



NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF
Collaborative Professionals
Ellen Jancko-Baken

NYACP, PRESIDENT

We thrive in community. Hillary Clinton got it right when she said “it takes a village.” We rely on one another to celebrate good times, to hold one another up in difficult times and to learn from one another. In fact, studies show that our lifespan can be prolonged with more engagement in relationships with others. Each of us is likely a part of many different communities – religious, social justice, school, and more.

The NYACP is one of our professional communities. It is our professional village. We are there for one another in a variety of ways to share our personal achievements, to ask for help when we need it and to grow as professionals as we share our challenges in our practices. We work in teams to provide the best support a family can ask for while transitioning. Today, I focus my message on a description of some of what NYACP offers that provides the kind of communal support I am talking about.

- **SGCP – Support Groups for Collaborative Practice**

The NYACP established these Groups for the purpose of refining members’ collaborative practice skills through group discussion, self-reflection, feedback, acquired insight, and new information obtained from group participation. These Groups generally consist of between 8-12 members. Each Group has its own developmental cycle. Many have started off concretely where actual or hypothetical cases are the topics of discussion and, over time, they become more focused on the feelings and emotions of the professionals as they engage in the collaborative process. When NYACP members are assigned to a Group they commit to attend all meetings for their entire duration to encourage consistency and the building of trust among colleagues. Once the membership of a Group is established, it is closed. This reinforces trust and sharing of sensitive matters. Confidentiality is imperative. What’s said in the Group stays in the Group. Anyone interested in starting a SGCP can reach out to me.

- **Pods** offer learning opportunities. Currently there are three POD groups, one based on Long Island, one in New York City and the third in Westchester. Ever since COVID, the POD meetings are held virtually. Unlike the SGCPs, the PODs are open to all members. Each POD generally offers a monthly presentation so you can attend three POD meetings per month if you choose. The PODs provide timely and desired presentations that help us to be better professionals.

- **Monthly luncheons** on an alternating basis, each of our regions offers a small group opportunity to dine with colleagues in a local restaurant. Keep your eyes opened for emails about these luncheons in your area.
- **Growing the Collaborative Community (GCC)**
This working group organizes events with organizations outside of the NYACP. The goal is to invite others into our collaborative community by sharing an evening together. The next event is June 12 at the Brazen Fox in White Plains where we will mingle with members of the Westchester Women's Bar Association. Please join us.

Summer is around the corner. It offers us a time to slow down a little, spend some time treating ourselves to whatever it is we need to feel rejuvenated. I spent most of my summers in the Catskill mountains hiking, swimming, playing mah jongg, kayaking, paddle boarding and more with friends and family. In these tense times in our world, I hope you find time to share experiences with your family, friends and colleagues this coming summer.

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