easily.

The discussion then returned to the 2009 meeting, and it was suggested that it could be interesting to have a distinguished panel on bariatric surgery at the conference. A name was mentioned in this regard, Mary Ellen Olbrisch. It was noted that a bariatric surgeon should be included. This led to a discussion of costs of bringing in local people as opposed to people from out of town, but it was also noted that anyone speaking to the attendees should be cognizant of the audience not being a specifically medically trained one. A discussion of appealing to pharmaceutical companies was had. The Board is not opposed to that, but it was noted that the pharmaceutical companies want to know exactly what they are paying for, so they are unlikely to be amenable to commitment until the entire program is put together.

Another question that was raised regarded the integration of psychology into healthcare in general rather than seeing psychologists solely as mental health professionals. It was noted that such a question would be relevant to ask representatives from AAMC.

Another topic that might be of interest is the huge debate of whether psychologists within academic medical setting are housed across departments or within a freestanding department. Adherents of the freestanding psychology department suggest that there is more power in that route, and adherents of the other position suggest that it is easier to “kill people if they are standing in a circle.” This issue was suggested as a possible good debate. Dr. Brick Johnstone was suggested as a potential speaker in this area. This could address issues of how to make psychology more influential and how to create coherence among psychologists within different divisions/departments. This issue has been around for at least 20 years, and it is time to look at it again. Dr. Bob Archer was also suggested as someone with some expertise in this area since he is a psychologist who is an acting chair of a psychiatry department.

Whether or not to have tracks at the 2009 conference was briefly discussed. The three tracks at the 2007 conference were (in abbreviated form): Professional Development,

Contemporary Roles, and New Horizons: Emerging Opportunities. It was suggested that the tracks weren't "pure" and the names were too long. It was mentioned that perhaps tracks would be good for one afternoon, but not the entire conference. It was believed that tracks really make the conference too confining in terms of choices.

Dr. Linton ended the meeting by asking what the Board would want Dr. Klepac to know about moving forward. It was suggested that Dr. Klepac read the minutes as a beginning point. It was also made clear that Dr. Klepac should feel free to ask for help from the Board on any issues. It was noted that people were very good about volunteering last time, and the Board wants to offer any help it can. It was suggested that movement forward be made toward asking for speakers in obesity and bariatric surgery. The idea of bringing in physicians to speak was viewed as positive. Dr. Linton reported that he will follow-up with Dr. Hong and see if he knows Dr. Shapiro. This may then begin a dialogue with AAMC.

9. New Business

No new business was discussed.

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL: Monday, July 7, 2008 5:00 – 6:00 pm, EST

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly K. McClanahan, Ph.D., APAHC Secretary