

**Minutes for the Meeting of the
American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.
Board of Directors
Conference Call
August 12, 2007**

1. Attendance: Call to Order: Present: Molly Lingua, Renee Casady, Rose Crivolio, Sarah Pictor, Meredith Bazaar, and Karen McPhail. Approved absence: Robyn Moug and Marie Dawson
2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 1, 2007: Amend to reflect correct spelling of Tim *Shurtleft* and no Education Committee Report submitted.
Motion by Sarah Pictor and seconded by Renee Casady. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. Officers and Committee Reports:

President's Report (Karen McPhail)

Strategic Planning Meeting: This will be an update and expansion of our last Strategic Planning. Primarily, we will develop goals and action plans for each of the Board committees, so we will have specific plans for the next 3 years.

As part of our September meeting, we should begin planning for the AHA Faculty meeting which is due to be held summer 2008 in conjunction with an AHCB Board meeting.

NARHA Conference: Need discussion on how to publicize/promote our AHA workshop on Feldenkrais and Hippotherapy. Also, we have an annual meeting and need to award the Therapist and Horse of the Year Awards. On Sunday, at the end of the conference, Bonnie Cunningham is offering the first HPCS preparation course and we want to promote this also.

Discussion of merchandise for sale and the AHA membership table. We need to organize liaisons to help Linda. Anything to raffle?

NARHA Certification Oversight Committee: Currently, AHA has a position on this committee which reviews all the various types of NARHA certification and one of the committee's projects concerns the NARHA Registered therapist status.

Website Management: Consider hiring a website manager that would help Linda with keeping the material up to date and make our website more user friendly. The board is entertaining proposals for a new webmaster. Current contract will not be renewed.

President

Motion to have Meredith Bazaar to fill the President position as of our November 2007 meeting. First in acceptance: Molly and seconded by Rose. All in favor. Motion carries.

Executive Director

Motion: We propose to hire Bonnie Cunningham as a part-time Executive Director for AHA, Inc. The term for this position will be 2 years with a review at the end of the first year. An electronic vote was held to hire Bonnie Cunningham as our Executive Director and the vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report (Marie Dawson)

As of Aug. 3

Checking Account - \$47,359.11

Savings Account - \$49,898.04

Total: \$97,257.15

Attached is the 2007 Conference Financial Report – Net Revenues - \$18,433.08. Attached is also the P&L for this year to date and compared to last year. Discussion of opportunities for next conference with this conference figures as true template for future conferences. Acknowledged the fund raising efforts and those monies contribution to this, our first conference.

Motion to elect Rose Crivolio as new Treasurer effective 11/07. Motion by Molly and seconded by Karen. All in favor. Motion carries.

Standards and Practice

No report submitted

Education Committee (Sarah Pictor)

COURSE WORK:

Level I and Level II courses continue to be offered on the East and West Coasts. E-bulletin recently put out a statement for clarification to members that the Level II Equine skills can not be waived. There was a situation at one of the workshops in July where 2 therapists waived the equine portion.

Joann Benjamin has completed a review of Level I Manuals (ES and TP) and has updated the materials. (Thank you, Joann!!) Linda has the “master” along with a CD that Joann uses for power point to add to her teaching experience. This may not be appropriate for all Host centers, since technology for power point may not be available.

Level III Equine Skills is completed and ready to go!! First offering was to be at NCEFT this Sept., however, there was only one therapist registered, so this offering will be cancelled. Need to market/advertise this and push it at National in California.

Level III Treatment Principles continues to be discussed. There may be the opportunity to have several “layers” of this course with diagnosis specific interventions.

FACULTY MEETING:

Need to discuss further. The schedule dictates a meeting in July, 2008. I would like the meeting be scheduled for July—July 18-20, 2008 possibly in Chicago since it is in a central location and has direct flights from so many cities. Other venues discussed.

