

**BC Schizophrenia Society  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 1:00 pm  
In-Person and Virtual (Zoom)**

**Members:** John Gray, Colleen Crossley, Joanne Leung, Jack Middleton, Sylvia LeRoy, Renato Zane, Gelda Redman, Brenda Sawatzky-Girling, Don Monsour, Donna Motzer, Trevor Armstrong, Patricia Costa, Stephen Crozier, Glenn Dy, Bonifacius Halim, Wendy Jessen, Wingsi Kan, Michele Kofod, Lisa Kofod, Annabelle Macdonald, Danielle Rockel, ZHONGYUN Joyce Shu, Suzanne Warneke, Calvin Warneke, Patricia Zane, Akash Justice, Pindy Johal, Sukhjit Johal, Jane Gladman, Noni Nabors, Gerrit Van Der Leer, Linda Aldridge, Jan Arcand, Deborah Barr, Tim Battle, Jill Brandon, Shirley Daniel, Jasdeep Dhaliwal, Jane Duval, Chris Eltis, Kathryn-Jane Hazel, Jeannie Kanakos, Ron Kenler, Karin Leung, Denise Swanson, Jean Swenerton, Ivan Torres, Susan Wesenberg, Dawn Wimbles, Lily Wong

**Regrets:** Margareta Dovgal, Paul Bhushan

**Guests:** Terry Donnelly, Peggy Donnelly Dinah Aldrich, Beth Carter, William Honer, Margaret Jones, Heather Megchelsen, Lenard Schmitz, Amanda Smith, Rosemary Sojka, Alice Thompson, Maili Valenius, Larry Berger, Janet Chow, Roy Costa, Parm Gill, Jasper Gill, Ian Gladman, Bonifacius Halim Son, Gary McDonald, Sue McDonald, Michele Nolt, Garrett Nolt, Patricia Parker, Grant Reid, Leslie Van Der Leer, Patsy McConville

**Staff:** Mary Beth Hall, Hardeep Thind, Suneeta Bangar, Roselle Jean Dancel, Bonnie Spence-Vinge, Noor Bajaj, Jennifer Kastelein, Alex Wyatt, Marsha MacMurchy, Vivian Gietz, Jorie Soames, Julia Gillis, Amber Armstrong, Anisha Johal, Amber Miner, Reneé Morven, Christine Riddell, Gail Rutledge, Reasha Wolfe

**Welcome and Online Voting Procedure (pre-quorum)**

“Hello everybody, thank you so much for joining our AGM & Education Session. Today’s event will be hybrid so thank you for joining us in person or virtually. My name is Faydra Aldridge, and I am the CEO of the BC Schizophrenia Society. If you are a BCSS member, you should have already received your member’s package. It includes a voting guide with instructions on how to vote at our AGM today, whether you are joining us in person or virtually. For members joining us in person today, you should have already received a voting card when you checked in at our registration table outside. If you have not received one, please let our staff know immediately. Now, let’s start with a couple of fun questions to make sure everybody is ready to vote. If you are having issues, please let us know in the Q&A box, and our staff will be happy to assist you.”

“Welcome to our 2023 Annual General Meeting & Education Session. Thank you for joining us. We are thrilled that this hybrid event can reach people across the entire province, so wherever you are located, welcome! My name is Faydra Aldridge. It is a pleasure to be with you today! I would like to start by

acknowledging that we are grateful to be gathered on Indigenous land, regardless of where you are joining us from. Here in Richmond, we are grateful to be on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish Nations.”

“During today’s Annual General Meeting, we will be recognizing a BCSS supporter and advocate, Marilyn Donnelly, with the annual BCSS Champion Award. After the AGM portion, we will have a 10-minute break, which will be followed by our Education Session. Bethany Yeiser is our keynote speaker, and she will be discussing her journey from schizophrenia and homelessness to recovery. But first, the AGM! It’s my pleasure to introduce you to Jack Middleton, President of the BC Schizophrenia Society, who will be leading today’s AGM.”

Intro by Jack Middleton with voting procedures and instructions. Before calling the meeting to order, we confirmed quorum for the meeting.

**Quorum reached at 1:11 pm – 32 members.**

#### **1. Call to Order**

President Jack Middleton called the meeting to order at 1:11 pm.

#### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion: That the agenda be adopted as presented.

- Motion made by Renato Zane
- Seconded by Lisa Kofod
- Motion carried with no objections (40 yes votes)

#### **3. Approval of the 2022-2023 AGM minutes held on October 21, 2023**

Motion: That the AGM minutes with no corrections be approved.

- Motion made by Brenda Sawatzky-Girling
- Seconded by Renato Zane
- Motion carried with no objections (31 yes votes)

#### **4. Auditors Report**

Erik Allas, a representative from Tompkins Wozny, LLP, presented the audit financial report and financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2024. Details can be found in the Foundation package and meeting minutes.

Motion: That the 2023-2024 financial statement be approved as presented.

- Motion made by Joanne Leung
- Seconded by Colleen Crossley
- Motion carried with no objections (36? Yes votes)

## **5. Appointment of Auditor**

Motion: That Tompkins Wozny, LLP, be appointed as Auditors for 2024/2025.

- Motion made by John Gray
- Seconded by Joanne Leung
- Motion carried with no objections (37 yes votes)

## **6. Annual Review of 2023/2024**

Message from Jack Middleton:

“I want to first start by acknowledging the generosity of the donors, corporate sponsors, stakeholders, and volunteers, who help sustain programs and services to help people throughout BC. I’m deeply thankful to the staff, volunteers, and members that give our organization life and support families in every part of our province. There’s a lot that goes into running an organization like ours, but I know that our team always goes the extra mile and from myself and the Board, thank you. This year, an important initiative of our organization has also been the completion of the BCSS Strategic Plan which was developed by staff after an intensive 2-day session that included board members from the foundation and society as well as educators. The strategic plan includes four pillars that guide our work:

1. Strengthening Our Voice
2. Increasing and Diversifying Revenue Sources
3. Organizational Excellence
4. Advocacy and Public Policy

The organization and John Gray have done a lot to promote our platform points to media and government officials leading up to the BC election. We were able to see some success in promoting these platforms with each governmental party. I want you all to know that we are making an impact and that's very powerful in shaping the dialogue.

