

Alberta and NWT Chapter

This report covers the period of October 2018 to April 2019

Submitted by Blythe Shepard

Chapter Officers:

President: Blythe Shepard

Past-President: Shelley Skelton

Secretary/Treasurer: Carol-Anne Haring

Professional Identity and Advocacy Director: Dawn Israel-Compton

Communications and Profession Development Director: Nicholas Renaud

Regulation Coordinator: Nicole Imgrund

Member-at-large: Marcey Heschel (South)

Member-at-large: Everett Hamilton (North)

Student Liaison: Lindsay Ashmore (North)

Student Liaison: Barbara Pickering (South)

Board Liaison/Regional Director: Kathy Offet-Gartner

Membership: 648

Past activities

- 1) Over the past 6 months, the focus of the chapter has been on regulation. Nicole Imgrund has led this initiative on behalf of the chapter. Initiatives included meeting with a number of MLAs, chairing FACT-AB, being interviewed on news programs, working with AB Health etc. This is a brief list highlighting some of Nicole's (and the Chapter's) accomplishments and activities over the past year.
- 2) In December 2018, legislation was passed in the Alberta legislature to create the College of Counselling Therapy of Alberta (CCTA) to provide oversight and accountability and protect the public when receiving mental health and addiction services. The professions of Counselling Therapy, Addictions Counselling and Child and Youth Care Counselling were officially included in the Health Professions Act (HPA). Alberta Health requires that a new association be formed. This new association is called the Association of Counselling Therapy of Alberta (ACTA). This Association is temporary and will become the College upon proclamation. The Steering Committee members of FACT-Alberta now sit as the Directors for ACTA, thus ensuring ongoing representation for all the practitioner associations that are members of FACT-Alberta. Nicole Imgrund is the Chair of ACTA. An Executive has been elected and these individuals, along with other newly elected members and public representatives, will also form the first Council of the new College.
- 3) Considered Chapter relationship with the AB Alliance of Mental Illness and Mental Health given the new board and new executive director.
- 4) Updated the chapter brochure and developed a one-page infographic.
- 5) With the National Office and BC Regional Director and BC Chapter, created a survey to identify professional development needs in the northern parts of BC and AB and in the NWT and Yukon.

- 6) Facebook and Twitter accounts that Nicholas Renaud set up provide professional development opportunities and chapter updates.
- 7) Our chapter had its AGM on October 13, 2018 and members met face to face in Calgary as well as from other locations via Google Hangouts.
- 8) Chapter met for teleconferences throughout the year on a bi-monthly basis when needed and when not needed, corresponded via email with updates.
- 9) Two newsletters were produced, one in November and one in February.

Chapter Finances

The bank balance is \$20,001.86 as of March 30, 2019.

Planned Activities

- Need to find someone to step into the role of President of the AB/NWT Chapter as Blythe Shepard has become the Regional Director.
- Review the roles of the Professional Identity and Advocacy Director and Regulation Director. Given recent regulation of the profession in AB, it is recommended that we cease advocacy with insurers/employers/unions for the CCC designation. Once the regulatory college comes into effect, we are not permitted to advocate for CCCs as is the case in the other 4 regulated provinces where our advocacy must focus on the regulated titles only. Because the College is expected to be established this year, it would be confusing for our target audience to receive advocacy messaging on CCCs now & then RCTs in a few months. FACT-AB will be the source of advocacy in the province. We will be allowed two members on FACT-AB.
- Finalize the role description for FACT-AB Liaison to replace the Professional Identity and Advocacy Director and Regulation Coordinator.
- Contribute to the planning of the Edmonton Conference. Shelley Skelton and Marcey Heschel are members of the planning committee. The Chapter would like to have an AB Day with celebrations of the College of Counselling Therapy of Alberta. Is there a way to bring School Counsellors (ATA) into the conference?
- Develop workshops on the process involved to belong to the College and present in centres across Alberta.
- Continue bi-monthly teleconference meetings with the executive members.
- Continue on a regular basis to develop newsletters that list professional development activities in the province and provide practical information to our members.
- Potentially have a Chapter visioning meeting in June 2019 to develop a new direction for the Chapter.

Respectfully submitted,

Blythe Shepard

Blythe Shepard, CCC, CCC-S