



COLLEGE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS AND ACUPUNCTURISTS OF ONTARIO

MEETING OF COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

May 8, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
705-55 Commerce Valley Drive West, Thornhill, ON L3T 7V9

Consent Agenda

The following College reports were approved by Council via the consent agenda, highlights are provided.

Registration Committee Report

- To ensure Grandparented members have access to the required information and be able to fulfill their obligation to transfer to General Class in due time, the Committee increased its communication plan to include, email notifications regarding Inactive members being able to complete their PLAR, weekly reminders to all Grandparented members, automated phone message sent to all members who have not yet completed the PLAR process, a translated message in 9 languages sent out as well as posted on the College Website.
- The College continues to hold monthly PLAR workshops with 54 members having attended these workshops since the last Council meeting.
- The College is now accepting applications for the Student Class. A communications plan has been developed and will include: information provided to schools via email, social media posts, brochures and handouts for students and info sessions for schools and students.
- 2017-2018 registration renewal opened on April 1, 2017. As the renewal deadline will be changed to April 1 starting in 2018, the renewal fee has been prorated for 10 months (June 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018). Starting this year, members will complete their renewal online through the web portal.
- In January 2017, 144 candidates attempted the clinic case study component of the 2016 Pan-Canadian Exam in Ontario. 97 were successful and are eligible to apply for registration with the College.

Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC) Report

- The College has eleven (11) active complaints under review and investigation.
- Since the last report to Council in February 2017, there have been three (3) complaints filed with the College since the last Council meeting. Of these 3 complaints, one had multiple concerns. At the request of the Registrar, there have been four (4) investigations commenced since the last Council meeting. Two of these had multiple concerns.
- The panel finalized thirteen (13) decisions since the last report to Council in February 2017.

Quality Assurance Committee Report

- The Committee approved standard record keeping templates and the Record Keeping Guideline which was shared with the membership in March 2017 and is available on the College website.
- The Committee is developing Advertising Guidelines to complement the *Standard of Practice: Advertising* which will provide examples of acceptable advertising practices.
- Two hundred and eighty members (280 represents 10% of the membership) were randomly chosen to submit their self-assessments. Less than 20 self-assessments remain outstanding and will be looked at by the Committee in an upcoming teleconference.

Patient Relations Committee Report

- The Committee will meet to discuss the amendments to Bill 87, the Protecting Patients Act, 2016 once the Bill has received Royal Assent.
- The Committee is working on a patient education program which will include what to expect from a TCM visit and education on different modalities of TCM and acupuncture.

Discipline Committee Report

Since the Committee last reported to Council February 2017, it has held one (1) hearing and received seven (7) referrals from ICRC.

A discipline hearing for Ms. Jessica Rea was held on September 29, 2016. The Discipline Committee Panel found that Ms. Rea committed the following acts of professional misconduct:

- contravened the RHPA by performing an unauthorized controlled act,
- contravened a standard of practice of the profession;
- use of a prohibited title;
- permitted the use of testimonials;
- breached the Food and Drug Act;
- Engaged in conduct or performed an act relevant to the practice of the profession which having regard to all the circumstances would reasonably be regarded by the profession as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

The penalty hearing has been scheduled for May 9, 2017.

A discipline hearing for Mr. Philip Tran was held from February 27-March 3, 2017 for allegations of professional misconduct resulting from a complaint in regards to:

- sexual abuse;
- contravention of the RHPA by performing an unauthorized controlled ac;
- contravention of a standard of practice of the profession;
- contravention of practice of the profession relating to record-keeping; and
- Using the title "Dr."

The Decision and Reasons which will be accessible on the College website once finalized.

Overview of Bill 87 - RHPA

Council was provided an update to Bill 87 – The Protecting the Patients Act, the Bill contains extensive changes to the *Regulated Health Professions Act* (RHPA). The College supports the recommendations in principle and is actively involved with other Health Regulatory Colleges through FHRCO in keeping abreast of the changes and providing appropriate feedback to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

OFC Annual Fair Registration Report

Council was updated the College had submitted its Annual Fair Registration Report Update to the Ontario Fairness Commission on March 1, 2017. The full report can be found on the College website.

AODA Compliance with the Registration Regulation

The College was made by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (Ministry), who, while conducting a wide spread audit of regulations, noted our Registration Regulation was not complaint with the provisions of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). It had been flagged as the Student classes of registration listed under the Table in Section 5(1) are blank under column 3. The Ministry has requested

the regulations be amended by June 2107. The requirement for the 60-day public consultation is being exempted.

Council approved the addition of, "N/A" into the blank spaces in column 3 showing there is no designation for the Student class of registration. The amended Registration Regulation has been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Doctor Title

Council was provided with an update from the Dr. Title Working Group. The College will be required to amend its registration regulation to establish a class of registration that would authorize qualified members to use the title "doctor". Until the registration regulation has been amended and approved by the government, no member shall be able to use the title, "doctor".

The College will be issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant for stage one of the project to conduct an environmental scan and consult with various stakeholders. It is anticipated a consultant will begin work by mid-Summer.

Elections

Council approved the election of professional members for Districts 1 and 2 to be held on August 14, 2017.

Proposed Amendments to Ont. Reg 329-04

Council was made aware of the consultation process underway by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (Ministry) and the proposed changes under the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 (PHIPA) to clarify requirements for health information custodian reporting of thefts, losses and unauthorized uses or disclosures of personal health information to the information and Privacy Commissioner.

Insurance Matter

Council was provided with an update regarding concerns with insurance providers that do not accept acupuncture claims from our registered members, while claims for acupuncture treatment performed by a physician and/or other health care practitioners i.e. RMT, chiropractor etc. are being accepted. Patients who have been treated or seeking TCM acupuncture treatments are being forced to receive acupuncture services by alternative care providers that do not follow the same treatment principles as the College's registered members.

In addition to the letter sent to the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA) a letter has also been sent to the Financial Services Commission of Ontario. To date, no response has been received.

Council Self-Assessment

Brenda Kritzer, Registrar & CEO with Steve Anderson, Vice-President of the College of Kinesiologists of Ontario provided Council with an enlightening information session on the benefits of Council and Committee self-assessment. Council has approved participating in regular self-assessment assisting Council to ensure they are doing the best possible work for the College ensuring public safety.

Extension of PLAR Deadline

Concerns have been raised that Grandparented members may not receive their PLAR results before the July 1, 2017 deadline, and may miss additional opportunities to complete PLAR.

To address this concern, Council approved an extension of the PLAR deadline from July 1, 2017 to

November 1, 2017 only for those members who had **attempted PLAR prior to the July 1, 2017 deadline and were unsuccessful**. These Grandparented members will be required to submit their **Transfer Applications by November 1, 2017, which will be held pending their successful completion of PLAR**.

Detailed information will be sent to all Grandparented members and will be posted on the College website.

Communication Plan

Council approved a communication plan to help ensure effective communication to media, government representatives, members, and the community as the College moves toward the PLAR deadline of July 1, 2017.

Human Resources Manual

Council approved the revised Human Resources Manual which will be circulated to all staff.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2017.