

Southern California Association of Psychology Training Programs (SCAPTP)
Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2018

Mount Saint Mary's University
10 Chester Place
Los Angeles, CA 90007

- I. Introductions- Scott Bledsoe (Azusa Pacific), Robert Pate (Cal Baptist), Giselle Collins (Didi Hirsch), Priscilla Barajas (The Help Group), Julie Hewett (The Help Group), Greg Travis (Mount Saint Mary's), Julie Jackson (Mount Saint Mary's), Natalie Brown (LaVerne), Jerry Kerns (LaVerne), Dave Cimborra (Rosemead), Sean Love (Fuller), Mimi Curtis (Tarzana Treatment Centers), Valeria Romero (Pacific Clinics), Sheryn Scott (Azusa Pacific), Tina Armstrong (Fuller), Jennifer Levine (Wise and Healthy Aging; via telephone), Holly Morrell (Loma Linda; via telephone), Liz Schewe (Pacifica; via telephone), LaTonya Wood (Pepperdine; via telephone), Katie Devlin (Western Youth Services; via telephone).

- II. Approval of Minutes- Sean Love asked for clarification about the discussion of supervision that occurred during the DCT meeting regarding some students' hours not being counted by BOP. SCAPTP members that were present for the DCT meeting clarified that the sites were primarily out-of-state VAs. Robert Pate motioned to approve the minutes. Jerry Kerns seconded the approval. The minutes of the last meeting were approved without change.

- III. Old Business
 - a. Call for nominations for secretary and co-chair positions- Robert Pate has accepted the nomination for secretary. He will begin secretary duties at the next meeting. There are no current nominations for co-chair representing practicum sites, but nominations are still strongly encouraged.
 - b. \$25 annual dues- Annual dues for the fiscal year (6/1/2018 to 5/31/2018) can be submitted to LaTonya Wood at Pepperdine. Collections occur throughout the fall. Robert Pate asked when new programs are required to pay. Sheryn Scott and Dave Cimborra shared that dues have typically been used for continuing education and that there have not been firm rules regarding when programs are required to pay, particularly for new members. Once dues are paid, the school/site information goes on the SCAPTP website. Sheryn suggested dues be paid in June in accordance with the SCAPTP fiscal year. Updates regarding dues will occur at the next meeting.
 - c. DMH Waiver update- Tina Armstrong and Valeria Romero have devised a draft of a letter outlining the concerns of SCAPTP about requiring practicum students to obtain a DMH waiver. Valeria Romero reported that she has tried to get further clarification from Diane Guillory at DMH regarding what units qualify for a DMH waiver (e.g., for students who have a master's degree in another discipline), and there is continued confusion regarding who needs a waiver. Valeria has shared multiple scenarios regarding students with prior graduate training, but has not received any clear responses. In response to Valeria's questions, the state has clarified that they are aware that the decision to require a waiver for practicum

students may impact early career psychologists, as well as the community mental health system as a whole. Diane Guillory seemed to be aware of the issue, but stated that the law is currently restricted and DMH will continue to require practicum students to be waived. Valeria shared that at Pacific Clinics, practicum students will work as a mental health rehabilitation specialist which means that practicum student can be working with a mental health worker, but cannot do intakes or reassessments. Jennifer Levine from Wise and Healthy Aging reported that there is no way around the waiver at this moment, and she has received similar information as Valeria. Katie Devlin from Western Youth Services shared her frustration with the change in the interpretation of the waiver requirement. Tina reviewed the letter drafted by SCAPTP and will send it out to the SCAPTP listserv for comments and additions. Tina outlined the main points of the letter including the potential impact to students, mental health consumers, and the mental health system as a whole. Mimi Curtis clarified how the letter will be endorsed. Further decisions will be made regarding endorsement once the letter is finalized. Valeria clarified the importance of informing students of the practicum waiver requirement in the interview. Scott Bledsoe and the waiver subcommittee plan to finalize a draft of the letter by June 18 for SCAPTP member review. The document will be made available on Google Docs for member review and comments for 3-4 weeks with plans to have a completed draft by July 15. Members are encouraged to comment once the draft is posted.

IV. New Business

- a. UND date change and other issues addressed at the SCAPTP DCT meeting (4/16)- Dave Cimborra shared about the history of issues with UND. When Dave was SCAPTP co-chair, he sent a letter to SCAPTP members documenting UND issues and focusing on what is good for students. The argument made in the letter was that moving the UND date earlier does not benefit students because they have only had a few months of practicum and may not know what types of practicum sites they are interested in for the following year. Although there are some students who come into programs with a clear focus, many develop a focus as they progress throughout their program. Dave shared concern that the same predicament (i.e., some sites notifying students earlier in order to ensure filling their positions) will occur even if UND is moved to an earlier date. The logic works in the short-term before sites that do not abide by SCAPTP adjust their dates to be even earlier, but ultimately there are training sites that will not abide by UND policies. The big issue is that training and academic institutions are not on the same page. In the past, the academic institutions had more influence because training sites were in great need of practicum students to provide service hours and even had paid positions, but now students are not getting paid and end up taking an extra year in order to gain more hours and to be more competitive when applying for internship. Ultimately, students are the ones that end up being in jeopardy because they take out additional loans to take additional years in their program. Dave Cimborra shared concerns about the direction of SCAPTP and training in general in terms of advocating for students. Members discussed how students were trained previously (i.e., completed 16-hour per week practicums

