



**Governing Council Meeting
October 17, 2018
Conference Call**

Minutes

The ACA Governing Council meeting was called to order at 2:01pm on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. President Simone Lambert presided. Governing Council members present for all or part of the meeting were as follows:

Simone Lambert, President
Heather Trepal, President-elect
Gerard Lawson, Past President
Thelma Duffey, Treasurer, Ex-officio
Niloufer Merchant, Process Observer
Judy Daniels, Parliamentarian
Richard Yep, CEO, Ex-officio
Donna Gibson, Governing Council Representative, AARC
Suzanne Degges-White, Governing Council Representative, AADA
Elsa Soto Leggett, Governing Council Representative, ACAC
Shane Haberstroh, Governing Council Representative, ACC
Marty Jencius, Governing Council Representative, ACES
Mark Scholl, Governing Council Representative, AHC
Jane Rheineck, Governing Council Representative, ALGBTIC
Carlos Hipolito-Delgado, Governing Council Representative, AMCD
Paige Nicole Dunlap, Governing Council Representative, ARCA
Edil Torres Rivera, Governing Council Representative, CSJ
Leigh Falls Holman, Governing Council Representative, IAAOC
Paul R. Peluso, Governing Council Representative, IAMFC
Seneka Arrington, Governing Council Representative, NECA
Michele Kerulis, Governing Council Representative, Midwest Region
Summer Reiner, Governing Council Representative, North Atlantic Region
Melanie J. Drake Wallace, Governing Council Representative, Southern Region
Elizabeth Forsyth, Governing Council Representative, Western Region

Monica Osburn, Governing Council Representative, ACCA; H. Gray Otis, Governing Council Representative, AMHCA; Elizabeth O'Brien, Governing Council Representative, ASERVIC; Jonathan Orr, Governing Council Representative, ASGW; Lynna Meadows Morton, Governing Council Representative, MGCA; Lisa Severy, Governing Council Representative, NCDA; and Stacey A. Litam, Governing Council Student Representative were not present.

Others in attendance at the meeting as guests or observers include:

Natasha Rankin, Chief Operating Officer
David Kaplan, Chief Professional Officer
Dave Jackson, Senior Director of Finance and Administration
Lynn Linde, Senior Director, Center for Counseling Practice, Policy & Research
Angela Thompson, Human Resources Leader
Daniel Logsdon, National Center for Interstate Compacts joined the meeting via phone

Welcome and Chair's Remarks

President Lambert welcomed the members to the meeting, expressing appreciation for members adjusting their schedules to be present.

Approval of Agenda

- It was moved by M. Kerulis and seconded by E. Soto Leggett to approve the meeting agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED.

- It was moved by S. Haberstroh and seconded by M. Kerulis to move into Executive Session at 2:05pm.
MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session

The Governing Council moved into Executive Session in order to discuss the matter of interstate compacts.

The Governing Council returned to regular session.

The Endorsement and Development of a Professional Occupational Interstate Compact for Professional Counselors

It was moved by M. Kerulis and seconded by E. Forsyth that:

Whereas licensure portability—the ability to transfer a professional counseling license when a practitioner moves to a different state—is one of the foremost concerns of professional counselors; and

Whereas even the most experienced of counselors can be required to obtain additional supervision hours or meet other requirements before they can secure a new license after a move across state lines; and

Whereas, in some cases, counselors with decades of experience are told that they cannot transfer their license to their new home state under any condition; and

Whereas advocating for licensure portability that allows professional counselors licensed at the independent practice level in one state to have the mobility to use their education and training and to serve the public by becoming licensed at the independent practice level in another state, which supports the mission of the American Counseling Association; and

Whereas licensure portability for professional counselors can help the public by:

- Encouraging counselors to consider relocating to areas where more than 100 million Americans live with an officially recognized shortage of mental health care professionals. Rural areas, in particular, face a documented and dire shortage of counselors;
- Recognizing that there are approximately 7.6 million people who move to a different state each year and that this number includes professional counselors who are spouses of military personnel and other families of federal government employees;
- Helping licensing boards to better meet the needs of underserved populations such as older adults, people of color, and individuals living in poverty; and

Whereas the development of a professional occupational interstate compact for professional counselors would enhance and advance the ACA portability model that calls for professional counselors to be able to seamlessly transfer their license when they move to another state or jurisdiction; and

Whereas the development of a professional occupational interstate compact for professional counselors would address two critical aspects of licensure portability in addition to physical mobility:

- The ability to practice tele-counseling;
- The ability to practice in border states and;

Whereas the National Center for Interstate Compacts, an arm of the Council of State Governments, has submitted a proposal to the American Counseling Association for the development of a professional occupational interstate compact for professional counselors; and

Whereas the National Center for Interstate Compacts has an established track record in assisting occupations with developing and implementing professional occupational interstate compacts;

Therefore, the American Counseling Association Governing Council:

1. Endorses the development of a professional occupational interstate compact for professional counselors;

2. Empowers the ACA President and the ACA CEO to negotiate and sign a contract with the National Center for Interstate Compacts to include three phases:
 - a. Project research, the development and convening of the advisory group, and the drafting of compact language;
 - b. The development and implementation of legislative strategy;
 - c. The development of the commission bylaws, structure, membership, budget and promotion strategies.
3. Allocates up to \$600,000 for the contract with the National Center for Interstate Compacts. These funds will be drawn from the long-term operating fund balance rather than from the operating budget.

MOTION CARRIED

President Lambert reminded the members of the Governing Council that the discussion that took place in Executive Session is confidential and that talking points will be shared with the Governing Council members regarding communicating to members regarding ACA's efforts on the development of an interstate compact.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the October 2018 meeting of the ACA Governing Council was adjourned at 3:37pm on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.