

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELLORS

“Representing Christians who provide Counselling and Pastoral Care”

Register Advisory Panel (RAP) MEETING MINUTES

Friday May 26th, 2017

4.30 pm

at

Allerton Bywater

Present: Fiona Sherburn, Lay Chair
Phil Vaux, Lay member

Tony Ruddle, Executive Chair
Kathy Spooner ACC Director of Counselling

In attendance: Dawn Sherry, note taker

Apologies: There were no apologies.

Bible Reading / Prayer: The meeting opened with a prayer

Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

1. Updates from ACC

TR gave out his executive chair report. The register renewal has been submitted, but we are awaiting a final response from the PSA. The RAP discussed the potential changes of the RAP panel giving information about a handover period and FS to become an ACC board member if elected. To be aware of any conflict of interest in this intervening period. Names were put forward as potential new RAP chair / members. The PSA are in consultation as to how Accredited Registers might work in the future. There have been no complaints in the last year and the PSA are aware that ACC has a completed complaints log in place, but have not asked to see it. There is an ACC AGM on July 14th in Brentwood. The ACC conference went exceptionally well in January 17. KS will be leading the planning the one for 2019. ACC are sponsoring a National Mindfulness Day for Christians in 2018 in Leeds and London. ACC Pastoral Care was also discussed.

TR also showed the panel a copy of the ACC Finance Director's report.

The panel went through the report asking questions and seeking clarification on parts of it.

TR thanked the RAP panel (Fiona Sherburn, Phil Vaux and also Charan Sarai) on behalf of ACC and said ACC was very grateful for all their hard work, interest and enthusiasm. KS and DS also gave their thanks.

2. The PSA (KS)

KS told of changes that may be implemented by the PSA for future renewals. Instead of the register holders sending in a report, the PSA will populate a report during the year and then contact the register holder for clarification / answers if needed. This will make the renewal

process much simpler for register holders. If all is in order, register holders may only be checked every 3 years. The PSA is also planning on acknowledging those register holders who do something well, let other register holders know. To share good practice.

ACC have a risk in the fact that we are a small organisation and may find it difficult to engage in public engagement and to find the PSA registration fees that are charged. ACC do look at how much we charge registrants and try to keep it as low as possible (£25 at present per year) The PSA were impressed by the ACC commitment to the register.

KS said it has been an uphill struggle in trying to communicate the importance of being on the ACC register to our members. She asked "Why" and put forward some thoughts in response to this question. The ACC team are ringing individual members 1 to 1 to talk about the register. Articles have been in the accord magazine, on the ACC website and will be talked about at the Affiliates meeting in June. Ideas are to get out and about to advertise our register at colleges, training agencies, counselling agencies and to put articles in magazines such as Christianity Today / Church times.

It is important that non-Diploma members understand they have to join the register before December 2017, as from 2018, the only route onto the register will be if you have a Level 4 Diploma or above.

ACC want to look at the register processes – especially CPD – instead of 25 hours of any CPD perhaps work out individual personal development CPD with their supervisor.

ACC are representing the "faith voice" as we are the only faith based register holder. These are all challenges we have to face.

KS agreed to send to the RAP members documentation relating to the annual renewal of ACC's application for accreditation and the PSA consultation document.

3. PSA Information sharing protocol

The PSA would like all register holders to collaborate and share information such as promoting members on their register – Lobby NHS England and promote ACC registrants as an alternative "workforce" for register holders to work together.

"Professionals have duties not privileges"

ACC / other register holders need to approach GPs, perhaps through the BMA, so they know who to approach when looking for a Registered Counsellor for their patients. KS to try and arrange a visit to the BMA to promote ACC and its register.

4. RAP terms of Reference

The panel looked at a draft Terms of Reference document on RAP Governance and its proposed changes.

RAP reviewed the changes and proposed that the ACC board accept the changes. TR will take this to the board for ratification, then to the PSA.

5. Approvals

KS asked RAP who can make the decision to see if members are acceptable to join ACC if their qualifications are unusual / not a Level 4 or if they have had a break in counselling (due to bereavement etc) or they have trained overseas. RAP said each case should be looked at individually and a decision made as an exception. RAP and KS, DS, accreditation committee and the TDG group can make the decision. If this is difficult, take it to the PSA.

(JE – needs to try to complete the missing assignments from her Diploma in Counselling and get the award, if not ask for other evidence)

(Swedish member – can get ACC membership via the equivalence route & as approved by the accreditation committee)

6. Staff Concerns

These are not appropriate to be discussed at RAP.

7. RAP Handover

KS has some people who she has approached to join the new RAP panel. These are all Christians who are experienced in their fields. Future meeting will now be held down south (London outskirts) These are:

Catherine Clarke a solicitor (proposed Chair)

Doreen Rowlands a retired occupational therapist who chairs a brain injury committee (Lay person)

Heather Churchill programme leader for the BA counselling course at Waverley Abbey (Lay person)

Is there a potential conflict of interest as KS is friends with one of the proposed panel and has been a prayer partner with another?

The RAP panel said a man was needed to join the panel for diversity.

KS proposed these new panel members, TR seconds them and it was run past the RAP panel who agreed to recommend if a 4th member could be male.

When a new RAP panel is in place FS said she would come and talk to them about the role of RAP.

FS hopes to join the ACC as a board member in the summer after the ACC AGM.

It was agreed that the new RAP panel will meet 4 times a year – twice without ACC being present and twice with ACC being invited.

8. AOB – None

11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be decided at a later date. It will be around September 2017.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm