



Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine  
La Société Médicale Canadienne sur l'Addiction

## CSAM-SMCA Board of Director Minutes

April 7, 2020

Present:

M. Willows	N. Ali	J. Brasch	G. Budd	C. Chase	S. Dubreucq
N. el-Guebaly	S. Etches	L. Evans	R. Fraser	M. Ghosh	W. Lamba
R. Lodhi	AS. Marsolais	D. Martell	P. Sobey	W. Shublaq	R. Tanguay
M Dorozio (recorder for R Hebert)					

**Call to order:** M. Willows at 6:06 PM MST

### Adoption of the Agenda:

Request from L. Evans to modify agenda item Retraction of Alberta SCS documents be changed to Discussion to Request Retraction of Alberta SCS Report.

Motion by P.Sobey to adopt modified agenda, seconded by J.Brasch. Carried.

### Review of Action Items from BOD meeting minutes January 28, 2020:

- D. Martell: No one came forth as a possible speaker on Methamphetamines for RCP
- L. Evans spoke to accountants on possible investment of \$150,000 who recommended a 3-yr GIC investment with the bank. However, the best course may be to invest only \$28,000 now and hold back \$100,000 to invest until it is clear the Victoria conference will proceed.
- P. Sobey and C. Chase re: proposal to promote providing indigenous people financial support for conference. Need to complete work and submit to the Executive for approval and then decide how to move forward i.e. submit to BOD or directly to the Conference Committee)
- D. Martell: Karen Mellor Bursary (student, resident, learner, etc.) \$1000 for 4 years relevant to Nicotine research but could also consider something within humanities, music, etc. Details being worked out.
- M. Ghosh and Nady connected about the journal and N. el-Guebaly has a proposal to present during his report.
- M. Ghosh: re Journal Club on hold during this time
- D. Martell: 8 responses received to the Choosing Wisely recommendations. CCSA requested collaboration but project has more to do with HR planning and hiring policies for front-line Addiction Counselors
- R. Fraser: Has found someone who will give an estimate for translation of the Fundamentals slides into French.
- Executive committees met to discuss implementation of the Strategic Plan and Values.
- Insurance: will table till next meeting when B. Hebert can speak to what the different quotes are offering. Currently HUB insurance provides coverage to BOD.

**Adoption of Minutes of January 28, 2020:** Motion by G. Budd, seconded by N. el-Guebaly. Carried.

## COVID-19 Provincial Round Table:

- BC
  - Daily changes. Mostly telehealth appointment and telephone f/u
  - Interesting phenomenon: people with social anxiety finding virtual meetings easier
  - Many Mutual Help meetings online now
  - Expansion of safe supply
- AB
  - Many clients express preferring zoom group sessions
  - Challenges on how to keep from leaving self-isolating spaces
  - Challenges on ensuring confidentiality depending on where people are logging on from (public places)
  - Dissemination of virtual processes ex OAT – Managed substance programs awaiting approval
  - No one being seen face-to-face
  - Detox Centres open: trying to ensure not too close proximity and still continuing services for vulnerable populations
- SK
  - Almost completely doing virtual consults
  - Pharmacists have more leeway
  - Patients have attended more appts by phone
- ON
  - EMS will no longer administer intranasal Naloxone
  - Mainly doing virtual visits and remote starts for medication
  - Work ongoing with the Homeless who have lost many of their usual supports
  - Push to make room for psychiatric patients to enable them to receive their longstanding injections
  - Many residential programs are not taking any new admissions.
  - Staff being repatriated for work in the ER
  - Seeing a separation of addiction COVID and non-COVID steams
- QC
  - Staff conferences by phone or zoom to maximize time
  - Quebec currently has the most cases of COVID but not in the addiction population
  - Some cases are in Homeless shelters and there is a push to try and open some new places to accommodate social distancing
  - Everything that can be done is being done but the conditions change daily
  - Need to educate virtual Mutual Help meeting participants on boundaries and confidentiality
- NS
  - Would like to repeat this Round Table forum in future BOD meetings
  - NS has had their first COVID-related death
  - Policy guiding documents have been published
  - Innovative housing initiative being implemented for the Homeless.
  - Addiction services and groups are all virtual
  - ER and other assessments are moving to virtual as well
- NF

- Only 2 confirmed patients with COVID in the province
- On-Call Consultations are by phone
- Pharmacists are allowed to deliver medications to those who cannot come out and need to remain isolated

**Journal: N el-Guebaly**

- CJA will put together a COVID Experience in Canada section: ‘COVID Chronicles’ section in each issue. Contributions are welcome.

