

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 June 2011 meeting of your Board of Directors.

President Shields welcomed the Directors and staff to the meeting.

President's Report

BC has a newly elected Premier and a newly appointed Cabinet, including a new Minister of Health Services. It appears that the 10-year Mental Health and Addictions Plan will continue to be put in place. Given that the Minister is actively working on our regulatory initiative file, and expects to make recommendations about counsellors this Fall, President Shields feels that we should wait until we receive the recommendations to decide whether or not to go to the MLAs. The President is pleased with the current proceedings.

Executive Director's Report

Increasing administrative demands on our human and technical resources have been met with expanding the Victoria Office space, hiring part-time support staff, and enhancing software to handle the ever-increasing volume.

Further technical enhancements are being researched, including changes to our office server, to facilitate processing materials for our critical Regulatory Operations (Registration and Inquiry).

Dr. Browne acknowledged the continuing excellence of Aina Adashynski and Michèle Ashmore.

Subsequent to the May 2011 meeting with senior staff of the Ministry of Health Services, we have been drafting a submission to the Minister on "*Risks of Harm Associated with Unregulated Counselling Therapy Services*". The submission draws on Ontario's Health

Professions Regulatory Advisory Report, filed insurance claims, BCACC complaints, BCACC membership survey, and reported court cases.

Members are reminded that the sole basis to be designated as a profession under the Health Professions Act is demonstrated risk of harm to the public by unregulated practitioners.

Ethics and Standards

Adrienne Mahaffey presented to new standards on *Child Custody and Access Assessments and Reports*, and *Clinical Counselling Reports*. Both standards were adopted by the Board.

The *Use of Technology Standard* is being updated. Adrienne is looking into guidelines for dealing with First Nations groups. She has proposed an ad hoc committee to look into the diversity of First Nations and solicited input from the Board.

Legislative Review

Glen Grigg reported on the critical work of the *National Labour Mobility Working Group* under the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) and on the CCPA National Testing Initiative.

It turns out that the National Testing Initiative is going to be a paper-and-pencil test, which runs counter to our BCACC and Task Group policy objective of competency-based assessment. As a result, we have withdrawn from that national initiative.

It should be noted the national Agreement on Internal Trade in Canada directs that East-West occupational portability should be primarily based on competency.

Nominations and Recruitment Policy Committee

This committee, comprised of Barb Ingram, Kevin Ward and Lee McLeod, has identified three areas of focus: Establish a year-round committee; Link recruitment to the BCACC Fundamental Purposes; Profile the current Board of Directors.

It was suggested that we have a Member-at-Large sit on the Board.

Registration Committee

The Committee continues to try to find the best way to review files online.

Plans also include two more committee members, hopefully from Regions 1 and 5.

Continuing Competency

Rob Riddle reported that the Continuing Competency Program Draft Document continues to be amended. It is expected that the final Draft will go to the Board prior to the October Board Meeting.

Rob announced that he will be leaving the committee at the end of this term (March 2012).

Inquiry Committee

From March 23rd to May 16th, 2011 the Committee received two new complaints.

It was reiterated that once a complaint has been received against a member the Executive Director no longer acts as a consultant [to that member].

Member Services

Lida Izadi provided updates on the Public Presentation Project, North Shore Youth Project, Multicultural, Peer Support Project and the Website.

For further information, or questions regarding this communiqué, please contact Dr. Jim Browne at Voice: 604-535-8011; e-mail: jim_browne@telus.net.

From a Meeting of the Board of Directors, June 18th, 2011