

### **Board of Directors**

Members of the Board of Directors for 2014-2015 were Marie Lamey, Susan Forbes, Lucy De Pieri, Lynn Mackay, Christy Zettl and Sabrina Foldi.

### **Report from the Board – Summary of Actions and Events**

The focus this year has been on

- ✓ Increasing Membership
- ✓ Adobe forms
- ✓ Insurance Coverage for Members

### **Financial Summary**

A summary of the Society's finances is appended to this report.

### **Members**

Our membership numbers currently stand at:

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Registered     | 34        |
| Resident       | 10        |
| Associate      | 10        |
| <u>Student</u> | <u>01</u> |
| TOTAL          | 55        |

In December 2014 Christy mailed 100 envelopes to homeopaths in BC who are not currently members. Each of the board members was assigned an area of the province to generate a list and Christy compiled a list for the mailing.

Included in the mailing were; a letter of invitation to join the BCSH, the list of benefits of membership, the insurance document and details from Mike Snetsinger, the levels of membership and requirements and brochure samples.

## **Occupational Title Protection (OTP):**

In October 2014 we were contacted by our lawyer, George Bryce, who informed us that there were changes to the Society Act that would affect our application for Occupational Title Protection. We set up a skype meeting with George and the minutes of that meeting have been provided.

The change to the Society Act essentially took away OTP as an option for us. At this point we need to decide how we want to move forward in this process. The options laid out by George are to become a self-regulated entity, or join with an existing college (in which case we would need to have everything in place for self-regulation anyway).

After the meeting George offered the following:

At the end of our conversation, I suggested it might be useful for the BCSH to have more information to present to the membership about the options for regulating the profession in BC. To this end, I propose the following:

I could produce a paper that would provide background information about the various regulatory options facing the BCSH, ranging from “voluntary self-regulation” through to “legislated self-regulation” under the *Health Professions Act* through an umbrella college. As part of this paper, it would be useful to explain the “social contract of professional regulation” and what it means for a profession to “act in the public interest” regardless of which form of regulation is applied to that profession.

This paper could also discuss the key components of what I call the regulatory framework, which – collectively – constitute the essential programs and bylaws that a profession needs to have in place to regulate itself in the public interest. (Most of these components would apply regardless as to which form of self-regulation is employed.)

If you and the Board thought it would be useful, I could end this paper with some discussion of the advantages/disadvantages, as well as the possible costs, for each of the regulatory options that could be applied to the profession.

And I would also be pleased to address any specific questions or concerns the Board has flowing from our discussions this evening.

I would be prepared to prepare such a paper for a flat fee of \$2,000, including disbursements and taxes.

When we declined his offer to write this report, he offered to trim the project down if the proposed fee was too much for our budget. We decided to wait until the AGM to meet with the membership on what they would like to do and if it makes sense to spend the money on this.

Susan consolidated the bylaw changes that have been done over the years into one document. As of this time we have not had the lawyer review this document in lieu of the changes regarding OTP.

### **Adobe Forms:**

The Adobe Forms have worked out very well in streamlining the case conference registration process as well as the membership renewals.

Since our last meeting we added;

- Case conference survey
- New member application form
- A form to submit CEU's online which can be used throughout the year as events are attended
- Brochure order form

Unfortunately in January of this year we were informed that Adobe will no longer be offering this service and we will need to find a new form service provider. We can use our current forms until June and have access to the form data until July. They will reimburse us the fees for the portion of the year not used when they close Adobe FormCentral.

After comparing different companies (Formstack, Jotform, WuFoo, Survey Monkey and Formsite) we have decided to use JotForm for \$9.95 per month. We will have to re-create the forms in the transition to the new form service. Christy and Marie will create the exiting forms in the JotForm platform and replace the links on the website without any interruption in the service that these forms provide to the members.

### **Address for Society:**

In order to increase our online presence, we have obtained a "prestigious address" from UPS. This is a PO Box at the UPS Store which looks like a physical address. This allows us to have the BCSH listed on online directories as well as have a google map location.

We have posted the address on the website for mailings from the public as well. Our new address is:

Suite 352 – 71 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 0J7

**HANS:**

This year HANS gave their publication and website a fresh new look which has increased interest and distribution. We renewed our advertising with HANS again this year, as a means to increase the exposure of our membership directory to the public. As well, the board submits at least one article per year for their quarterly publication.

