

Minutes from AGM – Zoom Meeting ID 88471888293

AAT Chapter – CCPA

4:00 pm MST – June 16, 2022

Attendees: Eileen Bona, Kellee Clifford Bousquet, Lisa Wade, Susan Cressy, Marilyn Balderston, Charmaine Luscombe, Wendy Tredger, Virginie Latour, Siri Brown, Julia Wassef, Kayla Shore, Patricia Wentzell, Kim Neuman, Jody Studney

Minutes completed by Charmaine Luscombe.

Meeting Commenced 4:00 PM MST

Welcome from President, Eileen Bona

1. Eileen asked for a motion to amend the agenda

Julia Wassef moved to amend the agenda to include the minutes from the previous AGM dated July 8, 2021, which are on the CCPA AAT-C website.

2nd by Patricia Wentzell, Vote – Carried Eileen thanks Julia

- Eileen asked for a motion to adopt the Minutes from the previous AGM.

Julia Wassef moves to approve the minutes as changed

Lisa Wade 2nd; Vote - All in Favor? Carried

2. President's Report

Eileen Bona asked if any discussion? NO discussion Need motion to approve the President's Report.

Patricia Wentzell moves that the President's Report be approved.

2nd by Kellee Clifford Bosquet; Vote – Carried; All in favor

3. Treasurer's Report

Eileen Bona asked if any discussion? NO discussion Need motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Julia Wassef moves that the President's Report be approved.

2nd by Kellee Clifford Bosquet; Vote – Carried; All in favor

4. As the By-Laws call for members to have 2-year terms only, several executive members were in need of a re-vote to remain on the executive for another 2-year term. Those members are as follows:

- a. Eileen Bona as President
- b. Kayla Shore as Treasurer
- c. Members at Large – Sue McIntosh and Sue Mac Donald
- d. Julia Wassef is stepping down

Call for motion from Eileen Bona

Motion made by Lisa Wade – Motion to approve that these members stay on another 2 years and “even Julia”; Julia is stepping down and will be missed.

2nd by Julia Wassef; Call for vote; Carried – all in favor

5. Members at Large

Eileen Bona mentions that Kim Neuman is stepping down as Student Representative, as she is no longer a student, and is moving to a Member at Large Position.

Julia Wassef made a motion to move Kim Neuman from Student Representative to Member at Large.

2nd by Wendy Tredger; Vote - All in favor; Carried

- President -Elect position – Call for Discussion from Eileen Bona
 - a. Discussion on the importance of a President Elect for the AAT-C Chapter. Charmaine Luscombe and Patricia Wentzell contributed to the discussion and agreed that this was important for the executive.
 - b. Position is vacant as is the Student Representative position. A discussion about marketing and filling these positions as well as getting more Members at Large occurred.
 - c. Julia Wassef mentioned that a possible recruiting strategy could be to post on our AAT-C Facebook page. Siri Brown suggested that it may be effective to inform possible recruits that there will be much support from everyone on the committee for these positions and that training will be provided, to alleviate any anxiety people may feel about volunteering.
 - d. Charmaine mentioned that the Communications Committee of the AAT-C will put it on the list of things to do.
- Student Representative Position – Needed to liaison for Universities and with students. They are connected to the student bodies. Kim Neuman suggested we reach out to some of the Universities and schools.
- Members at Large – Discussion about needing members to assist with the workload of making us more visible, get more ideas, help Charmaine and Kerri with marketing and communications.

6. Bylaws have been amended and in need of acceptance

Initially, the executive had amended the by-laws to include the word “Equine” because there are so many different things to consider in the core competencies for equines versus dogs and other species of animals. But then another discussion was held and it was decided that equines are still animals and so setting aside horses in the by-laws with the word “equine” was really not necessary and not consistent with the way the field is recognized globally. As a result, the word “equine” was removed throughout the by-laws and this is the part that required acceptance from the membership..

Eileen Bona requests a motion to accept this change of wording in the bylaws

Motion to “remove the word “Equine” from the by-laws by Lisa Wade, 2nd by Patricia Wentzell
Vote- Carried

Kellee had to leave the meeting.

Discussion – The new bylaws now need to go to the Communications staff of the CCPA so they can send them to the board for approval. A request was made to Kim Neuman to contact Zoe Fraser or Kaylyn Craig of the CCPA to complete this requirement. Kim agreed.

7. Competency document

The document that is currently being used for the CCPA to ensure people are competently practicing AAT is not specific to counselling. As a result, the AAT-C chapter researched competency documents internationally and agreed that the one they found from the American Psychology Association was specific to counselling and met many of the requirements the executive felt were necessary. This group was contacted and they gave permission for the AAT-C chapter of the CCPA to adopt and modify their core document for our use. The document was adopted by the AAT-C chapter, put into a format for modification and then editing began by Julia Wassef to simplify and clarify its formatting.

It was decided that outside sources are necessary at this time to assist with completing the draft of the core competencies as it is beyond the scope of the executive to do this extensive work.