and completed programs sooner) and still received good training. The final information that Dave shared was that some programs have done work for decades to develop practicum relationships, and newer programs benefit from implementing a match system because all of the practicum sites are open to students from all programs, which is not the case currently. Jerry Kerns shared that he generally agreed with the concerns shared by Dave Cimborra. Jerry stated that ideally he would want the notification day to be later in order to give students more time to decide. Jerry discussed how SCAPTP has historically had a difficult time getting on the same page and expressed concerns about the longevity of SCAPTP. Katie Devlin shared concerns that an electronic format would add cost to students. She shared that Western Youth Services had made offers earlier, but preferred candidates had already accepted other positions. Tina Armstrong shared that Fuller would be open to sharing resources. Her emphasis is on minimizing the amount of resources needed to place students (personnel, financial). Sheryn Scott brought up how the internship imbalance is shifting and may shift how internship sites rank candidates, as well as the number of practicum hours needed to be competitive at the internship level. The prediction is that there will continue to be more sites than students which may relieve pressure on the students to take extra practicums. Sean Love discussed how Fuller communicated clear guidelines to sites about hours for students. Twenty hours per week is not sustainable for students taking a full class load and trying to complete their dissertation. Mimi Curtis shared that Tarzana treatment centers requires 20 hours per week to meet agency training needs. Giselle Collins stated that Didi Hirsch has students asking for more hours than the required 16 hours per week. Priscilla Barajas shared that if students ask for more hours, she confirms with the school before agreeing to give the student more hours. Jerry brought up that students hate UND and wonder why we do not have a match process. Tina echoed the sentiment for Fuller students. Overall, the success of SCAPTP and UND requires sites and programs to be on the same page and keep clear lines of communication open.

- b. Potential Match System for SCAPTP
 - i. BAPIC- Priscilla Barajas stated that someone approached her at the APPIC conference and informed her that training agencies have been participating in a national conference call that may be helpful for SCAPTP to participate in. There was no discussion of SCAPTP using the BAPIC system. Previously, it was shared that Bay Area universities pay \$1250 and students paid \$50 for the BAPIC match system. Priscilla reminded members that the last time there was a proposal for SCAPTP to use a match system, many of the sites/agencies that do not attend SCAPTP meetings were the ones who were hesitant about a match system. Julie Hewett suggested making a video explaining the match process. Sheryn Scott suggested a letter outlining UND issues to record the history of SCAPTP to help sites that do not attend understand. Priscilla will follow up regarding the national conference call, but consideration of using the BAPIC system will be put on hold until CAPIC options are explored.

- ii. CAPIC- Rene Puliatti from CAPIC participated in a conference call with SCAPTP members. He shared that CAPIC has seen their numbers go down and is considering the viability of CAPIC as an organization. He discussed the CAPIC online profile, application, and match system. The online match system may be useful to SCAPTP. The other option would be for SCAPTP to work directly with the vendor that created the CAPIC system, but that would likely cost more. CAPIC has 25 years of experience providing these services and is open to considering providing them to SCAPTP. The current annual fee is \$1750 for schools. If more than 5 students match, it goes up another \$1750 and up from there if more students match. The price could be adjusted/negotiated based on the needs of SCAPTP. Currently, there is an annual fee of \$375 for sites. Students pay \$200 to participate in internship match, but it may be lower for practicum students. CAPIC will be looking at how to make their organization sustainable and will have a better idea by September 28-29 when they will be having a meeting regarding the future of the organization. A proposal from SCAPTP would need to be submitted before the September meeting to be considered. The proposal can be made via email. Members thanked Rene Pulatti for his time.
- iii. Follow up discussion- Members were generally in agreement with moving forward with submitting a proposal to CAPIC. Jerry Kerns will do a draft proposal and shared that this seems like a good time to work with CAPIC given that SCAPTP could potentially provide them more viability as an organization. Members discussed how most programs have few or no students using CAPIC currently, although most schools still pay for the service. Dave Cimborra shared that Rosemead has never been a CAPIC member and has required students to get an APPIC internship, thus it would be an additional budget item and also brought up the associated cost to students. Mimi Curtis pointed out that it seems most things are moving to electronic systems and she believed that students would be willing to pay. Scott Bledsoe asked for any objections. No members raised objections. Approximately 5 years ago, a private agency was developing a system, but it was much more expensive. Thus, SCAPTP members agreed to move forward with exploring using CAPIC to provide a match system.

V. Updates & Announcements

- a. Site Announcements
 - i. Mount Saint Mary's- Greg Travis updated members on Mount Saint Mary's program. The first cohort is proposed for fall 2019. The initial WASC proposal is submitted. There will be a Latinx mental health specialization. The MFT training program has bilingual program that is thriving.
- b. Agency Reminder: Please send Scott Bledsoe your updated site info for the SCAPTP web page: <https://www.scaptp.org/directory>

Next Meeting: Monday, October 1st, 2018 from 10am-12pm at the University of La Verne.