

## **BEA Master's Accreditation Task Force**

### **Conference Call Minutes (FINAL)**

**September 28, 2018**

Present on the call: Jim Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP (Chair); Nadya Fouad, PhD, ABPP; William Hathaway, PhD; Elizabeth Louis, MA; David Lutz, PhD; Celeste Malone, PhD; Jason Washburn, PhD, ABPP; Valene Whittaker, PhD.

Guests: Jacqueline Wall, PhD, Associate Executive Director, APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

Not present: Tammy Hughes, PhD, ABPP; Jackie Tyson.

APA Staff: Jim Diaz-Granados, PhD; Cathi Grus, PhD; Lynn Bufka, PhD; Jessica Andrade.

Jacquie Wall, PhD provided an overview on the Commission on Accreditation (CoA), which included its composition, structure, and background on how the CoA reviews its programs. CoA accredits doctoral, internship and postdoc programs. Currently, there are 20% more accredited programs than there were in the last five years. Over the last 5 years, there has been an increase of 27% in the number of internship programs that have received accreditation. The workload on the Commission has increased. To help with that workload, the CoA has program review consultants, who are familiar with CoA policies and procedures. The challenge with having these individuals is because they are volunteers their amount of time is limited.

A discussion on where the accrediting body for master's programs might be housed was brought up. Should the Master's accrediting body be housed within the APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation that would be separate from the CoA, or have it be an entirely singular commission, or should the task force think about restructuring the CoA to include accrediting master's programs? If the latter, there could be separate panels that are overseen by an executive committee. If the task force considers any changes within the current CoA structure, the task force be sure to keep CoA informed.

If the CoA is restructured, there could be an opportunity to lessen the workload on the current Commission. Members of the task force were encouraged to consider the additional work to the Commission of any recommendations they make.

Another topic that was discussed was whether the accrediting body for master's programs would best be accredited by the Department of Education or CHEA.

One member asked how much differentiation is there between clinical, school and counseling at the doctorate level vs. at the master's level. Some programs require 42-48 credit hours for master's level accreditation. A few members of the task force felt these were not enough credit hours.

Lynn Bufka, PhD, provided a brief update from the Practice Directorate. She mentioned that the practice community has a range of perspectives on the issue of providers trained at the master's level in psychology. The Board of Professional Affairs and the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice are scheduled to meet on Oct. 12-14, and plan to appoint a subgroup to generate some suggestions regarding appropriate competencies for training at the master's degree.

**Action Steps**

Jim L. reminded the task force to continue discussions using the Google document and to send an email to the listserv when sending a message on the Google document.

Members are to work within their assigned subgroups and will report on progress and get input from the full task force during the next conference call.

**Next Meeting**

Friday, October 26th at noon (eastern)