



Accola Programs & Opportunities Committee
Monday, September 8; 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
In-person and via Zoom

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

Staff: Andrée Aronson; Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Comfort Dondo

The Accola Programs and Opportunities Committee convened in-person and online at 2:34 p.m.

DEI Statement: Anne read the DEI Statement.

Spiritual Centering: Adele led the committee in spiritual centering.

Minutes: The August minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Colleen moved and Steve seconded to approve the August minutes. All present members voted to approve.

Board Retreat Planning

Anne reported that a Board Retreat is being organized for early 2026. This retreat will help the Board determine what it needs to be successful. There was a discussion about “generative governance” and ways to move Accola forward. Anne requested feedback and suggestions from the committee about this topic. It was suggested that this retreat should contain energizing activities and allow members to get to know one another on a relational level. Some questions to think about include:

1. Why do Board members serve on the Accola Board?
2. What do members bring to the Board?
3. What do members hope to bring to Accola?
4. What does the Board need so that it can better support the programs of Accola?
5. How do Board members see Accola's future role in the community?
6. How is Accola connected to St. Mary's Health Clinics?

There was a discussion about the importance of action, as well as a need to understand Accola's history.

Discussion: Community Outreach Planning

Sandy updated the committee on possible contacts open to a discussion on the needs of the wider community and how Accola could potentially partner to help fill these needs. The committee discussed partnerships, what partnerships might look like, and how to approach partnerships in ways that are authentic.

There was a discussion about healthcare equity, the relationship between SMHC and Accola, and what it

takes to connect and become a community in a different way.

Matt suggested making a recommendation to the Board regarding travel arrangements for Adele. This would enable her to attend the retreat.

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola

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