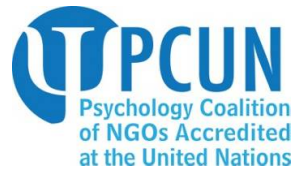


(Approved) Minutes
Monthly meeting of the PCUN
Psychology Coalition at the UN
Thursday, 20 September 2018, 10:15 am
CUNY, 365 Fifth Ave, room 6304, NYC



Present: David Livert (SPSSI), Harold Takooshian (IMCES), Jen Mount (Secretary), Florence Denmark (ICP/IAAP), Sowmya Kshtriya (ICP, ATOP), Leslie Popoff (ATOP), Sonia Suchday (IUPsyS), David Marcotta (IMCES), Elizabeth Kloner (ICP), Janet Sigal (ICP), Elaine H. Olaoye (ICP), Cagla Cobek (ICP), Whitney Smith (ICP), Andrea Stephaich (ICP), Akhuti Patel (IUPSYS), Priyadharshiny Sandanapitchai (SPSSI), Ayorkor Gaba (APA), Angela Shen (ICP), Maya Godbole (SPSSI), Nina Vorster (ATOP), Rashmi Jaipal (APA), Judy Kuriansky (IAAP, via video conference) Zsuzsanna Feher (IUPSYS, via video conference from CA). Franz (via video conf from Israel)

1. **Welcome.** David Livert opened the meeting at 10:15 am with a round-robin of attendees. (a) We offered a special welcome to new comers. David L did a roll-call of NGOs. (b) Member introductions (c) Jen circulated our minutes from June 21st meeting, August planning meeting, and our agenda.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the last PCUN meeting on 21 June 2018 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as-is: Approved by acclamation.
3. ***August 16, 2018 Planning Meeting Outcomes.** David requested we suspend our normal sequence to discuss the outcome of the August planning meeting first, and then address outstanding agenda items, time permitting.
4. **Priorities.** We established five (5) main priorities, with space to consider other priorities, such as topics not discussed in August, i.e. website maintenance. Those present in August briefly recapped the important take away's: (a) Advancing our cause at UN will need to involve more face to face initiatives. (b) Production of written statements and side events as a point of entry and connection. (c) Possible development of a coordination system for sharing and tracking progress. (d) Mat Osicki's idea of Return on Investment (ROI), outlining which priority would provide the most substantial "payoff", conclusion being priority number 4 below: Bringing Psychology into the Deliberations of the UN. After the brief recap, David took questions from the group. After which we proceeded to discuss priorities beginning with number 1: ECOSOC Accreditation.
 - a. **Task 1: ECOSOC Accreditation.** Jen shared a one page document outlining steps to ECOSOC accreditation. Questions from the group for future consideration: Will we need a certain number of representatives to qualify for status? Can we get all PCUN Psychologist to enlist as part of our member base? Janet mentioned that we may be able to leverage the new President of CoNGO for assistance. David requested a formal vote to establish a task force for ECOSOC accreditation.
Vote Affirmed.

Task Force established for ECOSOC: Walter, Jen, Corann, Florence.

- Judy Kuriansky, joined via video conference to share announcement of PCUN's co-sponsorship of an upcoming Mental Health initiative campaign during the General Assembly. Great opportunity for PCUN exposure to the UN body and missions. Conference room 3. Judy will be one of the responders along with WHO colleagues.
- b. Task 2: **Member Collaboration & Expansion.** Discussion of ways to increase member involvement and participation. From planning in August Walter suggested and is taking initiative to engage non-members through informal conversations.
Goal: To create a one page sheet outlining PCUN accomplishments, for distribution. Advocacy group to establish a task force with interns to compile and create material.
- c. Task 3: **UN Mission Outreach.** David mentioned we will need additional members to participate in future UN outreach. We will revisit this task during upcoming meetings.
- d. Task 4: **Bringing Psychology into the Deliberations of the United Nations. Greatest ROI.** Discussion on seeking more focused ways to influence U.N. agendas. Suggestions included identifying deeper mission interests. We should look to visit missions based on the SDG's they are focusing on, and which we have the most experience and expertise to share. We should look to what other sectors have done to accomplish and sustain a strong entry and agenda / working partnership with the UN. Possible collaboration with "the Group of Friends of Mental Health and Well-being" are there individuals we can collaborate with, from think tanks, workshops, skype sessions? Possible honorary member initiative; are there individuals within UN agencies/bodies or missions who have Psychology backgrounds we could engage, i.e. Ambassador to Hungary.
Goal: Organize a "Circle of Friends". Get advice from experts. If anyone has suggestions, please reach out to Walter.
Walter is in process of confirming a UN guest speaker for October meeting; Anton Botha.
- e. Task 5: **Offer Expertise to UN Missions.** Discussion on developing a "menu" of workshops, and/or events that could help us gain entry and exposure to UN. Suggestion, look to leverage the Secretary General's push on mental health programs for UN staff (formally announced October 16 at the UN). Jen and Angela to research AI ideas for future UN engagement. Rashmi and Janet suggested identifying cross-cultural communication initiatives for UN Missions. Also, UN internal restructuring and its effects on staff from job relocation, sense of instability, unidentified anxiety. Suggestion of leveraging the growing Positive Psychology movement.
Goal: revisit priority in upcoming meetings and develop task force.

