

# ALABAMA COUNSELING ASSOCIATION



## "COUNSELORS: A Bridge in the Journey to Awareness, Healing, & Hope"

### Winter Executive Council Meeting Online via ZOOM Session

February 25, 2021

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

### Minutes

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**Minutes taken by:** Dr. Jane Coleman

**Attendance:** Jacques Austin, Nancy Fox, Yulanda Tyre, Jane Coleman, Jennifer Todd, Paul Hard, Jessica Tyler, Samantha Booker, Laventrice Ridgeway, Dr. Keith Cates, Amber Brewer, Lisa Patterson, Lola Johnston, Chris DaSambiagio-Moore, Amy Upton, Ingie Burke Givens, Starrah Huffman, Monica Mack, Doris Vaughans, Laura Hodges, Janis Braue, Debbie Grant, Tammy Montgomery, Shawndrika Cook, Carolyn Liggins, Sheryl Smith, Latonya Graham, Bradley Willis, Marjorie Baker, Melissa Deroche, Melanie Drake Wallace, Sean J. Stevens, Stephanie Howard, Leslie Weaver-Martin, Necoal Driver, Linda Holloway, Darlyce Bundy

**Call to Order/Welcome:**

- ALCA President Jacques L. Austin called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees at 6:34pm.
- Reflection: Shawndrika Cook shared a reflection: "Counselors as Unsung Heroes."

**Determination of Quorum:**

Sherrionda Crawford determined that we had a quorum for the meeting.

President Jacques Austin asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the EC meeting on November 30, 2020. Shawndrika Cook made the motion and Debbie Grant seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved as written.

President Jacques Austin asked for a motion to accept the agenda with flexibility. Amber Brewer made the motion and Sherrionda Crawford seconded the motion. There were none opposed; therefore, the motion carried.

### **Office Reports:**

#### **President's Report:**

Jacques Austin shared his goal of moving ALCA towards increased use of technology. The pandemic has forced us to use technology to present our Annual Conference and EC meetings. He stated that we are called upon to be a "bridge to hope." He thanked everyone for the support of ALCA and his presidency.

#### **President-Elect's Report:**

Yulanda Tyre thanked Jacques Austin and the EC members who will continue to serve. She stated that she is looking forward to the upcoming year of service.

#### **Past President's Report (Nominations and Elections, Strategic Planning, Publications):**

Leslie Weaver-Martin shared that the Nominations and Elections Committee solicited nominees and completed the election process for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, and Historian for the 2021-2022 ALCA Executive Council. She asked everyone to join her in congratulating the newly elected officers:

President-Elect: Dr. Jane Coleman

Secretary: Dr. Griena Davis

Historian: Mr. Chris DaSambiagio-Moore

She stated that we look forward to their leadership and service in the coming months. There was a motion to appoint Dr. Linda Holloway and Dr. Bradley Willis as Co-Editors of the ALCA Journal. Laura Hodges asked for more information about them. None opposed the motion, so it carried. Drs. Holloway and Willis are the new Journal Editors.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

Jane Coleman stated that there was not a report.

#### **Parliamentarian's Report:**

Sherrionda Crawford stated that there was not a report.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Lisa Patterson shared that ALCA has \$282, 413.77 in the bank, and the rebate checks have been sent to all Chapter/Division/Affiliate Treasurers.

#### **Historian's Report (Publicity, Public Relations):**

Chris DaSambiagio-Moore shared that he is working on videos of events to be posted on Facebook. He hopes to have information on Chapter/Division/Affiliate brainstorming for next conference.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Nancy Fox shared that the ListServ is working well and hope to move more data to the ListServe.

There has been 12 inquiries since May 2020 to Legalease and 4 inquiries since November 2020.

She encouraged all Chapters/Divisions/Affiliates to check memberships for workshops. Two rebate checks have been sent to treasurers.

Kudos to Shawndrika Cook and Chris DaSambiagio-Moore for hosting the Post Conference.

There were 190 CEs and 33 Certificates of Attendance. There were 114 for the Post Conference.

