



NFI Program Committee - Quality Assurance Advisory Council

Minutes of the Conference Call Meeting, 7 May 2015

Council Chair: H. Als

Members of the Council Present: H. Als, K. Smith, K. VandenBerg, g. Lawhon

Absent: G. Basso, J. Browne; Excused: D. Buehler, A. Kleberg

The Meeting Minutes from 2 April 2015 were approved.

Topic: Update from NFI Board Meeting, Burlington, MA, 1 - 2 May 2015

g. Lawhon and H. Als reported updates from the recent NFI Board Meeting, Burlington, MA, 1 - 2 May 2015, as follows: Two sessions will be scheduled to accommodate QAAC topic requests at the Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, 17 – 22 October 2015. One will be a session on reflective process support and supervision, chaired by J. Browne, and one a session on NIDCAP Professional and Trainer/Master Trainer Certification Renewal and Trainer Advancement from NIDCAP Trainer to Master Trainer and Senior Master Trainer. The chair of this session will be one of the QAAC members as yet to be determined.

Topic: NIDCAP Professional and Trainer Certification Renewal

The group reviewed the revised certification renewal materials and engaged in discussion regarding the Annual Certification Renewal process for NIDCAP Professionals, NIDCAP Trainers and NIDCAP Master Trainers. The discussion centered on the process for NIDCAP Trainers and Professionals. The members present voiced their support regarding the expectation of an annual recertification as a means to document ongoing NIDCAP professional practice and professional education, which was considered beneficial. The group agreed that the connection with NIDCAP Professionals likely will be strengthened by the certification renewal process. The connection with and support of NIDCAP Professionals has been an ongoing concern. The opportunity to review the NIDCAP Professionals' active developmental care practice is expected to provide avenues as well as information sources for support to all NIDCAP Professionals in various settings. NIDCAP Professional practice improvements agreed upon by Trainers could be provided more specifically and timely by enhanced communication based on the information gleaned from the annual certification renewal documents.

g. Lawhon expressed that more clarity regarding what certification renewal means would help refine the current documents and clarify the professional opportunities and responsibilities entailed for all NIDCAP Professionals and Trainers at the varying levels of certification. The group agreed that the NIDCAP Trainers, Senior Trainers and Master Trainers, who actively provide training at their respective certification levels likely would find the certification renewal process quite straightforward. Others utilize the skills and capacities of their respective certification levels instead of for training in other arenas of professional activity. They likely will benefit from further clarification of the category of alternate activities. Identification of appropriate examples of such alternate activities might be helpful.

g. Lawhon suggested that a key question might be, whether such professionals judge themselves in the position to perform the core activity for which they achieved certification; for instance, a certified NIDCAP Professional, who currently mainly provides developmental NICU care education at the graduate school level, would be expected to be in a position to perform bedside observations and give supportive feedback to the caregivers and parents at the bedside; a certified NIDCAP Trainer, who at the moment mainly teaches and supervises psychology interns, would be expected to be in a position to perform appropriate NIDCAP training toward NIDCAP Professional certification. Thus, certification renewal would help NIDCAP Professionals and Trainers identify whether they see themselves more appropriately as inactive Professionals or Trainers, or more appropriately consider themselves as Professionals and Trainers, who should apply for certification renewal.

Discussion of the vehicle to administer the certification renewal process via the NFI website in an effective and efficient manner was briefly discussed. H. Als reported that NFI Board Member, Kay Spence, expressed interest at the recent May Board Meeting in exploring the feasibility of such functionality.

The certification topic for the NIDCAP Trainers meeting further discussed during the call was the topic of advancement from Trainer to Senior Trainer and Master Trainer, and from Master Trainer to Senior Master Trainer. Emphasis of the better understanding and promotion of this advancement was agreed upon as very important for the organic growth of the organization. The Trainers Meeting topic of providing training support to NIDCAP Professionals, who are interested in pursuing the NIDCAP Trainer role, was also touched upon. The tracking of and connection with NIDCAP Professionals in the process of supporting them in maintaining their NIDCAP Professional Certification was considered very valuable in this respect also. Connection with NIDCAP Professionals in regard to their ongoing education, practice and support was unanimously agreed upon as a concern and a responsibility of the organization. The annual certification renewal process was seen as a potential opportunity for strengthening that connection and maintaining that relationship.

H. Als reported that it became clear at the Board Meeting that the progression from NIDCAP Professional to Trainer, Master Trainer and Senior Master Trainer is only partially understood and that a graph to visualize the progression might be helpful, also in support of specific funding request. H. Als agreed to look into the draft of such a graph that she would bring back to the QAAC for input, revision and refinement. Deborah Buehler in her capacity as Chair of the NFI Advancement Committee might already be working on such a graph. H. Als will coordinate her efforts with D. Buehler in order to avoid duplication of effort. Previously received feedback to the certification renewal process from group members not present on this call was shared with those, who may have had to miss earlier calls. The discussion was constructive, positive and informative. H. Als agreed to incorporate the suggested additions re certification level corresponding practice readiness into the current documents and to

NFI Board of Directors Conference Call

circulate the revision to the QAAC members before the next call, scheduled for 28 May 2015, 11 am US East Coast Time. The group members agreed to continue the discussion at that time.

The remaining topics scheduled for discussion will be rescheduled for discussion at the 28th of May and future calls.

Future Conference Call meetings are scheduled for 11 am US East Coast time on 28 May 2015; 25 June 2015; 27 August 2015; and 1 October 2015. There will be no call in July; the September call will move to 1 October 2015. (The Annual Trainers Meeting will be held from 17 - 20 October.) 29 October 2015; and 3 December 2015 (last call in calendar year 2015).

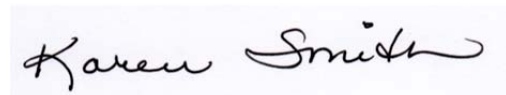
The next conference call meeting will take place 28 May 2015 at 11 am US East Coast time.

Date: 7 May 2015

Notes prepared by Karen Smith BSN, MEd

Member of the Program Committee - Quality Assurance Advisory Council

NIDCAP Federation International

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind the text.