

International Association for Resilience and Trauma Counseling

1st Annual Division Report

2021-2022

Prepared by Dr. Carol M. Smith; IARTC Founding President 2020-2022

2022 is the first year of IARTC's existence.

Vision: *Through IARTC's work, those impacted by trauma will develop resilience and wellness*

Mission: *Enhance the quality of life for people and communities worldwide by promoting trauma competence in professional counselors; adhere to ethical practice of counseling through trauma-informed best practices; advance specialty of trauma counseling; honor dignity, cultural inclusivity, and resilience of all people.*

Key accomplishments:

- Created association website: www.iartc.org
- Created association Constant Contact Account
- Created Survey Monkey survey to join IARTC
- Created IARTC Twitter Account
- Drafted Bylaws
- Convened Board
- Appointed Officers
- Achieved 304 members
- Applied for Organizational Affiliate status
- Appointed 2 members to President S. Kent Butler's ACA Equity Task Force
- Achieved Organizational Affiliate status (approved June 18, 2021)
- Drafted an estimated budget
- Created and populated eleven standing Committees
- Created Strategic Planning Task Force
- Created and approved Strategic Plan
- Created and Published 2 issues of IARTC Newsletter
- Contracted and approved IARTC Logo and official colors
- Named and convened editorial board for Division Journal *Trauma Counseling and Resilience*
- Achieved 871 members
- Revised Bylaws
- Appointed 1st ACA Governing Council Representative: Dr. Gerard Lawson
- Created and approved 2022-2023 Membership Dues Structure
- Revised Draft Budget
- Created Three-Year Plan
- Applied for Division status
- Achieved Division status (Approved March 24, 2022)
- Participated in ACA 2021-2022 Election Cycle. Elected
 - President-Elect Dr. Lisa López Levers for term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
 - Secretary Dr. Melinda Paige for term July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024
 - Governing Council Representative Dr. Joshua Kreimeyer for term July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025

- 2 IARTC Board Trustee Members, Drs. Lisa Vinson and Misty Hatch for terms July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
- Sponsored one education session at ACA Atlanta Conference April 7-9, 2022
- Sponsored one Poster session at ACA Atlanta Conference April 7-9, 2022
- Presentation by incoming President-Elect, current President-Elect, and President at ACA Atlanta Conference
- Held first meeting of Association Membership at ACA Atlanta Conference April 7-9, 2022
- Designed and purchased IARTC-branded items
- Achieved 1046 IARTC members (as of April 4, 2022)

Plans:

- Sign Managed Services Agreement with ACA
- Integrate with ACA's member services software
- Incorporate as a 501c3 organization in Washington DC
- Obtain business license
- Obtain Charter from ACA
- Open checking account
- Poll IARTC members on needs, expectations, goals for IARTC
- Design and execute internal-to-ACA awareness and publicity for IARTC
- Design and execute public awareness and publicity for IARTC
- Publish first issue of *Trauma Counseling and Resilience*
- Plan first IARTC Conference or Learning Institute
- Hold first IARTC webinar
- Write and Approve IARTC Policy and Procedure manual
- Establish Continuing Education program and CE tracking management system
- Collaborate with ACA Divisions and the European Branch of ACA
- Advocate for trauma-informed public policy
- Advocate for trauma-informed counselor education
- Expand trauma-and-resilience resources on IARTC website
- Create IARTC Social Media presence and strategy
- Plan for conference exhibits by IARTC
- Create award categories and present first IARTC awards
- Recruit members
- Develop new member benefits (e.g., LegalCare service, grants, mentoring, etc.)
- Develop Leadership Development Institute for IARTC leadership

Strategic Initiatives:

For people who receive counseling

- Increase public awareness of what trauma is, the types of traumas that are prevalent, and the impact of multiple traumas on individuals and communities
- Ensure ethical, culturally inclusive resilience and trauma-informed practices that protect those using counseling services
- Address issues impacting public policy on mental health parity and provision of trauma-competent services

For IARTC Members who provide counseling

- Contribute to the knowledge base of resilience and trauma studies
- Advocate for the profession of resilience and trauma-competent counseling
- Offer professional development training for practitioners
- Provide opportunities to acquire certification to designate areas of trauma and resilience competency

For IARTC Members who train counselors

- Promote the recognition of resilience and traumatology as a specialization requiring focused training and supervision in the counseling profession
- Offer professional development training on the process of training trauma-competent counselors
- Advocate for curricular inclusion of trauma and resilience counseling as part of counseling program accreditation

Professional Inclusivity and Equity

- Advance professional equity in the division for full diversity and inclusion
- Promote accessibility and address existing disparities within the division

Challenges

- IARTC Integration into American Counseling Associations administrative structure
- Establishing wise policies and procedures for IARTC
- Establishing legal and business existence for IARTC
- Development, sustainability, and leadership succession for IARTC
- Lack of IARTC Executive Director
- Brokenness of Mental Health Care system in the United States
- Lack of parity with medical health care, despite various iterations of the Mental Health Parity Act
- Lack of unity in profession of Counseling
- Lack of public understanding of who Professional Counselors are and what they do
- COVID-19 developments and impact on in-person events

Respectfully submitted by:

Carol M. Smith, PhD, LPC, NCC, CCTP
Founding President of IARTC, 2020-2022
Marshall University Counseling Program
100 Angus E. Peyton Drive, GC-216
South Charleston, WV 25303
carol.smith@marshall.edu