**Strategic Plan Implementation:**

- Looking for a pragmatic way to roll out the strategic framework.
- A template was created for Committees to analyze and review how their role and work aligns (or not) with the CSAM Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategic Directions
- Template usage is to look at and address each component adopted in the Strategic Framework as a starting point and will need direction as things evolve
- Look at how the work supports each strategic direction.
- A report of the results and future directions will be done at the Annual general Meeting to the membership.
- N. el-Guebaly expressed difficulty aligning and analyzing the Journal Editorial Board’s goals/work using the template
- Question of if the BOD can set aside time to gather innovative approaches and solutions as a way to put the strategic plan in place
- Suggestion to use template exercise to summarize the Committee work of what has been done and also utilize to forecast and plan for the year ahead using the framework
- Goal then to report at the AGM the work of each Committee and how that work is aligned (or will be modified to align) with the Strategic framework currently and in the future.

**Response to letters to CSAM in regards to Government of Alberta Supervised Consumption Report (Appendix 2) for report see <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460147054> and**

**Discussion to Request Retraction of Alberta SCS Report (L. Evans)**

- A concern about conflict of interest and board members comfort discussing this issue was brought forward by L. Evans It was responded that everyone is a member of the CSAM Board and needs to be present for the discussion.
- Timeline of the attached documents:
  - Mar5/6: R. Tanguay let M. Willows know that a report was coming out on the ‘Socioeconomic impact of SCS in Alberta’.
  - Mar 9 (Monday): A letter was received from Petra Schultz (Moms Stop the Harm). From that Monday to the Wednesday the four persons of the CSAM Executive tried to craft a response. Disagreement about what should be included in letter. Once the letter was drafted, P. Sobey, M. Willows and J. Brasch signed and L. Evans declined to sign the letter that was going out as a response.
  - Mar 14: A letter from Dr. Karine Meador was sent to M. Willows, P. Sobey and J. Brasch
  - Mar 16: An email and resignation letter (draft) was sent to the BOD from L. Evans

- Mar 16: An email and letter was sent to the BOD from Meera Grover
- In the midst of COVID19, it was very difficult to meet and craft a response. M. Willows does not feel that CSAM's role is political advocacy – for this a communication expert, writer and a lawyer would be needed at the very least (M. Willows). It was stated that the members of the Board are not qualified to formulate a critique as there is no expertise in public relations or public policy (N. Ali).
- Political Activism would take CSAM in a different direction.
- What is CSAM's role in advocating for meaningful change? The path could be to review the report thoroughly and come to a consensus - not be sending out social media without first knowing all the content. (P. Sobey)
- The Board was asked how they felt discussing this issue when a Board member was involved in the report. (L. Evans)
- It was clarified that the question/issue is not participation of a member of the CSAM Board but determining what CSAM's role is in all this (M. Willows) Is the role clinical or policy or an overlap of both? (N. Ali)
- Suggestion that this is an opportunity for CSAM and that taking a stand on the report would be in alignment with the Strategic Framework. Politics will always be intertwined. Many have contacted her and there is literature to support SCS's and already Cam Wild and 32 others have provided a critique (L. Evans)
- The risk in NOT making a statement is that the assumption will be that the report is credible – if CSAM does not question then it gives the impression of acceptance (L. Evans)
- L. Evans would like to have a motion for CSAM to send an open letter to the Premier on Alberta's SCSs and make the letter public on the CSAM webpages. L. Evans sent this letter to the CSAM board at 17:38 MST (22 minutes prior to the board meeting starting and it was not part of the meeting package). The president conducting the meeting did not see the letter prior to the meeting and was unable to read the letter while running the meeting.
- This is producing anguish over a political situation. Within the Strategic Plan there are no clear boundaries on 'Advocacy' and what that entails. When you are part of a committee you reflect 'your own opinion' and NOT the opinion of any Society. Only a motion or the Executive would be able to thus represent the whole Society. CSAM does not play politics. Referring to an empirically-based program, the report brings up issues that need to be addressed. Suggestion to ask CRISM for assistance in defining the problems in the report and determine what we can learn. (N. el-Guebaly)
- A transparent process is needed for research and reviewing programs (W. Lamba)
- CSAM already entered 'politics' as soon as a response letter was sent. Our Society is to focus on treatment and not equipped to commend or not all reports. We endorse evidence-based treatment and could request a review of the report. Focus on what kind of treatment will be available. (S. Dubreucq)
- Need to consider that the body of members that CSAM represents will have diverse opinions (M. Ghosh)
- CRISM could present the body of evidence in Pros and Cons (N. el-Guebaly)
- It is not possible to avoid controversial issues – CSAM can take a stand but could also say that we cannot critique the report in its entirety but want to support safer consumption sites (C. Chase)
- Return to what is CSAM's mission? Why not review the report and provide comments as well as receive critical feedback that can be brought to the Board – could create an Ad Hoc Committee for this. (G. Budd)

