



Washington State Society for
Clinical Social Work
Identity • Integrity • Diversity

July 22, 2020 Board Meeting

Present (via Zoom): Nathaniel Amos, Chris Garrido-Philp, Katie Price, Brenda Bible, Betsy Strewler, Vickie Yang, Nidhi Berry, Ross Artwohl, Lara Okoloko, Aimee Roos (ex-officio), Melanie Smith (guest and org. legislative rep.)

Absent: Julie Hemminger, Salomé Valencia-Bohné

Introductions and Welcome:

- Icebreaker: What was the last song you danced to?
- Once approved by board members, these meeting minutes will be shared with WSSCSW members

Updates: (30 mins)

- Katie's update: Stepping down from Board in October
 - Katie has offered Chair position to two folks who may co-chair together
 - Katie is planning to stay on PD committee to continue providing support!
 - Thank you, Katie, for your amazing work and dedication to the Professional Development program and future!!
- Updates to CE program (Betsy)
 - Fee increases
 - Addition of New Membership Option: Two-Year, Up to 5 Events
 - Transitioning entirely to virtual submissions
 - Earlier submission deadline
 - Option to offer asynchronous (non-live) webinars
 - Option to advertise events on WSSCSW website and social media
 - New Webpage: Webinar CE Offerings & FAQs
 - Changes effective 7/15/20
- Renewal Updates (Vickie)
 - Renewal deadline will remain the same (October 1st)
 - Crafted new renewal letters for this year's renewal process
 - Limiting number of letters getting sent out
 - Diversity Survey: pushed back to October/November, so that Membership has some time to breathe after membership is completed
 - Hoping to have results ready to present at end of year

Legislative Decision Matrix w/ Melanie Smith: (30 mins)

- Melanie has been WSSCSW's lobbyist for the past 6 years
- Background:
 - There are 3,000 bills per session (no one can take a stance on that # of bills!)
 - Different levels of support that Melanie can provide (in actions and time) to a bill, depending on its importance for WSSCSW



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- How do we want to quantify the amount of support that Melanie provides to a bill?
- WSSCSW has not historically taken many social justice stances on bills, and this may be changing now (see next Board Meeting agenda item & discussion)
- Session begins next on January 11, 2020
- Melanie and Legislative Committee provided Decision Tree to help clarify how WSSCSW would decide to formally support a bill
 - Goal for WSSCSW legislative process: Melanie needs clarity on who to go to in the Board to make quick decisions, particularly during session time when things move very quickly with bills
 - In Melanie's experience, bills don't tend to pass when they don't have a clear leader to move them forward
 - Important to think about the political viability of bills we consider supporting
 - **Action follow-up:** Melanie and the Legislative Committee will come up with options for the end-stage levels of the decision tree decision-making process
 - Three general options for supporting a bill:
 - Take a position: support
 - Take a position: amend
 - Take a position: oppose
 - **Action follow-up:** Melanie & Leg. Committee will add these options to Decision Tree
 - **Action follow-up:** Nathaniel will bring questions to Exec. Committee:
 - How quickly can the Leg. Committee respond to a need for decision on bills?

Discussion about setting a position for WSSCSW, re: Social justice goals/strategy: (1 hour)

- History: WSSCSW has not often taken public-facing stances on issues of social justice
 - Membership has historically been experienced private practice therapists, predominantly white
- Assumptions for discussion:
 - These conversations are hard, tend to bring up white fragility
 - White fragility can look like a feeling of personalization: what will people think of me if I don't agree?
 - Sometimes it can be difficult to have disagreement with those who you respect or with whom you feel connection
 - We're all trying to collaborate effectively
 - We might be used to having a 'consensus and or no action model', and we might need to get comfortable with something else--not necessarily having consensus and finding ways to take action in spite of it
 - WSSCSW is a predominantly white organization and a predominantly white Board



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- There's an inherent risk/fear that agent voices (people with multiple identities of privilege) can become centered in conversations like these
- WSSCSW offerings tend to target social workers who have economic privilege
 - Role of economic privilege in the way WSSCSW makes offerings and focuses attention on specific slices of social work that possess economic/historical privilege
 - Idea: ways to make membership more accessible
- What is the WSSCSW social justice frame? Is developing one what the organization needs right now?
 - When we're using the word social justice, what are we talking about?
 - What were the tradeoffs we were willing to make in the past, and what tradeoffs are we willing to make now?
 - How do we make decisions about supporting more controversial political positions (e.g. dismantle the police)?
 - Echo the position of activists and scholars?
 - Consider the majority position within a political group (i.e. polls of Black Americans)?
 - Using the terminology that oppressed communities are using as we communicate with the membership
- **Decision:** the Board will hold an additional Board Meeting next month in August, fully devoted to continuing this discussion

Next full board meeting: Wednesday, August 19th, 2020 7-9pm (via Zoom)

Next Executive Meeting (President, Past President / President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer): virtually, one evening in August, TBA

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Strewler