

Solution Focused Brief Therapy Association

Annual Members Meeting Minutes

Date: November 8, 2025

Location: Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada

Time Called to Order: 12:31 PM

Words from sponsors prior to meeting

Systema-Toronto

Beverly from SF24

Call to Order and Welcome

The Annual Members Meeting of the Solution Focused Brief Therapy Association was called to order at 12:31 PM by President Shaema Imam. A motion to call the meeting to order was made by Shaema Imam, seconded from the floor, and approved unanimously.

Agenda Review and Best Hopes

The agenda was reviewed with members. The President shared the Board's best hopes that members would leave the meeting feeling well informed about Board activities in 2025 and motivated to become more involved in SFBTA in the future.

Introduction of the Board

Board members were introduced. It was noted that four members are continuing on the Board and that six Board seats are open for the 2026 term. Five nominations had been received prior to the meeting.

Member Communications Committee Update

The Member Communications Committee update was presented by Shaema Imam. Committee members include Shaema Imam, Olivia Wedel, and Cyan Versoza, with guest writers Nate Guyton, Vicky Essebag, and Harneet Kaur. Activities during 2025 included Town Halls, the launch of a monthly newsletter, and the creation of the SFBTA YouTube channel.

Motion: To formally thank and recognize Cyan Versoza for her extensive volunteer contributions to SFBTA communications. Moved by Shaema Imam. Seconded by Catherine. Outcome: Motion approved unanimously.

Research Committee Update

The Research Committee update was presented by Johnny Kim. Activities included publication of the updated SFBT Treatment Manual to the website in May 2025 and administration of the SFBTA Research Award. Plans include translation opportunities, training workshops, collaboration with the Outreach Committee, and continued efforts toward evidence-based recognition.

Professional Development Committee Update

The Professional Development Committee update was presented by John Edward Coumbe-Lilley. Activities included two Town Hall and Training events. Future plans include continued trainings, skills-based workshops, learning circles, an online career fair, and mentorship opportunities.

Outreach Committee Update

The Outreach Committee includes Shaema Imam, LaToya Brown, Shima Husen, Harneet Kaur, and Remembrance Runyowa. Activities focused on outreach, inclusion, and reducing barriers to participation.

Archives Committee Update

The Archives Committee reported plans to interview individuals who knew Steve de Shazer and Insoo Kim Berg in order to preserve the history and development of Solution Focused Brief Therapy.

Conference Committee Update

The Conference Committee reported providing monthly updates throughout the year. The location for the 2026 conference has been selected and will be announced.

Financial Report

Treasurer Dawn Crosswhite was unable to attend. Nate Guyton presented an updated financial chart and graph on behalf of the Treasurer.

Bylaw Amendments

Highlights of proposed bylaw amendments were reviewed, including wording changes for clarity, the addition of standing committees, renaming of committees, clarification of Board selection and voting procedures, and confirmation that voting will occur online.

Board Nominations and Elections

Five nominations were received prior to the meeting. Julie nominated Tom Fraire from the floor. Motion to close nominations was made by Shaema Imam, seconded by Dr. Danial, and approved unanimously. Voting was opened via online ballot.

Nate Guyton announced that all six Board member nominations were approved and elected unanimously by the membership.

Floor Discussion

The floor was opened for comments and questions from members.

John Edward Coumbe-Lilley asked what conversations are currently taking place regarding global dialogue and international collaboration within the solution-focused community. In response, it was shared that Anne-Marie (EBTA), Arturo (Polish SF Association), and Shaema had connected at the conference and took a photo together earlier that day. It was noted that a meeting with Anne-Marie would take place following the conference closing session to further discuss

collaboration. International cooperation was affirmed as being deeply aligned with the spirit of the solution-focused community, and there was a clear intention and openness to continued collaboration.

Cynthia Franklin suggested the development of an advisory board made up of international members to support global dialogue and provide input from diverse regions.

Julie expanded on this idea, noting the value of an advisory board that could bring together different tracks and perspectives within the solution-focused field.

Dr. Danial raised a question regarding the bylaw amendment process, suggesting that future bylaw changes be voted on individually rather than grouped together, such as separating committee name changes from other amendments. It was acknowledged that members had the opportunity to review the proposed changes prior to the meeting. The Board responded by affirming a commitment to avoiding double-barrel questions in the future and clarified that there was no intention to coerce or influence member decisions.

Joel Simon shared that he has been involved with a group that has been meeting three times per year since 2010 and that participation is open to anyone interested. He noted that information about this group can be found through the New York State NASW website. He asked whether SFBTA could serve as a clearinghouse for similar organizations and initiatives. The Board responded that this information would be added to the SFBTA website and included in the newsletter.

Bridget expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Board members who were present and specifically thanked Shaema for her leadership as President.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Shaema Imam, seconded by Steve Langer, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Marsha Wichmann, Secretary