

Acadia Community Advisory Council Minutes

October 30, 2024

6:00pm – 8:00pm – SEM 231 + Zoom

Attendance: Alison Arthur, Chris Toplack, Clarence De Schiffart, Erica McGill, Jeff MacDonald, Meaghan Fullerton, John Hubert, Jennifer Moore, AJ Landon, Patricia Wentzell, Steve Carrington, Jean Blackler, Kelly Brenton, Birdie Bezanson, Ahlam Rahal, Ashley Matthews Coons, Shawna Shires, Christine Daniels, Kim Dixon, Mark Adams, Russell Robicheau, Corrine Haigh

Regrets: Gregg MacKinnon (sabbatical), Jen Tinkham, Maeghan Hill, Andrea Noylander, Tara Moore, Wanda McDonald, Bryan Brooks, George Maringapasi,

Minutes: Birdie Bezanson

1. Welcome & Guest Introductions (Tanya)

- Expressed appreciation for everyone taking their time to attend
- Welcomed Student Reps Christine, Kim, and Ashley
- Welcomed Shawna Shiers, new counselling consultant for the DoE
- Welcomed Russell Robicheau, NSH Manager Southwest Outpatient Adult and Child Mental Health and Addictions
- Welcomed Mark Adam, Acting Director Acadia SoE

2. Updates from the Program

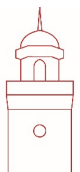
a. New Cohort Roll Outs with Practicum I and II (Kelly)

- Fulltime program is now 18 months
- Prac I, 100 hour; Prac II, 400 hour
- Information Session Oct 9th with site supervisors, well attended
- Power Point sent to all past and present site supervisors (available for those who would like them, request from Kelly)
- Info Session Oct 16th for current fulltime cohort, appreciated by students
- Currently looking for site supervisors who are interested in Prac 1 students, understanding the supervisor requirements are greater
 - Sites are showing interest

- Russell expressed is interested in exploring opportunities in his area
 - Jeff updated re HRMCE his efforts to create Prac 1 opportunities
- Fall 2025 will have a parttime cohort and a fulltime student going into Prac 2
 - this will be the only time this happens as we have a parttime cohort following old model and full time following the new model
 - Biggest impact on schools as this will include our PT School cohort
- Kelly is working on a Practicum Handbook and will make available when it is done
- We are growing our practicum sites in number and in diversity
- We are creating opportunities for parttime practicums (6 or 8 months)
 - this is in response to the financial burden of a fulltime practicum + some sites prefer students stay longer
- CCPA now requires 10 hours of direct supervision for CCC
- Adopted a secure/encrypted platform for recording session and hopefully record hours (Get Ahead/KeelMind)
- b. CEWIL iHub Funding for 2024 Fall Practicums (Tanya)
 - Provide students with resources (\$500) for practicum site, honorarium for supervisors (\$250), and mileage reimbursement for student who have to commute
- c. Update on Red Spruce & Coordinator Position (Tanya)
 - Coordinator position job talks Oct 31
 - In collaboration with VPA
 - CLT until end of August
 - We will send info when we have it

AJ informed us that new contract agreement at NSH includes compensation for supervision

Russell informed us that therapy-based practicum students at NSH that have to travel to different sites they will receive mileage reimbursement



that is the same as employees; students are also eligible for training opportunities

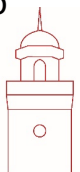
Jean requested an update on how the interview process went and wondered if we could do some follow-up on how the accepted applicants experienced the interview. Ahlam wondered if students would remember questions. Ashley added that she felt she would have been able to comment shortly after the interview.

We have changed the Letter of Intent to a Personal Reflection Statement and gave applicants options for who they submit: audio, visual.

3. Advisors Update & Small Group Discussion (Ahlam)
 - a. Current experiences and trends in their settings
 - b. What are the strengths and advances that bring you hope?
 - c. What are the gaps or concerns you're noticing?

Whole group discussion:

- Canadian Campus Wellbeing Survey – provides a lot of data to guide programming for university population
- In schools - conversations about death, climate anxiety/supporting action
- Partnerships between counsellors and community resources and NHS
- RCT candidates lack understanding of applied ethics; specifically custody, guardianship understanding
- Immigrants finding therapy in their language, and counsellors working with translators/interpreters
- School counselling collaborating with parents and being available when parents are available (i.e. outside school hours)
- Impact of (under resourced) systems on people living in poverty, pathologizing poverty
- Increase in trauma and somatic approaches
- Need to learn about private practice and the importance of self-care
- Challenges of accessing mental health, esp low SES and newcomer population
 - Ahlam provided information on a federal program that pays for mental health services for newcomers (**To Do** – send info to members)



- Strength - Adding more structure to supervision (i.e. 10 hours (eyes on) direct, 1 to 4 ration in Prac I)
- Strength - Acadia grads are showing a higher level of readiness for working in schools

Closing & Spring Advisory Meeting Date tentative: May 28, 2025 (Tanya)