Kim Neuman and Julia Wassef wrote a proposal to request the funding from the CCPA.

The CCPA replied that they only had \$1000 to offer for this task and encouraged us to learn more about another fund we could apply for. Kim Hollihan is requesting to meet with a member of our executive to inform us of how to go about applying for this funding. The proposal for this is coming in mid July and this meeting with Kim and the proposal re-writing needs to happen before this.

The group held a discussion about the funding need and Siri Brown offered her assistance in liaising with Kim to assist with this endeavour. It was decided that it is in the best interest of the chapter to meet with Kim to learn more about what is needed to possibly acquire this funding. Eileen is requesting a member of the executive to meet with Kim to learn more about this.

8. Marketing/Communications Update

Charmaine reported that her and Kerri had not communicated since the last meeting of the executive in April but that she was willing to create the Calendar of marketing and communication events as discussed in that previous meeting. She reported that she was unsure whether anyone had submitted their biographies to Kerri (first step in the marketing/communications plan) and that she would connect with Kerri to determine this. She encouraged each member of the executive to exercise autonomy and send their biography or whatever they are comfortable sharing so that the members of the AAT-C could learn more about the executive. No template for biographies will be provided.

Charmaine asked who administers the Facebook page and the belief is that any member of the executive has administrator ability. Charmaine will email Kerri, but she may not reply, as she has requested time away from the executive. This means a member at large would be beneficial and helpful. Charmaine will report back to the executive what she learns about Kerri's status and the biography status asap.

The intention is for networking meetings, “coffee chats” and themes of discussion for each month to be shared between members of the executive and members of the AAT-C chapter. Discussion topics are welcome!

9. Canadian Standards for Animals Assisted Services (AAS)

Reported by Eileen – a committee has developed Canadian standards for animal assisted services. The Human Rights and Standards Organization (HRSO) along with the Canadian Foundation for Animal Assisted Services (CFAS) spearheaded the committee. Members of the development committee were from many areas of animal assisted work including people who breed, train and work with service dogs; practitioners in animal assisted services; equine facilitated practitioners; standards development professionals and general interest groups.

After 9 months of weekly zoom meetings, the 1st draft of the national standards in AAS was published and distributed widely throughout Canada requesting feedback from stakeholders, which will be implemented into the development of the 2nd draft of the standards. There may be a request for new members to join the core group in the development of the second draft of these standards.

What does it mean to have Standards?

Standards are required to protect animals, people and practitioners. The first draft of the standards is on the AAT-C Chapter Facebook page.

It is the ONLY government standard for Animal Assisted Services Work in the WORLD.

Patricia Wentzell asked where the Core Competency document that the CCPA uses for its practitioners in AAT can be found. This document is on the AAT-C Chapter website and Eileen offered her email to contact her for copies if need be eileen@dreamcatcherassociation.com.

10. Members to share what they want from the Chapter. Eileen asked, “What are you looking for? How can we meet your needs?”

Jody Studney introduced herself. She is practicing in the Yukon.

Julia mentioned we need to get talking to Universities offering Master Degrees in Mental Health professions and offer education on animal assisted therapy so people understand the concept of scope of practice, code of ethics, and animal welfare.

How do we get the message out to counselling schools? Get AAT into the Curriculum? It was mentioned that there are courses and certification in AAT at Lakeland College and other colleges and universities as well but not at the master’s level of education except perhaps in Quebec and those are primarily offered in French.

One way to get the word to educational institutions is for qualified practitioners in AAT to take practicum students and in turn, they educate their classes about working with animals in practice.

Charmaine mentioned doing a presentation to social workers, and that maybe we could put together educational materials to share, then make our own slides to add to the Power Point. Wendy has one to share, Eileen will share hers. There are some that you can pay for on the AAT site. Lisa has power points as well.

Virginie introduced herself and is from Nova Scotia, Acadia University and is looking for books.

Cynthia Chandler's book: "Animal Assisted Therapy in Counselling," Aubrey Fine's "Handbook on Animal Assisted Therapy" and Rise Van Fleet's publications on "Canine Assisted Play Therapy" were suggested as good foundational resources to start with.

Jody mentioned her dream is coming true and she will commence AAT in the Yukon. She also reported that she is taking on a student who may be interested in the student representative position of our chapter.

Charmaine mentioned that she'd like to see a business model on how to bring other counsellors into the practice or to use the space reserved for AAT. Eileen said this could be a topic on the calendar and it is very important to know Policies/Procedures to be ethically covered and know Scope of Practice in these situations.

The plan is to schedule another casual meet and greet, coffee-chat style zoom networking meeting for our chapter asap. Charmaine will figure out the calendar of our upcoming plans moving forward and inform the group of when this might occur.

11. Eileen Bona asked for a motion to adjourn meeting.

Julia Wassef moved to adjourn meeting.

Marilyn 2nd the motion. Vote, All in favor. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm MST.