After Conference: The attorney and insurance were contacted. December 7, 2020 was the last meeting with the Conference Host. The attorney said that it will cost more to litigate it. \$16, 505.00 was refunded and \$18,413.00 was pushed to the 2021 Conference.

The Conference Host attorney agreed to keep the money already paid and the money that was paid the week of the conference. There has been no further response so we are taking it that they agreed.

During November and December, Nancy worked unbelievable hours. The ALCA office has moved to 1823 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Homewood, AL. The cost of the new office is \$20.00 less than the average amount ALCA was reimbursing Nancy for having the office in her home. ALCA now has a professional office.

Brad Willis introduced himself as the editor and Linda Holloway as the co-editor of the ALCA Journal. He stated that he hopes to get a journal out ASAP.

**Chapter/Division/Affiliate Reports:****Chapter I Report:**

Jennifer Todd shared that their officers met on yesterday via ZOOM to plan for the Spring.

**Chapter II Report:**

LaShawn Jackson reported that their Holiday Service Project benefitted the Crisis Services of North Alabama. Their Spring Service Project will benefit Broken Hearts Can Heal. Their Spring Workshop has been planned.

**Chapter III Report:**

Chris DaSambiagio-Moore reported that Chapter III has an active board and has ZOOMED monthly meetings. Chapter III has started hosting free Lunch/Learn CE opportunities monthly.

**Chapter IV Report:**

Amber Brewer shared that they have monthly meetings via ZOOM. Chapter IV is working on bridging the gap between school counselors and clinical mental health counselors.

**Chapter V Report:**

No report was submitted.

**Chapter VI Report:**

No report submitted.

**Chapter VII Report:**

Jessica Melendez Tyler shared that their Spring Workshop is almost finalized on Philosophy of Ethics. There will also be a Graduate Student event.

**Chapter VIII:**

Absent. The Secretary read the report.

**Chapter IX:**

No report submitted.

**ALACES Report:**

Melissa Deroche shared that ALACES has hosted Lunch/Learn events. The next one will be on April 12<sup>th</sup>. They are in the process of nominating new officers.

**ALAMCD Report:**

Tammy Montgomery shared that their division has been busy. They have implemented a Legacy Award for 10+ years of membership/service and the History Maker Award. They are making positive changes. Their annual meeting was held on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Spring newsletter will be published in March.

**ALSERVIC Report:**

Absent. No report submitted.

**ALSGW Report:**

Absent. No report submitted.

**ALCCA Report:**

Lola Johnston shared that ALCCA has struggled during the pandemic. Business has been handled through email.

**ALDCA Report:**

Absent. No report.

**ALMCA Report:**

Paul Hard shared that this division has been involved in advocacy regarding House/Senate Bills, the Anti-Trans Athletes Bill, and Counselor Confidentiality. They are also looking at hosting the Red Cross Mental Health Fundamentals Training.

**ALSCA Report:**

President, Casey Lancaster, was absent, but President-Elect, Amy Upton, was present. The secretary read the report.

**ALAMFC Report:**

Carmela Drake reported on upcoming elections for officers and the upcoming Spring Virtual Events.

**ALACCA Report:**

Starrah Huffman shared that they have a call for nominations for officers. Also, call for submissions for the annual poster and poetry contest.

**ALAAOC Report:**

Absent. No report.

**ALAADA Report:**

Absent. No report.

**ALGBTICAL Report:**

Paul Hard stated that they are looking to update the by-laws, elections, and name. They are exciting about the Safe Zone Training.

**Committee Reports:****Annual Conference Committee Report:**

Necoal Driver, Chair, stated that she is looking forward to the Annual Conference in Birmingham. Starrah Huffman and Lynn Boyd will assist with planning the Conference.

- **Ads/Exhibits Committee Report:**

Absent. No report.

- **Awards Committee Report:**

Laura Hodges shared that the Awards Committee mailed all awards.