TERMINOLOGY:

Due to a reprint in STRIDES of an article published by John Sterba, there has been much discussion within NARHA, EFMHA and AHA regarding the necessity for consistent, accurate use of terminology across all disciplines. A task force was pulled together with a rep from the instructors, (Kitty Stalsburg) EFMHA (Ann Alden), NARHA (Jacqueline Tiley), Health and Ed (Steve McKenzie), and AHA (Sarah Pictor). Marsha Temple, new interim Executive Director for NARHA is cc'd on all email correspondence. The mission of this group is to develop an article that will be from all these perspectives to clarify the importance of using correct terms. Liability, scope of practice etc. It is hoped that it will be a multi-part series in consecutive STRIDES issues.

AHA AND TAMU:

A multi-part online Continuing Education course is being offered this fall through Texas A&M University. The 4 tracks are Horse Care and Management, Therapeutic Riding, Mental Health, and Hippotherapy. The Hippotherapy portion is being developed by Sarah Pictor and Karen McPhail and will utilize the majority of material from Sarah's D'Youville Hippotherapy Course. Will request copyright privileges from NCEFT.

HIPPOTHERAPY TEXT:

As a result of such a successful conference in Atlanta, Jan Spink approached me about rewriting the ***Developmental Riding Therapy*** text and create a comprehensive Hippotherapy text book that could be marketable and used in AHA teaching. Jan's book has lots of excellent material and this would give AHA an opportunity to have a published text! We'll need contributors, proofreaders and discipline experts. I'll keep you posted with progress! ☺

LOGO:

Motion to accept the new logo with the tag line (please see attached) set forth by Sarah Pictor. Meredith Bazaar seconded. All in favor. Motion carried

Nominating Committee (Molly Lingua)

Discussion of members coming off and of replacements.

If candidates accept the invitation to join the board, if board approves, every effort will be made to include the new members in the Strategic Planning Committee meeting in September, 2007.

Coming Off the Board

Robyn Moug – end of first term

Marie Dawson – end of first term

Molly Lingua – end of second term

Will look at filling at least 3 positions. 4 would be desirable to bring board number up to 9.

Research Committee (Renee Casady)

The research committee reviewed one research grant application/proposal in January 2007 which was sent back to the applicant for revisions; the applicant did not re-submit the proposal.

The research committee reviewed a second research grant application in June 2007. The committee asked the applicant for revisions and clarification to the research proposal. The revised application was received July 7, 2007. The committee recommendation is to fund this research project:

“Improving postural control with hippotherapy in Down syndrome children with hypotonia.”

Amount of Grant: \$1000.00

Research Grant Recipient: Danielle Champagne OT

Motion to award \$1000.00 Research Grant to Danielle Champagne was made by Renee Casady and seconded by Sarah Pictor. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meredith informed board of potential research grant for the study of hippotherapy and autism. She will update the research committee and board as more information comes available.

January '07 to July '07:

The research committee chair responded to research-related inquiries from: Connecticut, Tennessee, Mexico, Brazil, Wyoming, Latvia, Colorado and Ohio

NEW ADDITIONS to the AHA Bibliography and Reference List

J.A.Sterba. Does horseback riding therapy or therapist-directed hippotherapy rehabilitate children with cerebral palsy? *Dev Med Child Neurol* 2007, 49:68-73.

Motion to have this article stricken from list: Motioned by Renee and seconded by Molly. All in favor. Motion carried.

L.N.Dirienzo, L.T.Dirienzo, D.A.Baceski. Heart Rate Response to Therapeutic Riding in Children with CP: An exploration study. *Pediatric Phys Therapy* 2007, 19:160-165.

