



**AMERICAN COUNSELING
ASSOCIATION**
counseling.org

**Governing Council Meeting
August 18, 2020
Conference Call**

Minutes

The ACA Governing Council meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 1:02 pm ET. President Sue Pressman presided. Governing Council members present for all or part of the meeting were as follows:

Sue Pressman, President
S. Kent Butler, President-elect
Heather Trepal, Past President
Cirecie West-Olatunji, Treasurer
Mike Walsh, Parliamentarian
Melanie Drake Wallace, Process Observer
Judy Daniels, Special Advisor to the President
Richard Yep, CEO, Ex-officio
Wendy Killam, Governing Council Representative, AADA
Donna Gibson, Governing Council Representative, AARC
Hayley Stulmaker, Governing Council Representative, ACAC
Monica Osburn, Governing Council Representative, ACCA
Marty Jencius, Governing Council Representative, ACES
Mark Scholl, Governing Council Representative, AHC
Carlos Hipolito-Delgado, Governing Council Representative, AMCD
Paige Nicole Dunlap, Governing Council Representative, ARCA
Elizabeth O'Brien, Governing Council Representative, ASERVIC
Christine Suniti Bhat, Governing Council Representative, ASGW
Edil Torres Rivera, Governing Council Representative, CSJ
Leigh Falls Holman, Governing Council Representative, IAAOC
Paul Peluso, Governing Council Representative, IAMFC
Dannette Berksteiner, Governing Council Representative, MGCA
Lisa Severy, Governing Council Representative, NCDA
Seneka Arrington, Governing Council Representative, NECA
Jane Rheineck, Governing Council Representative, SAIGE
Jason Marotzke, Governing Council Representative, Midwest Region
Summer Reiner, Governing Council Representative, North Atlantic Region
Hillary Press, Governing Council Representative, Southern Region
Laura Pignato, Governing Council Student Representative

Stella Beatriz Kerl-McClain, Governing Council Representative, ACC; and Elizabeth Forsyth, Governing Council Representative, Western Region were not present.

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

Anaid Shaver, President's Assistant
Dave Jackson, Chief Financial Officer
Natasha Rankin, Chief Operations Officer
Tiffany Erickson, Chief Communications and Engagement Officer
Angela Thompson, Chief Human Resources and Diversity Officer
Lynn Linde, Chief Knowledge and Learning Officer
Brian Banks, Director, Government Affairs and Public Policy
Brandi McIntyre, Governance and Executive Office Manager
Amy Smith, Governance Administrator

Welcome and Chair's Remarks

President Pressman welcomed everyone to the call and called the meeting to order. She thanked everyone for adapting to the new normal.

Approval of Agenda

- It was moved by L. Falls Holman and seconded by H. Stulmaker to approve the meeting agenda with the MGCA Exemplary Practices for Military Populations removed from the consent agenda, and placed on the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED.

Financial Report

Treasurer Olatunji reported on the following:

- We are still looking at a \$300,000 deficit down from \$570,000.
- Member dues and print book sales are up.
- The insurance company has agreed to a payment of \$545,000.
- We still need to transfer \$500,000 to cover cash flow needs, but we are still in good financial standing.

Anti-Racism Action Plan update


President Pressman acknowledged the Anti-Racism Task Force and their hard work.

President-elect Butler updated the Governing Council that the task force came together about five times over the course of the last month to work on a plan with action items for ACA.

There were three subcommittees formed:

- White Anti-Racism
- Police / Law Enforcement
- ACA

The three subcommittees were asked to come up with short and long term goals that would be moved forward to ACA staff for cost and resource considerations. Once staff has costed these goals, they will be put forward to the Financial Affairs Committee, who will then assess if ACA is in a financial position to move forward any of these action items.



Another ask that came out of the task force was the need for a long standing commission that would work to complete the approved long and short term goals, as well as make sure that other intersectionalities and/or marginalized identities within the profession that are experiencing oppression are addressed.

R. Yep explained the role of the staff moving forward and further reiterated that these goals will impact ACA's Strategic Plan, which also should be taken into consideration.

Conference 2021

President Pressman reminded the Governing Council that ACA had to cancel the 2020 Conference & Expo due to COVID-19, and that now we are at a crossroads in regard to the 2021 ACA Conference, scheduled to take place in Orlando, FL.


R. Yep shared that the key to any decision that we make about the conference, we need to focus on looking at how we can best meet the needs and expectations of members and non-members. We want to make sure that we have a long term engagement with everyone and we want to ensure some financial stability and mitigate any losses. There are two options, either an in-person conference or a virtual conference. We wanted to look at how we can keep people engaged and meet or exceed expectation, not just with content, but that is communicating to our members and attendees that we are concerned about their health and safety. We were very lucky with the San Diego conference and having cancellation insurance, moving forward those types of policies are not available any longer.

The Governing Council engaged in an extensive conversation regarding an in-person vs. virtual event.

J. Daniels, Special Advisor to the President about COVID-19, reported that it is very clear that if and when we do get a vaccine, it's going to take quite some time to roll it out. So, right now it looks like it would be a huge risk to have an in-person conference in March.

President Pressman stated that she has had the opportunity to attend some virtual meetings and conferences, and she was impressed with what some of our sister organizations have done to step up to the plate quickly and create impressive and meaningful events. She continued that she feels this is an opportunity for us to do things differently and be creative as well as bring people in from around the world that would love to come to the ACA conference, but are unable to due to the cost of travel and registration.

- It was moved by L. Falls Holman and seconded by C. Hipolito-Delgado to instruct the ACA staff to plan for a virtual conference in 2021.
MOTION CARRIED.



R. Yep stated that we should wait until Monday to make this announcement public. We need to do some things on our end to get ready before the information is released. We could use the Connect site as a repository for sharing online conference ideas.

Review of the CEO Employment Agreement

The Governing Council went into Executive Session for this discussion by consensus. All staff were asked to leave the call with the exception of A. Thompson and R. Yep.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, staff re-joined the meeting.

Consent Agenda

- It was moved by M. Jencius and seconded by L. Pignato to accept the consent agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED.

The following reports are included in the consent agenda:

- Governing Council Meeting Minutes
 - June 24, 2020
 - July 7, 2020
- Acceptance of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 - June 10, 2020
- Approval of 2020-2021 International Committee Appointments
- Acceptance of Division and Branch Bylaws Amendments
 - Wisconsin Counseling Association
 - Military and Government Association (MGCA)
 - Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC)

Process Observer

M. Drake Wallace presented observations from the meeting.

Old Business

Due to time constraints, the ACSSW Organizational Affiliate information, the Workgroup on Interest Networks, the Bylaws Committee Questions, and the ACA/CEO Scorecard will be moved to the next Governing Council or Executive Committee meeting.

Adjournment

- It was moved by C. Hipolito-Delgado and seconded by K. Butler to adjourn at 3:11 pm ET.
MOTION CARRIED.