- **Research and Evaluation:**

Sam Booker sent the report/data. She shared that 344 attendees completed the evaluation for the Conference. There were positive and negative comments. There were suggested ideas for future sessions. She reviewed the evaluations from the Conference.

**Current Issues in Counseling Committee:**

Shawndrika Crawford informed the EC about the American Rescue Plan (Medicaid and Mental Health). ACA is advocating for LPC's to be providers. Telehealth has been approved through April.

**Government and Professional Relations Committee:**

Janis Braue shared that Lillie Land is the Lobbyist for ALCA. She discussed HB! And SB10 Bills. She acknowledged Dr. Grant and Dr. Fox for hours of service post-conference.

**Professional Standards Committee:**

Stephanie Howard shared that there is a need for nominations for the vacant seat for a Counselor educator for District 2 on ABEC.

**Endowment Committee:**

Inge Burke Givens reported that April Berry, a Doctoral Student at The University of South Alabama, was awarded the Miles-Seymour Scholarship last Fall from a field of 6 scholarship applicants.

**Leadership Development/Emerging Leader Committee:**

Nancy Fox reported that Shawndrika Cook is the Emerging Leader for ALCA.

**Ethics Committee:**

Melanie Drake Wallace stated that there was not a report.

**Membership Committee:**

Darlyce Bundy shared that as of 02/24/2021, ALCA has 1,860 members which includes 80 retired counselors and 81 students.

**Graduate Students Committee:**

Latonya Graham shared that there was not a report. There was a request from the Alabama State Nursing Association for ALCA to provide support services for nurses in need. She thanked Jacques Austin, Nancy Fox, and Yulanda Tyre.

**Hospitality Committee:**

No report.

**CE Coordinators Committee:**

Debbie Grant shared that requests are still coming in for CEs from the Annual Conference and the Post Conference.

**ALSDE Liaison:**

Sean Stevens reported that the ALSDE will help school districts provide recovery plans and offer CEs for LPC's and NCC's that are working in the school districts. HB 440, if passed, will eliminate any reference to the National Standards.

**ABEC Liaison:**

Dr. Keith Cates reported that ABEC is moving along well in the pandemic.

**ACA Liaison:**

Doris Vaughans stated that there was no report.

**Chis Sigma Iota:**

Absent. No report.

**Circle of Presidents:**

Monica Mack shared that there was no report.

**Adaptive Needs:**

Laventrice Ridgeway reported that there was no report.

**Retired Counselors Liaison:**

Absent. No report submitted.

**Other Matters/Issues:****Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business/Announcements:**

Alabama State Nursing Association is to collaborate with ALCA to provide requested support groups and a Peer to Peer Support Program.

- ALCA members, along with nurses and chaplains will serve as the facilitators for the Support Program.  
The meeting dates are Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and March 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 pm – 9 pm.  
This has been promoted to 80,000 nurses.
- The facilitators will be a nurse, ALCA representative, and a Counselor from ALCA.
- ALCA will be reaching out for volunteers.
- Melanie Drake Wallace asked questions about the format (virtual or Live). This is a fabulous opportunity and she wanted to know about the logistics.

Nancy asked for feedback regarding the Spring Retreat. 4-H has rolled our deposit from last year to this year's retreat.

- Discussion regarding, in-person, ZOOM, or choice of live or ZOOM.
- Chris DaSambiagio-Moore suggested polling the incoming EC Board.
- Necoal Driver suggested a split format. Nancy Fox and Janis Braue will look at the facility.

**Announcements:**

Nancy shared that Dr. Shirley Barnes' son Jessie Romeo passed away. He was diabetic. The funeral was last Saturday. Nancy suggested that we send the family something from ALCA.

Jacques Austin shared that this information in on the ALCA Facebook page. Necoal Driver shared that ALCA needs to address how to respond to these types of events in the future. Marjorie Baker asked how to send the condolence gift. ALCA office will handle getting it to the family.

**Adjournment:**

President Jacques Austin asked for a motion to adjourn. Chris DaSambiagio-Moore made the motion, and Shawndrika Cook seconded the motion. None opposed. Jacques Austin adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.