

Executive Committee Meeting
9/21/17

Attendees: Mary Beth Shea, Tracey Smith, Ron Girona, Sam Wan, Genevieve Davis
Guest presenter re: privatization: Russell Lemle

Community Partners Update (Russell Lemle):

A community partner asked for our perspective on legislation pertaining to medication transition issues from DoD-VA. We invited input from the VA psychiatry caucus, which we included. Our response to this community partner cautioned against restricting VA providers from tapering addictive medications..

Staffing Survey Update (Russell Lemle)

Issue of vacancies is getting more attention from VSOs, and in order to respond to their needs and our own, we are considering a way of gaining and maintaining information on psychologist vacancies.

Questions/Actions:

Mary Beth Shea will be making final edits on survey and will send to group for final approval prior to dissemination.

Choice Update (Mary Beth Shea & Russell Lemle)

1. There was a recent piece by Suzanne Gordon on VA patient safety centers potentially losing funding.
2. Potential for Senate bipartisan bill coming up on VA and Choice. Those interested in advocating for strengthening the VA may write to HVAC/SVAC.

Questions/Actions:

-Russell Lemle and Tracey Smith have put some talking points together and will send to the group for final edits. Will put sample language on the website for those interested in writing to representatives.

-Mary Beth Shea will be looking into finding direct contact info for committee members so we can email them instead of using their page (not as easy to ignore).

Treasurer's report (Sam Wan)

Report sent to committee. Membership balance: \$52,524, Conference account balance: \$16,054.

Total expense for DC Summit: Approx \$8500.

Membership: 503 total

Updates from last meeting:

Reviewed and signed new hotel contracts for VAPLC 2019 and 2020.

Broken award replaced.

Questions/Actions:

1. New business cards.
2. Preparation for membership renewals.
3. Tax preparation after September 30.
4. Discussion about EC travel for all required AVAPL-related conferences. EC members to request funding from own facilities and if no funding is provided, to have a backup fund through AVAPL.
5. Discussion about a prior AVAPL leader going to D.C. to speak to AFGE about C&P issues and whether or not to fund this travel. Will seek travel support from AFGE first and bring it back to the group if not.

Midwinter Meeting Update (Mary Beth Shea)

Communication is ongoing regarding settling on dates. Will start booking end of October no matter what.

Other items

In November, Tracey Smith is going to go to Vietnam War event for the reading of names at the Vietnam War Memorial in DC and will be an advocate for VA while there. Russell Lemle drafted a one page handout for her to keep with her.

Questions/Actions:

Sam Wan will order business cards for her to bring with her.