*N.I.Ionatamishvili, et.al. Riding Therapy as a Method of Rehabilitation of Children with CP. 2004. *Human Physiology*. Vol 30. No. 5. pg 561-565. (Georgia, Russia)

*M.Kuczinsky, K.Slonka. Influence of artificial saddle riding on postural stability in children with CP. *Gait and Posture* 1999, 10:154-160. (Poland)

*T.Kitagawa, et.al. Cause of active motor function by passive movement. Journal of Physical Therapy Science 2001, 13:167-172. (Japan)

*C.Quint and M.Toomey. Powered saddle and pelvic mobility: an investigation into the effects on pelvic mobility of children with CP of a powered saddle which imitates the movements of a walking horse. Physiotherapy 1998, vol 84. no 8. pg 376-384. (G.Britain)

*Gui-Lin Chen, et.al. Biofeedback control of horseback riding simulator. Proceedings of the first international conference on machine learning and cybernetics, Beijing Nov 4-5, 2002. pages 1905-1908. (China)

*Young RL. (2005) Horsemastership part 1: Therapeutic components and link to occupational therapy. International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation 12(2):78-83.
Horsemastership part 2: Physical, psychological, educational and social benefits. Int J Ther Rehabil 12(3):120-125. Horsemastership part 3: International perspectives of its therapeutic value. Int J Ther Rehabil 12(4):171-176. (UK)

*Pauw J. Therapeutic horseback riding studies: Problems experienced by researchers. Physiotherapy, Oct 2000 86(10):523-527. (South Africa)

*Shinomiya Y. et.al. Development of physical training evaluation of horseback riding therapeutic equipment. Proceedings of the 2003 IEEEASME International Conference on Advanced Intelligent Mechatronics. Pages 1239-1243. (Japan)

Publications Committee (Robyn Moug/Linda Thiede)

The winter issue of HIPPO THERAPY will have an October 15th deadline. We are in need of articles and information for publication

Beth-Ann Rau is beginning internship (trial) as new editor for HIPPO THERAPY. Robyn will stay on as committee member and support after stepping off the board in November at least through the Summer issue of '08

The AHA E-Newsletter for June 2007 was released on 6/30/07 which information about the AHA Pre Conference Workshop at the NARHA Conference. The next issue will be released September 15th.

With the various educational issues brought up this past month was decided to release the first E-Bulletin, August 3rd, with a member update on Educational along with a Call for Nominations for the Therapist and Horse of the Year. The E-Bulletin will be a great venue for immediate issues that need to be brought before the membership.

Office/Membership Report (Linda Thiede)

MEMBERSHIP

We have 297 renewals, 2 Legacy, 21 Lifetime and 64 Complimentary memberships for a total membership currently of 384 (as of August 5th). Thirty of the 253 complimentary memberships awarded in 2006 have renewed. We are receiving renewals daily. A mass postcard mailing will be done at the end of August as a reminder to all those who have not renewed.

AHA WEBSITE

The AHA Pre-Conference Workshop is now highlighted on the front page of the website. This will be held on Wednesday November 14th.

AHA MERCHANDISE FOR NARHA CONFERENCE

Old logo merchandise will be sold at a discount. Rose to organize new merchandise with new logo for NARHA conference in November.

AHA OFFICE REQUIREMENTS

Request from office to restock the educational packets. Discussion on the current packet and the appropriateness/timeliness of some of the material.

Decision to have a Marketing and Publicity Task Force (6-12 month duration) to work on Education Packet and Tri-fold brochure. The below individuals will be responsible for the follow areas:

Marketing – Rose

Publication – Robyn for text

Education – Bonnie

Executive Committee representative - Meredith

Outreach Committee (Meredith Bazaar)

The liaisons have been contacted and asked who would like to become more involved with the BOD. Specific, yet still broad, topics of involvement were mentioned (i.e. finances, education, research, conference, fundraising). More specific job descriptions and requirements need to be established. I have had a good response. I will review my list of liaisons who responded and their job preferences during the phone call. We can then establish one liaison per chair or position. Then the chair can provide a specific job description and requirements for the liaison. I would suggest getting a bio or cv or reference documenting the liaison's strength and skill for their preferred position. This will help clarify positions and roles for the liaisons future with the BOD. This maybe a good time to revisit the manual and our BOD chairs/jobs. Specifying our roles/job descriptions and requirements would be great at this point so we don't waste time, maximize on everyone's strengths, and get help to facilitate our weaknesses.

The next AHA Board Meeting will be November 15, 2007 in Anaheim, CA
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Lingua, Vice President