Accola

COMMUNITY. SPIRIT. JUSTICE.

Accola Programs & Opportunities Committee
Monday, June 8, 2026; 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Attendees: Comfort Dondo; Anita Duckor, CSJ-C; Steve Kenney; Colleen O'Malley, CSJ; Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ; Anne Weyandt; Sandy Vargas

Staff: Andrée Aronson; Danielle Clausnitzer; Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Karen Gervais; Haven Green

The Accola Programs and Opportunities Committee convened online at 2:31 p.m.

DEI Statement: Steve read the DEI statement.

Spiritual Centering: Anne led the committee in spiritual centering.

Minutes: The May minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Adele moved and Anita seconded to approve the minutes. All present members voted in favor.

Crisis-to-Community Program Recommendation
The committee reflected on the Crisis-to-Community discussion that was held at the May meeting and determined that Accola is not yet ready to advance a specific proposal, particularly around mental health programming. Members appreciated the engagement but recognized concerns about moving too quickly without sufficient clarity, process, infrastructure, staffing capacity, or alignment with mission.

The committee discussed the need to step back and define Accola's mission, vision, and decision-making processes before pursuing new initiatives. Members discussed the tension between bold action and thoughtful discernment, including how to balance earned revenue, community need, sustainability, capacity, and the legacy of the CSJ-founded programs. Several members emphasized that Accola must assess its current programs, understand community needs, clarify board and staff roles, and consider whether to strengthen existing work, develop new programming, pursue partnerships, or even take a more transformative approach with its resources.

Committee members also discussed the importance of engaging community voices and possibly using an external facilitator to help reframe the mission and guide the process. Anne suggested bringing the conversation to the full Board around three areas: reframing mission, assessing current programs, and allowing a two-year "runway" for developing new ideas that emerge from that work. The committee acknowledged the need to balance urgency with deep reflection and agreed that any next steps should involve clearer process, broader board engagement, and community-informed discernment.

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola