



MINUTES  
QAAC MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2019  
1500-1630 EST

**ZOOM Call Participants**

Present: Heidelise Als, Deborah Buehler, Melissa Johnson, Dorothy Vittner, Karen Smith, James Helm  
Absent: g Lawhon, Joy Browne, Inga Warren, Nikk Conneman, Graciela Basso  
Courtesy Copy: Kathleen VandenBerg

**Minutes from the January 15, 2019** QAAC meeting were presented electronically. H. Als moved to accept; K. Smith seconded. Motion to approve the minutes carried.

**Update of Work on NIDCAP Reading List:** Discussion led by J. Helm. H. Als noted that the categories that J. Helm presented in his recent e-mail (Conceptual/Theoretical, Research, Implementation, Family-Centered, System Support) would be useful. Several of these categories might profit from subcategories; suggested rankings as Required, Recommended and/or other priority indicators are desirable also. Availability of good scan copies of PDF files vary for some of the older articles. Extensive discussion ensued about strategies for categorizing both the existing list of articles, and the newer articles suggested by members of both the QAAC and the Science subcommittee. The group concluded that a useful strategy, given the magnitude of the task, would be to refine the categories and priority rubrics, and then start populating the categories from the lists noted above; we might then request help from members of the Science Sub-Committee and perhaps other NFI members to take on individual categories to help divide up the work. D. Vittner asked whether the five categories presented above have been decided on; H. Als felt they were a reasonable start, though several may require subdivision, especially research. Implementation and System Support were also seen as presenting overlap, with Reflection to be included in some way. J. Helm suggested that we start with the current broad categories as a work in progress, with subdividing occurring as the work moves forward. H. Als suggested the inclusion of recent articles on staff satisfaction and on family outcome. She suggested that core research articles would include outcome studies from Alberta, Karolinska, Stanford, and Boston. Family effects of NIDCAP have been researched by A. Kleberg and others including the multicenter study by the Boston group. The goal of the work is to have a realistic core group of articles AND a resource to help trainers guide trainees in their ongoing study, as well as have readily accessible resources when interested individuals seek specific information.

**Update on Annual Recertification:** J. Helm reported that he and S. Kosta have been in touch and are working on piloting the on-line process.

**Discussion of Letter from the Program Committee on the NIDCAP Nursery Program:** M. Johnson suggested that the QAAC discuss the recent letter by the Program Committee regarding the role of the NIDCAP Nursery Program in the work of the NFI and sent in response to issues raised at the recent NFI Membership Meeting. H. Als described the NIDCAP Nursery Program as an umbrella program that trainers use from the beginning of their work with nurseries. In the letter and in the QAAC discussion, she reviewed the role of the NIDCAP Nursery Program in guiding all training activities from the beginning of the process. The group agreed that a significant communication task remains to clarify the role of the Program in assisting nurseries to articulate where they start and how to guide the process, rather than limiting it to the actual certification goal. D. Buehler noted that since the NIDCAP Nursery Program was originally launched as a certification program, it has not yet transitioned in the understanding of many to its broader purpose as a crucial tool and first step. J. Helm suggested that part of the communication task is to continue to work of moving from thinking about training individuals to developing systems. K. Smith suggested that thinking about an Advanced Practicum activity centered around changing an aspect of the nursery may be valuable. H. Als recalled that we have emphasized the importance of incorporating nursery leadership into early discussions of training; J. Helm expressed the hope that we educate those interested in training to think about the systems change issue even before that. The group reviewed some of the ways that people typically become interested in training, often by attending a conference, and we discussed how to change the perspective from a focus on individuals attaining the credential to early understanding of systems change. The hope is that some of the preparatory training methods, such as the FINE, will lead people to move toward a systems approach. J. Helm suggested that the upcoming social media campaign built around the first March World NIDCAP Month and World NIDCAP Day be used to strengthen this message. D. Buehler shared some materials in preparation for this effort, including ribbons and logos, and H. Als suggested the idea of buttons. H. Als also requested that the group consider ways to communicate this message at the Trainers Meeting; M. Johnson suggested perhaps through a reflective session.

The next QAAC meeting date was determined to be **MARCH 13, WEDNESDAY**, from 1500-1600 EST.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa R. Johnson

February 12, 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.

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