

**B. C. ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL COUNSELLORS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SPLINTERS  
FROM THE BOARD...**

This communiqué provides you with a snapshot of issues discussed at the March 2010 meeting of your Board of Directors.

**Welcome**

President Shields welcomed **Nikki Pawlitschek's** return to the Board of Directors as Region 5 Vice-President, and **Lee McLeod** as the incoming Region 2 Vice-President.

**President's Report**

Towards a National Mental Health Strategy for Canada

The initial 170 page draft of this document, by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, made no mention of counselling or the critical role of counsellors in an improved and more accessible mental health system. President Shields sought input to the Commission from our membership, and, "...*due to overwhelming feedback from counsellors in B.C.*", the framework was re-written and reintroduced with more inclusive language and specific reference to the role of counsellors.

Regulation of the Profession

President Shields reported that we have indications from the Ministry of Health Services that we will be having a meeting with Minister Falcon at some point in June 2010. He further reported that we will continue to work with the government and the Task Group to ensure that our voice is heard, the interests of our members and the public are served, and our members are recognized for the important contribution that they make to wellness and mental health care in the province.

B. C. Alliance on Mental Health, Mental Illness and Addictions

BCACC has been a member of the Alliance since 2007 and continues to play a key role in the Alliance's work to influence government policy makers. The Alliance is a coalition of 18 mental health, addictions, social services and justice services in BC. President Shields is our representative to the Alliance, and serves as its Treasurer.

The provincial government has been consulting with the Alliance in the development of a new 10-year Mental Health and Addictions Plan for the province.

\$10-Million Strategic Innovation Fund

One of the successes of the Alliance was to influence government to establish a \$10-million strategic innovation fund to promote ad support community-centered innovation as part of efforts to close gaps between public and private services that dovetail with First nations, Municipal and Provincial Mental Health and Addictions plans for more effective service delivery. President Shields sits on the

Leadership Council of the newly formed Community Action Initiative, which will provide governance for this initiative. One concern is, that, while the provincial 10-year mental health plan is being launched, the creation of a complementary First Nations plan has not been funded and there is no plan for an aboriginal plan that includes Metis and Urban Aboriginal populations. The absence of these plans threatens the effectiveness of this initiative and its mission to promote community based synergies.

### BC Collaborative for Health, Productivity and Disability Prevention

In 2009, BCACC was invited to join the Mental Health and Addictions Task Group of the Collaborative. Other stakeholders include disability insurers such as Manulife, EAPs, CMHA, Worksafe BC, BC Public Service Agency and others. We look forward to being able to build better relationships with these partner organizations as we continue to work together.

President Shields acknowledged the support of our Board of Directors for his work in the community and enhancing our Association's relationships and ability to influence public policy.

### **Executive Director**

The Executive Director additionally referred to his report in our 2009 Annual Report.

He reported that the Task Group for Counsellor Regulation in BC is starting to review and project start-up costs for a College of Counselling Therapists. It is looking at \$100,000.00 in seed money, compiled on a per capita basis from Task Group member organizations (our share would be \$76,500.00), and \$500,000.00 first year operating funds, based on a loan from a financial institution, to be re-paid from College registration fees.

BCACC representatives have suggested to the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) to research the possible creation of a "Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Counselling", similar to the "Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology". The CCPA Executive Director agreed to look into this.

Association personnel, under the leadership of Aina Adashynski, Executive Assistant, are working on a completely new draft of our Personnel Policy to replace the current policy that dates back to the last century. The draft will be reviewed by an external association management consultant to ensure that it is properly positioned in responsible and accountable human resources management.

### **Office of the Registrar**

Angela Burns reported that a member from Region 2, who was found guilty of giving fraudulent information, and receiving considerable public scrutiny in the press, has resigned.

### **Legislative Review**

#### National Labour Mobility Working Group

Glen Grigg, Chair Legislative Review, sits on this Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) group as our BCACC, and the BC Task Group representative.

