

**BCASW BOARD Minutes**  
**July 3, 2024**  
**Zoom**



Attendance – Dianne Heath (ED), Michael Crawford (Pres), Phil Mach (VP), Phyllis Nash (Past-Pres), Fiona Lewis (Treas), Cheryl Ash (Sec & OK), Kelly Guiaya (MAL), Jeremy Marczak (MAL), Scott Riesterer (Student Rep), John Richmond (VSS), Ming Huey Chan (VI), Lorry-Ann Austin (TN), & Jennifer Hagen (KTN)

Regrets – Tara Scheirer (MAL), Susan Soloman (Indigenous Liaison), Vanessa Key Craig (MAL), Elizabeth Vondette (MAL), Kayla Walker (N), Glen Schmidt (CASW Rep) & Lissy Snowden (Associate AL)

1. Opening, welcome, and land acknowledgement (Michael)
  - a) We acknowledge that our office is in the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and that our members live and work in unceded territories across British Columbia. We acknowledge territory and Indigenous Peoples and commit to genuine and ongoing work to forge real understanding, and to challenge the legacies of colonialism. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant communities.
2. Welcome and Introductions - all
  - a) New Directors – Phil Mach, Jeremy Marczak, Tara Scheirer (regrets), & Ming Chang
3. Review of minutes (All) – April 19 & 20, 2024
4. Review of agenda (All) –
  - a) Add 7. a) v – Travel rate
  - b) Add 7. a) vi – Board of Directors Expense Claim Form
5. Member Delegations (15 minutes)
  - a) No requests were received.
6. President’s Report (Michael)
  - a) Thank you to the Board for the following between Board meetings
    - i. Supporting a letter to the BCCSW asking them to take a position on the removal of exemptions
    - ii. Supporting a letter to Minister of Health on regulating psychotherapy. *Order in council 383*
  - b) MCFD –
    - i. Met with BC Green Party to discuss removal of exemptions and their private members bill revising the Social Workers Act (also FNHA funding)
    - ii. Surveyed CASW federation members regarding regulation of child welfare social workers in their jurisdictions
    - iii. Met with Murphy Battista lawyer to discuss their class action against MCFD that includes comment on exemptions as creating a situation where quality of service may be an issue and protection of the public interest is.

- iv. Sent a letter to the BCCSW and met with the Registrar to encourage them to support the removal of exemptions from the Social Workers Regulation. The BCCSW Board discussed this matter at their June 15th meeting.
- v. Reviewed MCFD's report on social work oversight and posted on social media, and created a Google Form to collect reviews – the report did not adequately reflect the info or facts from the consultation. **ACTION:** BCASW will respond to report and push for a meeting with the minister.
- c) Internal meetings – I continue to serve on the following committees – Student, CPD, Strategic Planning, Membership, and Finance
- d) BCASW AGM & CPD event was well attended.
- e) Branch revitalization – VI has a new Rep, thanks Ming. FR has a few members interested in leadership and we can look at working with them in the fall. NW & RDB are vacant.
- f) I attend the following communities of practice meetings - Sexual and Gender Diverse, Racialized Social Workers, MHSU, Indigenous, Child & Youth, and ARCA
- g) External meetings – I attended the following meetings – BCCSW AGM, RCYBC consultation of MCFD foster care, College of Psychologists n BC, CASW Federations, Health Justice briefing on legal access for involuntary patients, and the HSABC Professional Associations.
- h) I attended the following webinars - Code of Ethics (CASW), Elaine Alec – decolonization, DBT (CASW), and New Mode training
- i) Social media –
  - i. Facebook – 1,971, an increase of 4.9% since January 2024
  - ii. X/Twitter – 716, an increase of 16.2% since January 2024
  - iii. Instagram – 1,225, an increase of 10.5% since January 2024
  - iv. Threads – 160, an increase of 40.4% since January 2024
  - v. LinkedIn – 16 (previously, I used my account for BCASW posts (501))
- j) Media release - May 13, 2024 – BC government stepping back from harm reduction/decriminalization
- k) Letter to Health – June 6, 2024 – brief on regulating psychotherapy created by ad hoc member committee
- l) Resource list – June 21, 2024 - National Indigenous Peoples Day
- m) Organize a Branch Rep meeting
- n) Meet individually with MALs to discuss interests/involvement/role/