5. **Committee Reports:** No committee updates to share since June meeting. No Treasury report updates.
6. **New Business:** (a) Angela agreed to manage the calendar moving forward. (b) Possible new locations for future meetings: Fordham Lincoln Center, Salvation Army. Rashmi will find out if we can use basement of Salvation Army and if there is a fee associated.
7. **Announcements.** (a) Janet shared information on the 28th Anniversary of International Day of Older Persons, October 4th. Call for interns to assist with this event. (b) Meaningfulworld announced their event in honor of International Day of Peace. September 21st. (c) Sonya announced an upcoming travel course on globalization and Health, to take place in India this winter. The program is open to all students for credit, must contact PACE University to register.
8. **Adjourn.** David L adjourned the meeting at 11:33 am. Our next PCUN meeting is October 18, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Mount

*** PCUN Planning Meeting**

August 16, 2018

Attending: Jen Mount, David Livert, Leslie Popoff, Corann Okorodudu, David Marcotte, Walter Reichman, Mary O'Neill Berry, Mat Osicki, Judy Kuriansky, Elaine Congress, Khawla Nasser Al-Din, Harold Takooshian, Zsuzsanna Feher

PCUN PRIORITIES

1. ECOSOC Accreditation

- PCUN would have to become an NGO. 1 page, 48 hours?
- PCUN Accreditation Task Force: Corann, Jen, Florence
- Jen will complete 1 page document for NGO status
- ECOSOC accreditation applications due Spring 2019
- PCUN member vote: September 2018

2. Member Collaboration and Expansion

- Asymmetry of PCUN presence among PCUN members
- Strategies
 - Short-term personal outreach from participating member to non-participating member
 - Demonstration of PCUN having large impact at UN. Develop one page list of accomplishments: good indicators of success.
- Outreach to other UN psych NGOs

3. UN Mission Outreach

- Voluntary National Reviews, due late spring
- Examine prior reports to see which missions have overlapping interest with PCUN. Select most popular topics. See if there is collaboration between multiple members (or missions?). Note mission focus areas.

4. Bring Psychology into the Deliberations of the United Nations (Greatest Return on Investment)

- Seeking more focused ways to influence UN. In other words, what is the ROI for our activities.
- Close link between UN goals/mission to PCUN goals/mission/work and psychology
- Considerations
 - Teaming/collaboration guidance/theory/teaching
 - Link to missions/SDGs important for PCUN
 - Link to “health rep” vs. top of mission

5. Offer Expertise to UN missions

- Pilot in 3-5 missions
- Start with more “psychology” topics to get foot in door
- Record the workshops and offer them via online access
- Possible topics:
 - Stress reduction (improve resilience)
 - Conflict management
 - Leadership training
 - Negotiation
 - Management skills
 - Living happy
 - Managing diversity

Proposed Strategies for Attaining Priority #4

- A. **Identify Mission Specific Priorities.** VNR exploration. Get into targeted missions.
- B. **Intensify Programming** of Side events for Commissions, general audiences
- C. **Intensify Issues of Statements.** Informally advocate at Commissions employing our statements.
- D. **Visiting Missions.** Campaign and personal contact. Keep records of meetings and outcomes.
- E. **Advice from Experts.** How do we have the biggest impact? Speakers include Lori F., Anton B, UNICEF, DESA. Have Skype meetings with subcommittees to facilitate.

Miscellaneous

- Calendar of UN Commission, etc. and International Days - Intern Task

Topics Not Discussed

- CONGO role
- PCUN committees/task forces
- PCUN affiliates
- Psychology Day