The group has established a national network of stewards of the counselling profession and identified a general consensus on the need for statutory regulation, the form of that regulation, and the creation of that regulation in a way that is consistent with Canada's Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT).

In November, Glen and President Shields met with the Executive of the CCPA to discuss closer ties, and specifically making our Association the provincial voice for the counselling profession in BC, and the CCPA the national voice. There is a need to find ways to eliminate the tensions between the professional use of RCC designation and the CCPA designation of CCC title.

Glen lead a discussion of fiscal authority and fiscal responsibility, the "Carver Model" of Board Governance, third party accountability, delegation of authority and responsibility, and Director Compensation in the context of a volunteer Board. He asked the Board to review the policy questions and present any concerns to him so that he can report back to the Board.

### **Discipline Committee (and Appeal Panel)**

Barry Williscroft reported that one appeal is underway.

Barry reported that he had attended the Washington Counseling Association's AGM. WCA is a Chapter of the American Counseling Association.

Barry reported that the Workplace Safety Survey is proceeding (slowly) and is still in need of responses to bring up the overall number to be "significant". He indicated that the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association will also participate in this study.

### **Continuing Competency Committee**

**Jon Schwabach**, Region 2, has joined the Committee.

The Regional Workshop Program is being evaluated for cost-effectiveness and recommendations will be presented to the June meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Committee is awaiting applications for more 2010 workshops.

### **Member Services**

#### Public Presentation Project

This very successful project is a partnership with the North and West Vancouver CMHA and the West Vancouver Community Centres Services Society to build community capacity and strengthen family relations. Entitles "The Skills for Mindful Living Series" involves RCCs volunteering to present workshops of interest to the community.

#### BCACC Website

Lee McLeod is leading a review and reconstruction of our website, with an eye to search engine optimization, to make our extensive database of RCCs reliably accessible to internet searchers. Also being reviewed is the RCC referral process on the site that is not as user friendly and effective, that it could be. Getting this right is important.

## Health and Trade Shows

Betty Rainford is our new Provincial Shows Coordinator. We have stayed with the Annual Vancouver Wellness Show because it puts our Association and our brand before some 500,000 attendees, which is excellent marketing for the Association and RCCs all across the province.

We are a sponsor of the Annual Human Resource Management Association's conference which is being handled by President Shields and Claire Sutton.

## BCACC as a Resource

Lida Izadi, Chair, Member Services, encourages members to review the resource page on our website that was created in 2009, listing important documents and links for RCCs under the Member Services heading on the left side of each page. This page includes a link to "What is BCACC?"

## Bev Abbey Volunteer Award

We are very pleased to report that Lida Izadi is the 2009-2010 recipient of our Bev Abbey Volunteer Award, presented at our AGM, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Congratulations, Lida.

## **Inquiry Committee**

Shirley Halliday, Chair, Inquiry Committee, reported that in the period May 9, 2009 to February 10, 2010, six new complaints were received.

The Regulatory Panel has come up with an action plan to deal multiple complaints.

Members need to be aware that e-mail communications with clients are part of the clinical file and are included as part of the complaint case file.

## **Ethics and Standards Committee**

Adrienne Mahaffey, Chair, Ethics and Standards Committee reported that the guideline "Planning for the Unexpected" is still in process.

A review of our Clinical Practice Standards and Guidelines is underway and Adrienne is currently reflecting on a few changes to them that would be beneficial.

## **Executive Committee**

The Board of Directors appointed Lida Izadi, Joan Campbell, Glen Grigg, John Fraser, and Barry Williscroft to the Executive Committee. The Committee is chaired by President Shields.

For further information, or questions, regarding this communiqué, please contact Dr. Jim Browne at Voice: 604-535-8011; e-mail: [jim\\_browne@telus.net](mailto:jim_browne@telus.net).

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**From a Meeting of the Board of Directors, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010**