HANS hosted a Natural Wellness Career Fair at the Vancouver Public Library on Saturday April 5, 2014 where the BCSH shared a table with the VHA in order to promote our professional members as well as homeopathy as a profession. Lucy and Sabrina joined Caroline to volunteer their time at the event. Lucy reported that it was slow in the morning but Sabrina said things picked up in the afternoon. They spoke to a wide range of individuals; some were just passing through the library and had never heard of homeopathy before, some were curious about it and others were well versed and interested in studying it. We also gave out brochures to promote homeopathy and our members.

HANS is hosting another Natural Wellness Career & Jobs Fair at Robson Square on Saturday May 30, 2015. We have declined attending this year.

**Insurance Coverage for Member Services:**

In August 2014 the BCSH was accepted by ClaimSecure to be on their list of approved unregulated paramedical associations.

After contacting Greenshield we were provided with a long application form, which among other things asked for "References of other carriers who recognizes the Association". We decided that we should get at least one more insurance company on board so that we would have at least 2 references increasing the chances of them approving us.

Pacific Blue Cross was contacted numerous times over the course of a month only to receive a circuitous response with no one answering the final email which asked what department could answer my question of who to contact to have the members of our association recognized providers of homeopathy services. Out of frustration further attempts at communication with them was stopped at that time. As of today, no further attempts have been made to contact them.

We will be continuing the process of communicating with other insurance companies to have members of the BCSH set up as approved providers of homeopathy services. We will keep the membership posted on any news

regarding this matter. We encourage members to write their BCSH (membership) number on the receipt they provide to patients in order to facilitate coverage through the insurance companies.

In July Christy met with a group benefits agent who offered to contact all the insurance companies in Canada on our behalf to see what the coverage was for homeopathic treatment. The details are as follows:

#### Insurance Companies coverage with regards to homeopathy

We surveyed the market and you may or may not know but there is approximately 10 insurance companies in Canada that provide health insurance. The following companies provided a detailed explanation of their policies with regard to the reimbursement of the fees associated with the services and the fees associated with the remedies.

- Desjardins- The services for a homoeopath practitioner are included within our list of eligible practitioners. The per visit or yearly maximum for these practitioners is determined by the plan sponsor. Below is the wording from our contract in respect to practitioners. In addition, I have included the wording from our drug exclusion portion of the contract which states that homeopathic preparations are not covered.
- Manulife- . If the plan does cover Homeopaths, it would only consider the visit and would not consider any remedies provided by them
- Encon- It is not covered under group plans however the CRA may allow claims for Homeopathy to be covered under Cost Plus though, which we do offer to all of our groups.
- Great West Life- This is not covered through the insured plan, unfortunately. However, we can have the group submit MRP or HSP expenses, and be covered. However homeopathic *treatment* can be considered if it provided by a registered and/or licensed Naturopath (N.D).
- Wawanesa- currently - we do not cover Homeopaths, only Naturopaths that hold the designation of ND are covered. Wawanesa does not have any plans to add this type of service, having said, will advise if/when we do.
- BBD- Homeopathy fees and remedies are not covered under your standard group plan. Homeopathy fees would qualify under an HCSA as they are eligible under CRA. Unfortunately, the remedies do not qualify under CRA guidelines and would not be covered.
- RBC- We don't currently cover the services of a Homeopath under our list of covered paramedical practitioners. Thus, we can't get it covered. We may at some point in the future look into including this, but not at this point.

#### **Mentorship Program:**

Due to the number of hours that went into other things, this item was not addressed this year. If you would like to be included in the directory of mentors, please let us know. The directory will be posted in the members only section.

## **Member Handbook**

This is a work in progress, and will be a resource for new and old members alike. It has become apparent that not all members are aware of all of the benefits of membership that the BCSH provides. This handbook will outline all of the resources available to members, such as the brochure, intake forms and newsgroup; explain things like the membership renewal process and setting up a business in BC. It should be completed soon and will be distributed to all members.

## **Contact us**

Our continued focus is on membership and the visibility of our members to the public in order to increase growth in our practices and community. If you have any suggestions for the Board, or feedback, please feel free to contact us. We can only do so much so any help is greatly appreciated. Please volunteer your services if any of these projects described above are of interest to you.

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