

CECA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2012

PRESENT	ABSENT
Armand Antommara	Ken Berkowitz
Bob Baker (Code liaison)	Art Derse
Jeffrey Berger	Christine Mitchell
Joseph Carrese	Nneka Mokwunye
Brian Childs	Kathy Powderly
Felicia Cohn (Board liaison)	Tia Powell
Jack Gallagher	
Paula Goodman-Crews	
Ann Heesters	
Martha Jurchak	
Kayhan Parsi	
Terry Rosell	
Wayne Shelton	
Marty Smith	
Jeffrey Spike	
Anita Tarzian (chair)	
Lucia Wocial	

Pearls & Pitfalls paper

The Pearls and Pitfalls paper was reviewed by the Board and they agreed that it is appropriate to submit for publication. Joe explained that in the cover letter, we are requesting that the manuscript be accessible openly on ASBH’s website. This will be negotiated in the review & (hopefully) publication process.

Update from Board

Felicia reported on the status of the Macy grant to assemble experts to identify next steps in the process to create a “quality attestation” process for health care ethics consultants, a preliminary step toward certification. Rick Kodish is the Principal Investigator for the grant. The first meeting will likely take place in September 2012. Anita has accepted the invitation to join, as CECA liaison. We discussed the importance of transparency and a sound process for adequately reflecting standards in the field. Ann shared experiences of the Practicing Healthcare Ethicists Exploring Professionalization (PHEEP) group in Canada, which is independent from (but works cooperatively with) the Canadian Bioethics Society. One thing they have done to be more inclusive has been to establish working groups of volunteers to work on separate issues (e.g., empirical issues, conceptual issues, etc.). Anita and Felicia will follow up to address these issues going forward.

Code of Ethics Evaluation Survey

We discussed the process for analyzing qualitative feedback on the Code of Ethics. Martha and colleagues at Brigham and Women’s, with help from student volunteer, Kate Parke, provided an excel file with the qualitative comments organized into basic categories. Each CECA member was assigned a Code element to content analyze. We discussed whether we should first have a

discussion about comments in response to the Preface, to be sure we are clear about the scope of the Code before moving on to particular Code elements. Paula reported that she completed an analysis of her assigned element (Speaking Responsibly...), which took about 5 hours. She did not make recommendations yet, the analysis was merely to organize the comments into themes. There were comments along the lines of "Why should this be in the Code at all?" Bob pointed out that this issue has come up in relation to bioethicists (e.g., publication retractions), which brought up the issue of scope of the Code (is it for bioethicists, health care ethicists, or individuals doing health care ethics consultation, or all of the above?). We agreed that before the May telecon, everyone will read through the comments made in response to the draft Code preface, to get a sense of the nature of the feedback and how it might inform other Code elements. We will look to Armand, Art, and Lucia for direction, as they are assigned to analyze the Preface comments. Everyone else should begin working on their own Code assignment by reading through the comments and beginning a descriptive basic thematic content analysis (akin to the example Anita sent on the Integrity Code responsibility).

CECA Membership

We discussed again the issue of CECA member terms of service. Recognizing that it takes time to get to know members on the group, how the group works, and to meaningfully contribute given the nature of most of the committee work being done remotely, we agreed to change the term of service from 18 months to 3 years, with one year renewable if the member and Chair agree to renew. All members approaching their 3 year term limit in October 2012 will be asked if they wish to renew their service. We agreed that no more than 1/3 of the committee should rotate off at a given time, so renewals may be limited to maintain this rotation target. We will invite new members this summer with attention to constituency representation. Jack pointed out that we need to reach out to individuals who are doing health care ethics consultation and ethics work outside of academic medical centers, who are often not ASBH members (e.g., Catholic Hospital Association, American Hospital Association, local ethics networks, etc.). Anita will follow up to identify who may be rotating off of CECA in October 2012, how many new members to add, and the process for doing so.

New Business

Jack suggested we consider other ways of reaching out to individuals doing health care ethics work who are not ASBH members. ASBH is currently the only professional home for such individuals, and they should be represented and aware of the work that CECA is doing, and CECA should be responsive to their needs for resources and professional support. Felicia suggested that the Board be involved in identifying ways to reach these individuals. Anita suggested that a former tabled project to organize and involve local ethics networks might be appropriate to revive for this purpose. We agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 AM. The next CECA meeting is Thursday, May 17, 2012, from 11AM-12Noon Eastern.