BCSS continued to focus on rural and underserved areas, increasing our efforts and the reach of our services. Through our efforts, we work to support truth and reconciliation and ensure that Indigenous communities through BC have access to culturally appropriate support for severe and persistent mental illness. I would also like to thank BCSS Champion Award winner Marilyn Donnelly, and her brother, Terry Donnelly, who is accepting the award on her behalf.

And before I finish, I also want to take a moment to commend the families that BCSS supports, and recognize the courage and resilience they have shown in the face of schizophrenia and serious mental illness. This illness is isolating. It's lonely and frightening. But together, families are stronger and the quality of care for people is better. I'm very proud of the work BCSS does and for everyone who spends even a moment of your day supporting us. Thank you. Because of you, families affected by schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses continue to receive great support and education. There is still much to do and our fight for better services and an accessible mental illness system continue. Thank you to everyone who has helped us in our efforts."

## **7. Approval of the BCSS Board of Directors**

The BCSS Board of Directors slate for the upcoming year (2023/24):

1. David Halikowski
2. Dr. John Gray
3. Joanne Leung
4. Donna Motzer
5. Don Monsour
6. Lena Bortnick
7. Jack Middleton
8. Paul Bhushan
9. Colleen Crossley
10. Brenda Sawatzky-Girling

11. Jasdeep Dhaliwal
12. Noni Nabors
13. Gerrit Van De Leer
14. Jane Gladman

Motion: That the slate for the 2024-2025 BCSS Board of Directors be approved as presented.

- Motion made by Colleen Crossley
- Seconded by Brenda Sawatzky-Girling
- Motion carried with no objections (39 yes votes)

#### **8. Message from CEO, Faydra Aldridge**

"I am so happy you are joining us today. Whether you are here in person or attending virtually, thank you for being here. I want to start off by saying a big thank you to my team. To the Regional Managers and Educators working directly with BC families.... thank you! You provide valuable support that our families so desperately need. And thank you to our Provincial Office team for ALL your hard work. You are all a very dedicated and loyal group. I am so honoured to be a part of this team. And to both Boards – the Society and the Foundation Boards – our Policy Committee and our Medical Advisory Board, thank you for volunteering your valuable time to help move BCSS forward. A huge thank you in particular to Dr. John Gray.

Our Board and staff dedicated so much time this year to our 2024-2025 Strategic Plan. This plan focuses on several strategic priorities, including strengthening our voice through increasing advocacy and awareness and boosting organizational excellence. One of the highlights of this year was our updated main website and new BCSS Youth website. This year, we were able to increase BCSS Youth services to include a separate Tweens in Control (TwIC) program alongside Kids in Control (KIC) and Teens in Control (TIC). We're now able to provide even more resources to youth all across BC. We also updated our Strengthening Families Together (SFT) program and renewed our Strengthening Families Together – Indigenous (SFT-I) program, and have partnered with the First Nations Health Authority in preparation for SFT-I pilot sessions.

We've participated in large campaigns to raise awareness of schizophrenia as an illness and the role of caregivers. We also continued to strengthen and expand our other core programs and services and make our resources more accessible, including to those in rural and underserved areas. Our podcast, "Look Again: Mental Illness Re-examined", is going into its fifth season right now, and is another big part of our

drive for education. Community presentations are also important for increasing awareness; our PEP program consists of a PWLE, a family member, and a BCSS employee. I'd also like to acknowledge that I appreciate BCSS' continued partnership with the BC Government. BCSS has now been in existence for over 40 years (42 years to be exact!).

We have come a long way in those 42 years, but we all need to keep striving for a stronger "Circle of Care" which includes healthcare professionals, researchers, community organizations, people living with a serious mental illness AND family members. I'm so excited to work alongside everyone in pursuit of our goals and a better future for families affected by schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illnesses. I can't wait to see where the next year takes us. Thank you to everyone in the room for being a part of BCSS and doing your part to make this possible.

And now, we present this year's BCSS Champion Award to Terry Donnelly."

#### **9. Other Business BCSS Champion Award (Marilyn Donnelly)**

"I am thrilled to be able to present this year's BCSS Champion Award to Marilyn Donnelly. Marilyn passed away in 2022, but spent her entire life as a dedicated Registered Nurse advocating tirelessly on behalf of those with schizophrenia. When two of her brothers were diagnosed with schizophrenia as young adults, Marilyn then spent decades fighting for better services and resources for them and others with schizophrenia. Marilyn also left a substantial gift to BCSS in her will when she passed, for which we are extremely grateful.

Today, the BCSS is recognizing Marilyn Donnelly with its Champion Award. It's given to people who have played an essential role in promoting its vision of a province where those living with schizophrenia receive excellent treatment and services. I hope everyone will join me in applauding Marilyn for her extraordinary contributions. We now welcome her brother, Terry Donnelly, to accept the award on her behalf."

Terry Donnelly thanked BCSS for the recognition. "This is an honour and privilege for our family. I know Marilyn would be very pleased." Dr. John Gray echoed Terry's statements.

#### **10. Adjournment of Meeting**

Motion: That the 2023-24 AGM meeting to be adjourned.

- Motion made by Noni Nabor
- Seconded by Jane Gladman
- Motion carried with no objections (39 yes votes)

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 pm.