

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING – VIA ZOOM
Wednesday, January 22, 2025**

PRESENT

Kate Ziegler, President
Paul Constable, Treasurer
John Cleland, Vice President
Amy Matysio, Vice President
Mercedes Morris, Vice President
Heather Allin
Jason Bryden
Tim Beresford
Julius Cho, alternate for Tavia Pereira
Elana Dunkelman
Fiona Hight, alternate for Jameson Kraemer
Emily Hurson
Matt Lemche, alternate for George Alevizos, Vice President
Dina Pino
Gord Rand
Tonjha Richardson
Gugun Deep Singh
Asante Tracey, alternate for Nicola Correia-Damude (who attended as an observer)
David Wallen

ABSENT

Alana Bridgewater
Jason Bryden
David Gale, Past President
Samora Smallwood
Joy Tanner
Theresa Tova

COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS, OMBUDSPERSON

Ann-Marie Zammit, Secretary, Apprentice Caucus, alternate for Victoria Brooks, Chair, Apprentice Caucus

OBSERVERS

Shelley Cook, Stunt Committee
Geoff Scovell, Stunt Committee

ALSO PRESENT

Alistair Hepburn, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto
August Lew, Director, Finance & Administration, ACTRA Toronto
Nicole Valentin, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto
Tania Caldwell, Stunt Liaison, ACTRA Toronto
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 .m. with President, Kate Ziegler, in the Chair.

Disability Alliance to the AFBS

Kate Ziegler said that this is an opportunity to share some of our concerns and make it a priority of checking the status of the letter to AFBS from the Disability Alliance.

Alistair Hepburn said that sensitive matters can be left to the in-camera portion where only Councillors will be present. The letter remains where it was since the last update from George Alevizos. He will pick it up on his return. AFBS needs to look at their own policies so that they can respond in a more fulsome manner.

Ombudsperson Proposal

Tim Beresford said that since the initial meeting will be with Ron Zammit and Ferne Downey, it would be wise to float the idea past them. We can present it to them as a mutually advantageous idea. Mr. Beresford has already spoken to Richard Young about this. He has been there to provide counsel.

Shelley Cook said that if there are any issues, as a Board Member and ACTRA Member, she can personally assist in those talks.

Mr. Hepburn said that the recommendation from Mr. Young is that we have this conversation with Ms Downey and Mr. Zammit first. He is happy to defer to this group as to the preferred method. If we run into resistance, our next step would be to go to ACTRA members on the Board.

Ms Ziegler asked if the path of the Ombudsperson is what this group prefers and would like to move forward. She asked for Ms Cook's thoughts about this. Ms Cook replied that her understanding is that if a letter went from Council to AFBS to the staff, depending on where it landed, it might become an internal document. If it was sent to Ms Downey or Mr. Zammit it might go to the next Board of Governor's meeting in February. In response to what the Executive would like from the Board of Governors about the letter from the Disability Alliance, Ms Ziegler responded that ACTRA Toronto would like it to be addressed at the next meeting and that we would like a response as soon as possible. We can then take this back to Mr. Alevizos and the working group.

Ms Cook requested that we make it known that she was present at this meeting where this issue was discussed. Mr. Hepburn said that she was in attendance at the July meeting where this was discussed. Ms Cook confirmed that she was present at the Subcommittee meeting of the ACTRA Disability Alliance.

Amy Matysio asked how can members know what medications are covered and how can they move towards getting their claims not denied.

Paul Constable said that he has heard that the "one and done" will affect the AFBS benefits. It will make it more expensive for AFBS. He wanted to know what it will look like.

Mr. Hepburn said that they only have the ability to change the plan with the underwriter once a calendar year. He then corrected this to every 3 years.

Tania Cardwell said that it might sound strange but the process for prescriptions is tied to the CRA as they had decided that it was not a tax-deductible benefit. This happened three years ago. The actuaries have to decide whether it is affordable or not.

It was suggested that we should ask what the bonafide appeal process is prior to asking for an Ombudsperson. Ms Cook suggested that we look at every category and affordability. We have to find a happy medium and do our due diligence. We need to hold many meetings and then go to the Board.

Mr. Hepburn said that the Ombudsperson will be tied into the bonafide appeal process. It is a removed third party. Ms Cook agreed with having a third party.

Ms Cardwell reminded Council that insurance companies do have a responsibility of confidentiality. Council should keep in mind that the Ombudsperson will have a problem revealing information.

Gord Rand said that the people at AFBS have been very communicative with him but not perfectly accurate. He suggested that there be a database so that members can check whether a medication is covered or not.

Mr. Hepburn said that ClaimSecure provides healthcare management services.

Ms Cook said that ClaimSecure's role is as a cost management solution. There is room for improvement. "Why does someone on the telephone tell me that I should not take something that my doctor has recommended but something else?" She said it is all about the cost.

Nicola Correia-Damude said that we should hold AFBS accountable and agreed with Mr. Rand's points and supports his idea to have a database of approved drugs.

Ms Caldwell said that there was a time when the system was misused. This was the time when a doctor's letter for massages, etc. was required every three years. They then reverted to once a year. Members should know that they can maintain their coverage that gives them more benefits. We need to encourage members to pay to maintain their coverage.

Ms Ziegler asked who models the numbers around this. Who are those questions going to and how can we move this along? Mr. Hepburn said that it is a National Council request. Ms Ziegler pointed out that we are probably out of time to influence the National Council agenda.

Ms Correia-Damude said that if we are looking for more members, we should go to the one and done route. Would it cost more for members on the Bronze Level?

Ms Matysio asked, "How do we bolster our own insurance?" Ms Correia-Damude responded that more information is required.

Ms Cook said that she always had an issue with the one and done membership requirement. Members need six stunt credits in a two-year period to be a Full Member. She said that it adversely affects the Stunt Community. This has never come up in a broad-based discussion. This would not work in the Stunt Community.

Ms Ziegler assured Ms Cook that nothing will be done without consultation with the Stunt Community. Their concerns are thoroughly noted. Ms Cook said that there should be some distinction.

Ms Cardwell said that the actuaries determine the price of each category and based on past experience, determine this based on contributions to the reserve account and what members qualify for.

Ms Ziegler thanked Ms Cardwell for her input.

The remainder of the meeting was held in camera.