- Concern with finding people who have the time to do this in the middle of the pandemic as well as being unbiased (M. Willows)
- That is why it has to be passed on to those who can do the task – no one on the CSAM Board has the time (N. el-Guebaly)
- Reminder that Cam Wild has already done a fairly detailed critique (L. Evans)
- As the member on the Report panel – apologies to CSAM. No other group was emailed and CSAM has already responded. The response could be re-tooled to simply state support (R. Tanguay)
- Question to Rob: Did you ever say you were representing CSAM on the panel? (N. el-Guebaly)
- No, never, of course not (R. Tanguay)
- It is important that a statement be made (L. Evans)
- One has already been made in the response that was sent out without getting into a ‘war’ about the issues (R. Tanguay)
- The response letter was CSAM’s statement (M. Willows)
- Should this be put on the CSAM webpages to make public? (W. Shublaq)
- **Motion by J. Brasch to have the Executive look at repurposing the letter sent to Moms Stop the Harm as a general statement of support for SCSs and harm reduction without mention of critique of the report and also mention that CSAM is advocating for the vulnerable and concerned the report can be used to unsupport treatments - draft to be sent to the Board for approval, seconded by George**
  - Roll call vote: Total 18 members:
    - 11 For: M. Ghosh, G. Budd, C. Chase, M. Willows, R. Lodhi, J. Brasch, N. el - Guebaly, R. Fraser, S. Dubreucq, W. Lamba, S. Etches
    - 2 Against: L. Evans, D. Martell
    - 5 Abstain: W. Shublaq, AS. Marsolais, N. Ali, R. Tanguay, P. Sobey. Carried
  - J. Brasch willing to try to compose a draft to review with executive and then to go to board for vote.

**Next Meeting:** to be had within 6 weeks’ time. Doodle poll to be sent out.

**Adjournment:** 8:13 PM MST

### Action Items

- P. Sobey and C.Chase
  - Complete work on proposal to promote providing indigenous people financial support for conference and submit to the Executive for approval and then decide how to move forward i.e. submit to BOD or directly to the Conference Committee.
- D. Martell:
  - Continue to work out details of Karen Mellor Bursary (student, resident, learner, etc.) \$1000 for 4 years relevant to Nicotine research but could also do something within humanities, music, etc.
- All

- Please communicate with your network of contacts that CJA will put together a COVID Experience in Canada section: 'COVID Chronicles' section in each issue. Contributions are welcome
- J. Brasch
  - Draft CSAM statement regarding SCS's and Alberta Report to go to executive and then board
- M. Willows
  - Book another date within the next 6 weeks for BOD to complete items not covered on agenda during this meeting