7. Executive Director's Report (Dianne) – see attached

- a) Policy (reminder, coming into effect, bring forward revisions to AGM) – create a linear approach on tracking the changes to the bylaws. **ACTION:** Dianne will separate the interim change from April, from the additional changes that Dianne would like to be reviewed.
  - i. Branch funds policy was accepted with some change in April – info & bf
  - ii. Social media policy – Lorry-Ann Austin to rewrite and distribute
  - iii. Revised bylaw 4.1.1 on BC residency approved with changes in April – info & bf  
Member's suspension – was using BCASW membership number knowingly that they are not an active member. Filed a complaint to the BCCSW, but we don't have language in our bylaws to pertain to some of these issues. This member was practicing in Quebec.
  - iv. Associate membership bylaw changes not accepted in April
  - v. Travel rate – rates were set some time ago. **PROPOSAL:** That the BCASW raise the travel rates to be inline with the CASW. **ACTION:** Cheryl will take this back and gather more information to submit as a proposal at the next meeting.

- vi. Board of Directors Expense Claim Form -
  - b) eBulletin ready to go out tomorrow
  - c) Perspectives have gone out, and about to start on the next edition.
  - d) Membership consultations = 8/week
  
- 8. Treasurer & Financial Committee Report (Fiona) - see attached
  - a) Use of accrued surplus was referred to Executive Committee at April 2024 Board meeting
  
- 9. Indigenous Liaison (Susan) - n/a
  
- 10. CASW (Glen) – see attached
  - a) Glen’s term will end in 2025, and the executive will appoint the CASW rep. **ACTION:** The nominee committee will start the planning.
  - b) **ACTION:** Bylaw 17.5 needs to be reviewed regarding terms.
  
- 11. Vice-President (Phil)
  - a) Begin an awareness campaign with Darren and the RCSW advocacy committee
  
- 12. MAL Reports
  - a) Kelly Guiaya
  - b) Lissy Snowden
  - c) Elizabeth Vondette
  - d) Vanessa Key Craig
  - e) Tara Scheirer
  - f) Jeremy Marczak
  
- 13. CPD (Phyllis Nash)
  - c) No webinars over the summer
  - d) Planning will continue in the fall
  
- 14. Membership (Kelly)
  - a) Survey fatigue
  - b) Working on orientations
  - c) Looking at a co-chair model with Vanessa Key Craig
  
- 15. Reports
  - a) Branches
    - i. Fraser River (Vacant)
    - ii. Northern (Kayla)
    - iii. Northwest (Vacant)
    - iv. Okanagan (Cheryl)
    - v. Richmond/Delta/Burnaby (Vacant)
    - vi. Thompson Nicola (Lorry-Ann)
    - vii. Vancouver Island (Ming Huey Chang) – had two hybrid meetings with great discussions on increasing engagement
    - viii. Vancouver Sea to Sky (John)
    - ix. Kootenays (Jennifer) – see attached

