



Washington Counseling Association

Board Meeting

May 11, 2016

8:00 – 9:00pm

Skype

## Special Meeting Minutes

### **I. Roll Call**

Washington Counseling Association board meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m., May 11, 2016 through Skype. President Becky Rudd presided. Governing Council members present for all or part of the meeting were as follows:

Stefanie Davis, Treasurer, Brooke Lundquist, Graduate Student Representative, Terri Schwartz, Bylaws and Ethics Chair,

Not present: Roberto Valdez, President-Elect, Kristina Li, Secretary, Morgan Watson, Publication Chair and Social Media, Christian Bringolf, Membership Chair, Molly Schweigert & Ashely Sylverster Co-Presidents,

### **III. Approval of agenda**

### **IV. Conference Planning**

1. Becky called this special session to further discuss conference planning and request a motion to approve a conference budget, venue and speaker. She noted the Survey Monkey Poll's top picks for the venue and speakers were inconsistent with the approved budget rendering the outcome impractical.
2. Becky noted she would be happy to allow someone else to plan the 2016 conference as she has done so the past two years. This task is typically done by the President-Elect, per by-laws, but Roberto just took office two months ago and is moving into the presidency in one month. The 2016 conference committee is as follows:
  - a. Kristina Li
  - b. Caley Featherstone
  - c. Kyle Hedges
  - d. Chelsy Pierce
  - e. Keneesha Lloyd
  - f. Maria Bazzel
  - g. Chris Porter
3. Becky provided statistics on the last two conferences to provide a reference for potential costs and profit for the upcoming 2016 conference. The information is as follows:

2015 Spokane Conference:

- Friday Only (Professional Development): \$2,695
- Saturday Only (Workshops & Topic keynote): \$6030
- Both (Friday & Saturday): 10,680
- Total \$20,070

#### 2014 Seattle Conference:

- Friday Only (Professional Development): \$855
- Saturday Only (Workshops & Topic keynote): \$1810
- Both (Friday & Saturday): \$3160
- Total \$5825

Becky suggested, based on survey data and revenue, it might be in our best interest to do two keynote speakers, one each day, for 1.5 hours and then breakout sessions the rest of the day on both days. We often have more proposals/presentations and rooms which are not filled, and our survey data suggests people like these breakout sessions. We may stand to make more income if we have a two day conference in this fashion. However, this would require we have a ballroom and breakout rooms each day. Becky noted the conference committee contacted as many venues as possible on the West Side of the state to get bids for venues that would fit our conference size, and within 50 miles of Seattle and most bids came in at 10,000 to 30,000 per day plus food. The conference committee also looked into both universities and smaller hotels. Red Lion, Bellevue was the top SurveyMonkey choice, but their space accommodations only had one ballroom that would need to be partitioned out the next day to make 3 breakout rooms (plus we would have use of some smaller areas). Universities have a larger auditorium, but their classroom space is limited or unavailable on Friday due to classes. Thus the options available to us at this point in the Seattle area would dictate a Professional Development workshop one day (no breakout sessions) and only breakout session the second day. We brought in \$14,000 less in Seattle than Spokane last year, and are anticipating spending more on the conference venue this year than we brought in total in 2014 (minus sponsorships).

Becky proposed that we move the conference to the Spokane Convention Center to retain a reliable profit base, bring in one paid keynote speaker, solicit a free or low cost local second keynote speaker and hold workshops, vendors and posters both days.

Stefanie noted that she felt Christian Conte would be a good choice, especially with the discount Becky was able to receive. She believed he would draw in a good crowd and his topic of anger management was pertinent. Terry agreed.

Becky called for a motion. Brooke moved to bring the 2016 conference to the Spokane Convention Center (expecting a similar price point from 2016), contact Dr. Christian Conte as our first choice, Tracey Gold as our second choice. Our conference budget would be as low as we can possibly be given these parameters. Terry seconded this motion. No further discussion. All in attendance were in favor of this motion. None opposed.

Terry requested that Becky send the minutes of this meeting to the rest of board for objections to the motion (as only 4 of the 9 board members were in attendance). Terry requested one week for response. Stefanie requested until Friday given the urgency. All were in favor.

Becky will contact the Spokane Convention Center and Dr. Christan Conte to work out potential dates for the 2016 conference to be held in either October or November. Becky noted she would be unavailable November 10-12 for WACES and October 22. No other dates were objected to.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Washington Counseling Association Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.