



MINUTES
QAAC MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2019
1500-1630 EST

ZOOM Call Participants

Present: Heidelise Als, Melissa Johnson, Karen Smith, James Helm, Graciela Basso, Dorothy Vittner, Nikk Conneman, Deborah Buehler

Absent: g Lawhon, Joy Browne, Inga Warren

Courtesy Copy: Kathleen VandenBerg

Minutes from the November 28, 2019 QAAC meeting were presented electronically. H. Als moved to accept; Dorothy Vittner seconded. Motion to approve the minutes carried.

Update of Work on NIDCAP Reading List: Discussion led by J. Helm. He reported that he received submissions from five QAAC members, though not yet from the Science Subcommittee. He is waiting for more submissions to compile the recommended articles. Currently there are about 40 suggestions, including many articles not on the previous reading list. He noted that in his training work, he often tailors the most strongly recommended articles to the site. H. Als suggested that we may want to find a way of organizing the suggestions by a strategy other than frequency. Several members suggested that we may want two sets of recommendations, one for introductory training and another for the more in-depth and advanced training offered to those who identify themselves as Trainers-in-Training.

Actions: M. Johnson will follow up with e-mail to D. Silberstein of the Science Subcommittee in order to ensure that this group has the opportunity to contribute their suggestions. J. Helm will send a reminder to the QAAC members to submit their lists, with the new deadline set as February 5, 2019. J. Helm, D. Vittner and M. Johnson will meet to consolidate the lists. The complete lists will be shared with the QAAC for review and assignment of articles to several levels of training prior to the next QAAC call.

Discussion of NIDCAP Certification Renewal Guidelines: Discussion led by H. Als. She reported that S. Kosta has uploaded the materials for the NIDCAP certification renewals to the NIDCAP data base. J. Helm and G. McAnulty have access, aside from S. Kosta. H. Als suggested that J. Helm fill out the form for NIDCAP Trainer certification renewal as a pilot in order to test how well the on-line system is working. She suggested furthermore that J. Helm help guide any editing required. She reported that a great deal of work has been completed on all NIDCAP related certification, and that once the NIDCAP Certification Renewal data base is finalized, the APIB and NNP forms should build on the NIDCAP model for further form development.

Discussion of APIB Revision: H. Als led this discussion, reporting that this large task awaits completion. D. Buehler has training notes that she will edit and add to the existing manual. N. Conneman brought up the question of clinical application of the APIB, which he is “trialing” in his clinical work. All agreed that the APIB is an incredibly valuable clinical tool in the right hands and with appropriate professional preparation and guidance. H. Als stated that this topic should have its own chapter in the revised edition of the manual. In her own training practice she sends sample summary reports to those who wish to use the APIB clinically; she finds this work dependent on the individual’s professional background. Training focuses on administration and scoring reliability, rather than clinical application. The specific goals and professional discipline of the user should be specified; e.g. use in family intervention vs. diagnostic evaluation. Use for prognostic statements are a particular concern. N. Conneman added the example of practical use to address questions such as discharge decisions. D. Vittner felt that this topic would benefit from further discussion, especially ways to integrate the APIB into clinical decision-making. She suggested making this a future agenda item, including next steps for integration into care, and considering the relevance of efforts such as J. Tyebkhan’s efforts to develop video training resources. G. Basso noted that she uses the APIB before infants are discharged, and finds it useful for both family recommendations and guidance, and helping the team understand the baby. H. Als agreed and reflected on the value of helping the team understand the infant’s organization. When this is successful, staff feels confidence in the APIB and requests examinations to help them understand the baby. N. Conneman suggested that this entire topic may be a good QAAC session at a Trainers Meeting. G. Basso suggested that the QAAC help develop a draft with questions and observations that may help H. Als and D. Buehler in their work on the manual. APIB results for the very earliest born infants may be different from those of later born pre-term infants. Such research will provide very important clinical information. H. Als noted that this is a research question: How are infants born at 22-24 weeks different from later born preterm infants when assessed at similar post conceptional ages? The APIB data base under development will allow entry of data on new groups of infants. H. Als suggested that it is very important for those using the APIB clinically to score the APIB examinations fully because of the importance of the data collection for future comparisons and because scoring keeps the examiner honest. She plans to send copies of the relevant papers by first authors Duffy, Als and Mouradian to the group. D. Buehler and D. Vittner suggested that this group continue to consider how this topic relates to the expansion of foundational training, especially for those who don’t have the same access to in-person training, and how we can use the multiple communication channels now available to include some of these topics. Getting this literature out for those who are doing clinical work to draw upon should be a goal. It was agreed that this topic would be included in future meetings, with goals of considering ways of incorporating this discussion into a Trainers Meeting and other NFI activities.

The scheduling of the next QAAC ZOOM meeting was discussed, and **February 12, 2019 at 1500 EST** was selected as the next meeting date. In general, the second or third Tuesday of the month at 1500 EST appears to be a good option for many members; off and on some flexibility as to the week will be required.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa R. Johnson

January 26, 2019

NOTE: Should NFI Members wish further detail or have questions related to these Minutes, please feel free to write to any of the Members who attended this meeting.