- b) Student Rep Report (Scott)
  - i. Social prescribing – 40 community connections for seniors so far, hope to have 80. Work with the senior to develop a wholistic wellness plan, implemented in non-profit community organizations that can prevent seniors from falling through the gap. It is an application of social work practice not being labelled as social work and covered under low wage. Some practicum students have been placed on social prescribing teams in non-profits. Concern of the potential encroachment on SW practice. **ACTION:** bring to the attention of the seniors practice committee or health advocacy committee – as these community agencies receive funding from the health authorities and the United Way (<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/news/2022/Jun/a-new-approach-to-healthy-aging>).
  - ii. Meet with students in September to follow up with transition to new rep
- c) Personnel/Human Resources (Fiona) - see attached
- d) Health Advocacy Committee (Fiona) – see attached
  - i. Highlight from report: sub committee between the Health Advocacy Committee and the Seniors Committee to work on the Home Support Issues.
- e) Communities of Practice
  - i. Anti-Racism & Cultural Advocacy (Michael)
    - Developing a statement on the rise of antisemitism and antiracism in BC.
  - i. Advocacy Circle (Barb Keith & Carol Ross)
  - ii. Seniors Issues CoP (Alison Leaney, Chair)
  - iii. Indigenous Community of Practice (Susan Soloman)
  - iv. Mental Health & Substance Use (Michael)
  - v. Sexual and Gender Diverse Community of Practice (Michael)
  - vi. Child & Youth Community of Practice (Michael)
  - vii. Racialized Social Workers (Michael)
  - viii. Disability (?) Community of Practice (Michael)
- f) Retired social workers (Carol Ross)
  - i. Fun group to get together with
  - ii. Reading the book - *Humankind*, by Rutger Bregman
- g) Editorial/*Perspectives* (Heather)
  - i. Care taken to review the ads we carry
- h) Awards (Phyllis)
  - i. The committee will need to come up with criteria for awards. The Anti-Racism & Cultural Advocacy plans to put together an award.
  - ii. Murphy Bautista award money is low, and Darren will contact them.
  - iii. Hard to get nominations for social work awards. Need to address that.
  - iv. **ACTION:** Phyllis will call a meeting with the committee to devise the ARCA award criteria.
- i) Policy governance (Pam, Phyllis, & Dianne)

- i. Are we a policy governance board? Is this the best governance model for BCASW or is there a more suitable or appropriate governance model?
- ii. Equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging audit of our policies through an ad hoc committee?
- iii. Policy governance boards are inadequate and most non-profit boards are using purpose driven boards. There are workshops for this type of model.
- iv. **ACTION:** ad hoc committee Phyllis, Fiona, Cheryl, Phil (chair), and Pam? to search out a paradigm that fits our association to push the mandate of this organization forward.

16. 2021-2024 Strategic Plan

- a) Membership data collected and analysed
- b) Next step is to invite BCASW directors and staff to complete a structured interview with a committee member
- c) After that, our community partners will be invited to complete a structured interview with a committee member
- d) Data will then be used to write an initial report to the BCASW Board in the fall

17. CASW New Code of Ethics -

- a) We would like to work with the BCCSW on this matter
- b) BCCSW advised that their revised standards are now out of date and that they will revisit them in 2025 and at that time they will also look at CASW's code of ethics
- c) How do we want to proceed? **ACTION:** BCASW will propose a joint committee with the BCCSW in early 2025 to exam the code and get input from other stakeholders, ie schools of social work.

18. BC Provincial Election (Oct 19, 2024)

- a) Form an ad hoc committee to create a voting guide, list of considerations, or questions to ask candidates? Contact Michael
- b) **ACTION:** Michael will approach the advocacy committee and first call.

19. Celebrating BCASW

- a) BCASW was founded in 1956
- b) 70 years old in 2026
- c) Ideas for celebrations – bring forward for discussion.

20. MCFD report on social work oversight

- a) A very misleading report
- b) Does not accurately reflect the data presented at the September 12, 2023 data validation session
- c) Shows that MCFD continues to be unable to consider social work regulation outside of their ministry and when considered internally, they conflate regulation with supervision.
- d) Discussion of ways forward?
- e) **ACTION:** Michael will draft a response to the minister.

21. Next Meetings:

- a) Schedule of meetings below

<b>Month</b>	<b>Board</b>	<b>Exec</b>
June		
July	Zoom – 630pm, Wed, July 3, 2024	
Aug		Exec
Sept	In-person – Fri/Sat, Sept 20-21, 2024	
Oct		Exec
Nov	Zoom - 9am-noon, Sat, date TBD	
Dec		Exec
Jan	X	
Feb		
Mar	X	
Apr		
May	AGM	

22. Adjournment – 8:45pm

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Recorder: Cheryl Ash