

Seattle Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
Business Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 10, 2024
via Zoom (Chaired by A. Buchinski)

Present: E. Kristine, S. Walker, M. Brooks, J. Wood, A. Crofut, D. Fort, C. Keats, K. McKittrick, K. Wiessbourd, R. Hushka, J. De Mott, G. Balli, S. Radant, K. Weisbard, P. Comert, A. Buchinski, A. Thomas, M. Bullard, A. Buchinski.

1. **Call to order:** 7:35 PM
2. **Vote on minutes from March Business meeting:** Approved
3. **Director Report: C. Keats** (See Below)
4. **Board Report: R. Hushka** – New SPSI space on schedule – expect to get the keys early May. SPSI graduation will happen in the new space Sunday June 2. There will be an event May 17 to say an intentional good bye to the Madison space & fund raise. The committee, J. Wood, P. Comert, Zan, S. Radant, K. McKittrick are collecting items or experiences for an auction. Contact one of them if you have such a thing. Also any musicians or mimes who might be enticed to provide entertainment.
5. **Nominations: None at present.**
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Curriculum: K. McKittrick** – Need an instructor for the developmental track birth – 5 & one for Latency to emerging adulthood.
 - b. **Diversity: E. Jordan** – Will lead a discussion of chaps 1-4 later in meeting for the purpose of integrating notions & findings into SPSI culture, policies.
 - c. **CAAO: A. Thomas** - Will be meeting w/ Matt Books to discuss progression matters
 - d. **Admissions: M. Pauly** – Nothing to report
7. **Motions.** None at present
8. **APsaA Representative Report: K. Lippman** - Nothing to report
9. **Holmes Commission Report Reading Groups: Discussion led by L. Jordan.**

Robust discussion of chapters 1-4 . J. Wood on the importance of having a dedicated space to talk about the issues. R. Hushka on the humbling

experience of sharing and having experiences of racial and other forms of “othering” . A. Thomas asked about what extent Race is a subject matter of discussion amongst white colloquies – amplified by S. Walker. & put out a request for the personal sharing of experiences of talking about or experiencing racism or othering. Various SPSI members shared personal & extremely moving experiences. S. Radant talked about the shift from “I” to “We” & the plusses and perils of the group identifications. C. Keats talked about white privilege & the history of racism in our culture & asks what can be done to move an increment forward. A. Crofut re-directs us to recommendations in the Holmes Report itself on P. 106 (**See Summary of Key Recommendations below**) . S. Walker described the benefits & essential nature of a “go slow” process. M. Brooks discussed the ubiquity of a “white” influence on progression processes including in communication, dynamics of power & standards. S. Walker described the difference between the “reification of a procedure rather than an appreciation of treating the mind”. M. Bullard on the radical implications for challenges to standards for what constitutes an analysis in terms of frame & frequency.

10. Announcements:

- a. J. Wood – Please donate to the auction
- b. R. Hushka – Look for emails on details about how to help with the SPSI move.
- c. A. Crofut – congratulations to E. Kristine for being a runner up in a Division 39 Essay writing contest

11. Adjourn 9:PM

Director’s Report to the Business Meeting 4/10/24:

Plans are underway for the Friday, May 17 event to say goodbye to our office on Madison Street. I have heard that many animals have a way to say hello, to greet each other, but only humans say goodbye. It is true that some animals grieve, but they don’t say goodbye with intentionality, so far as I know. In this case, we intend to say goodbye to a space, not a person, though the space may seem to have a personality, and in this saying goodbye we are also looking ahead, as this event will be a fund raiser; we look forward to investment in the future.

We are indebted in advance to the organizers, including Julie, Piyale, Rebecca, constituting The Unofficial May 17 Auction Committee, or TUMAC, and Zan. In addition, members of the Arts Committee chaired by Sue and Kimberly have been collecting, and still are collecting, art you would be willing to donate to the silent auction. I believe they will also accept other items you may be able to contribute, such as Mariners Tickets or weekends at your cabin on the Sound.

Another goodbye will be the party for graduating students on Sunday June 2, 4-6 pm, in our new space. We hope this is a hello as well, and that

graduates of the analytic training program will wish to join the faculty, and graduates of the psychotherapy program will find ways for ongoing involvement with us. A Commencement, not really a goodbye. I am glad that our future already also includes plans for a return of continuing education, in the form of a series of speakers organized by Babs and her friend Erin Carruth, and a return of the scientific meetings after last year's sabbatical taken by Ron and Stan. We are striving, as a group, to Educate, Nourish, and Collaborate – those are the goals we set for ourselves at the Retreat. We want to create, insofar as possible, a community of care, so that as we reach for these goals, we treat each other in a loving way, and find ourselves desirous of continued happy association, with goodbyes a long way in the future.

Summary of Key (Holmes Commission) Recommendations:

Recommendation Number 1 - Recruitment

Broaden recruitment strategies beyond word-of-mouth recruitment and monitor and evaluate these strategies on an ongoing basis.

Recommendation Number 2 – Admissions Process

Develop more objective data and transparency in reviewing applicants for admission.

Recommendation Number 3 – Progression

Create standard, publicly articulated procedures for addressing racism occurring at interpersonal and structural levels that interferes with the progression of candidates.

Recommendation Number 4 - Career-Building

Implement a mentorship program in the structure of training and increase numbers of BIPOC and other diverse mentors.

Recommendation Number 5 – Remove Barriers to Training

Address the full range of structural barriers (financial, family responsibilities, curriculum, diversity of candidates and clients, frequency of sessions, organizational inflexibility, processes to address systemic racism, consultation) and interpersonal barriers (lack of belonging, engaging with sociocultural perspectives, negative interactions in response to BIPOC talking about racist experiences) to accessing and completing analytic training.

Recommendation Number 6 - Accountability

Collect process and outcome data related to implemented strategies annually. Establish a committee to collect and analyze this data and communicate the findings to all stakeholders in the institute. The committee should include candidates and recent graduates of the institute. Consider the experiences of candidates and recent graduates and use the findings to develop

and implement meaningful change toward improving training for analysts' work with BIPOC and other diverse clients, reducing racial harm, and supporting BIPOC and candidates from a diversity of backgrounds with equity and inclusion so all thrive within institute communities.