

Executive Committee Meeting 4/19/2018

Attendees: Mary Beth Shea, Ron Girona, Sam Wan, Genevieve Davis, Tracey Smith
Guest: Russell Lemle (left call after his updates)

1. SecVA and Legislation (Dr. Smith and Dr. Lemle)

Veteran Senate Minority Veterans Affairs Committee asked for questions for the confirmation meeting for the new Secretary of VA. Discussed potential questions to provide. AVAPL provided the list of top 10 needs for Choice legislation for discussion at the hearing. Some questions suggested – what is your definition of privatization, and how do you foresee VA continuing to provide foundational services if Choice funding and VA infrastructure funding are co-mingled?

Action item: Dr. Smith has provided some suggestions for questions for the hearing via twitter and will add to the suggestions subsequent to today's discussion.

Dr. Lemle provided some updates on legislation, including a potential renewal/reworking of the omnibus bill.

Action item: A response piece will be considered for appropriate distribution to Congressional committee members.

2. Safety Survey (Dr. Lemle)

Dr. Lemle provided some background on the development of a safety in the workplace survey for AVAPL members/providers in VA. In response to this and other external factors, VACO has established a committee on workplace safety and Dr. Lemle will be one of the main leads on this. They will be sending out the survey discussed so far within AVAPL and Div 18, but now as a larger top down/bottom up initiative. Committee members for this workgroup will include SW, police, psychology – all within mental health. They plan to make the survey a form of intervention itself. AVAPL committee discussed the concern of the workgroup staying in mental health in part perpetuating a mental health stigma and also not allowing other groups a part of the discussion that will hopefully include them.

Action item: Dr. Lemle will be meeting about this in San Antonio on Wednesday the week of the conference and offered the opportunity to further discussion at this point. No further AVAPL action.

3. Awards (Dr. Shea)

Discussed the idea of establishing new awards. Dr. Wan suggested that this could be an area of increased collaboration between Division 18 and AVAPL. It was discussed that they already have commensurate awards with at least one that has been suggested by some members. Dr. Smith brought up the idea of using our website to solicit award nominations year round, as opposed to just once annually. This could be in combination with reminders every few months and also doing something at the conference (providing forms and a drop box). Finally discussed telling the recipients that they are receiving the awards well before the conference so they have a chance to come if they choose. Dr. Smith brought up the idea of having an annual timeline to allow for some predictability.

Action item: Dr. Smith and Dr. Shea will inform the requestors that due to the overlap with Division 18, AVAPL will not be adding any new awards this year but will look to other ways of commemorating lost colleagues. Dr. Smith will also create an annual AVAPL calendar for review by the EC.

4. RxP survey (Dr. Smith)

The group agreed to survey AVAPL membership on their interest and on their training in it. Will also provide resources to the group as a companion to the survey for those interested in more information.

Action item: Dr. Smith agreed to put his together.

5. VAPLC Presentation

Discussed the purpose of Mid-Winter: develop our legislation agenda, develop a boarder perspective of VA psychology, and have a chance to share concerns from the field and gather information that may be of use to our membership.

Action item: Due to time, agreed to continue to discuss the presentation via email and on future calls.