



Agenda - SCCA Board Meeting #1 - September 20, 2025

Time 10:00 am

Attended: Chandler Cox, Katherine DeWitt, Madison Farrell, Trinicia Jackson, LaNita Jefferson, Jennifer Jordan, Greg Mason, Genelle Sawyer, David Schary, Regina Shelton, Tam Start, Kiersten Warfield, Beth Wilson

Call to Order and Roll Call

- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Move to accept by Dr. DeWitt, seconded by Tam Start
- Approval of the Agenda
- President's Report: Kiersten Warfield
 - Leadership Program/Emerging Leader Program – working with Ohio to inquire about this possibility; meeting with them to talk about how they started their program. Jennifer mentioned she thinks she has a manual and will look for the manual. Dr. DeWitt and Tam Start offered to join the meeting as well.

Executive Director: Dr. Jennifer Jordan

- Went to Mental Health conference in Charleston with Tam Start and David Schary. Got list of all attendees to send information about SCCA conference. Tam working on getting exhibitors which is going very well.
- Keynote speaker confirmed and they will also run pre-conference session on suicide prevention

- Tam Start shared information about Lowcountry Mental Health conference and efforts to engage exhibitors and sponsors for conference: Lowcountry Mental Health conference had a very large exhibition space and Tam spoke with every table – got 47 cards of interested sponsors or exhibitors; want feedback on sponsor providing lanyards for all participants; provided names of a few potential large sponsors for meals or cocktail hour, which included 7 possible meal sponsors; last year had 24 confirmed sponsors; this year have 31 interests to date. Jennifer and Tam to go to the hotel to rethink potential utilization of space, especially if there is a larger number of exhibitors. Considering “higher level” sponsors in prime areas right by registration.
- Treasure: Casey not in attendance but information emailed to Kiersten
 - Bank account is looking healthy and almost time to file taxes
- Standing committees
 - Advocacy: Chandler Cox
 - Uploaded ACA Advocacy Power Hour information on the website
 - Medicare Telehealth flexibility is expiring on September 30th; no longer able to use telehealth after this date for Medicare clients
 - Impact of Big Beautiful Bill on loss of funds and potential result of lower reimbursement of services, loan borrowing for graduate students
 - Hill Day on October 29th that is focused on mental health parity and permanently extending telehealth flexibility
 - Committee Report:
 - Mental Health Night at Firefly game – sold out event tickets; was a big success
 - Working on empowering other committee members for events
 - Beth Wilson talked about ways to encourage more providers to accept Medicaid; only allow 4 MCOs per state that has an extensive screening process; all reimbursement would go through MCOs; discussion about simplifying manuals for uniform processes
 - Mental Health Insurance Reform Task Force in Kentucky and looking to engage with them
 - NBCC ambassador now in place
 - Conversion therapy ban was repealed; Supreme Court Case; currently conversion therapy for minors is legal

- Efforts legislatively to keep AI as a tool for therapy but not to allow LLMs to provide therapy; using model legislation that has already passed in NV, NY. Working on getting a sponsor in the legislation with focus on passage in 2026 session.
 - Next meeting 9/25 12-1pm
- Technology: Kiersten Warfield
 - 5 supervision add requests since last meeting which is an uptick
 - Still working on emails being sent to spam
 - About 160 attendees for last 5 virtual events
 - 7 website blogs since April with one more scheduled for October
- Ethics: Jennifer Bennett not in attendance
- Membership: Casey not in attendance but information emailed to Kiersten Warfield
 - Working on getting renewal emails out to those who did not transition to new platform
- Graduate:
 - Regina reported having a small graduate committee that brainstormed ideas for the conference. (1) Graduate student mixer, prefer to have this held in the morning for just graduate students. Suggestion for sponsorship of graduate student breakfast. (2) Graduate student “speed dating” to learn about other programs
 - Conference Volunteers: Conversation with new program at Coastal Carolina with 12 students. Plan to make it a requirement that current students must volunteer at the conference. Have 7 returning volunteers with 12 potential new volunteers from Coastal Carolina; almost at goal of 20
 - NCE 8-hour bootcamp: potential to offer this to graduate students. Dr. Sejuit has done this for students in the past who could be a potential facilitator; Dr. Jordan wondered about how it would be offered: membership benefit, offered at conference, etc.
 - Dr. DeWitt wonders about a competition between academic programs – program that has the most participants affiliated with their program gets recognition for advocacy and engagement of professional involvement. Dr. Jordan indicated there could be funds associated with this recognition. Ways to promote engagement of counselor educators. QR code poster in the lobby that indicates where you were trained.
 - Chandler Cox suggested a reinstatement of a volunteer contract that spells out expectations and professional behavior
- Awards: No business to report
- Conference:

- Kiersten provided a numbers update: 70 submissions; 12 registrations; 4 registered exhibitors
- Dr. DeWitt asked if we have ever reached out to clinical records organizations or a speaker on ethical use of AI in practice. Kiersten indicated she has made efforts and are working on creating a panel on AI for breakfast. Tam reported that she has connected with three software companies which are all in progress; goal is to have two AI or software companies present
- Dr. DeWitt asked about identification of non-profit to benefit. Chandler Cox provided a suggestion of First Light, which is a child advocacy center that lost funding for therapeutic services that serves Andersen and Greenville areas. Potential for a pre-conference fundraiser to benefit them. Dr. Jordan mentioned early notification to attendees for this support and Dr. DeWitt suggested matching funds by sponsors.
- Tam talked about linking sponsors to specific events at the conference, such as introducing various speakers or non-profits
- Next meeting on October 7 6pm and all are welcome to attend
- Sports:
 - Committee is formed with 3 members
 - Three primary tasks with hopes for a soft launch early in January to be ready for the conference:
 - Website created; determined own website was needed given that it is regional
 - Email list management system
 - Social media presence and platform for information and advocacy
- New Business
 - ACA Southern Region Leadership Meeting - Houston, TX - January 22-23, 2026
 - Generally the President attends, but can alter if needed
 - Idea for possible Board Retreat
 - Consider for next July after the transition to new leadership
 - Kiersten asked who may be willing to look into options for a one or two day event. Dr. Jordan willing to work on logistics with David Schary to work on schedule and potential team building event.
- Old Business
 - David provided a reminder of the need to amend the by-laws based on previously voted changes. Madison Farrell was going to do that; Kiersten to follow-up with him.

- Meeting Dates -

February 19 at SCCA conference

April 18 at 10am

June 20 at 10am

- Dr. DeWitt moved for adjournment and Chandler Cox seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:20am