



## **NFI Board of Directors Video Conference Call Minutes Special Meeting held on Tuesday, March 31, 2020**

**Members of the Board attending:** Deborah Buehler, PhD, Fatima Clemente, MD, Mandy Daly, ACII, DLDU, Jennifer Degl, MS, (arriving 12:21), Maria López Maestro, MD, Gloria McAnulty, PhD, Jean Powlesland, MS, RN, Dalia Silberstein, PhD, RN, Juzer Tyebkhan, MBBS, FRCPC, Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN, CHPE

**Executive Director of Administration and Finance:** Sandra Kosta, BA

### *NFI Mission*

*The NFI promotes the advancement of the philosophy and science of NIDCAP care and assures the quality of NIDCAP education, training, mentoring and certification for professionals and hospital systems.*

### *NFI Vision*

*The NFI envisions a global society in which all hospitalized newborns and their families receive care in the evidence-based NIDCAP model. NIDCAP supports development, enhances strengths and minimizes stress for infants, family and staff who care for them. It is individualized and uses a relationship-based, family-integrated approach that yields measurable outcomes.*

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### *Highlights of the meeting:*

- *Due to cancellation of the in person Annual NFI Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting, additional meetings in April and May are being scheduled.*
- *Due to cancellation of the in-person NTM meeting this year, the Board discussed possible alternatives.*
- *The Board approved the communication of a statement concerning COVID-19 and its impact on families in the NICU.*

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### **Meeting called to order by D. Buehler at 12:19 MDT**

D. Buehler recognized that today is the last day of World NIDCAP Day. This special meeting called in order to address urgent concerns that should be decided before the next regular meeting.

**Topics**

1. Scheduling future meetings in light of the cancellation of the Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting:  
Proposal: D. Buehler proposed having two 2-hour board meetings in both April and May. Due to the pandemic, the clinical staff may not be able to commit to any specific dates, but hopefully can join for majority of meetings. The first and third Monday of the month were identified to begin at our regular time of 12 noon CDT.

In addition, since the NTM planned in Germany will no longer be in person, the Board meetings that normally take place before and after that meeting will need to be rescheduled. Might be beneficial to have that last meeting of the fiscal year well in advance of the annual membership meeting to allow more time for the approval of the proposed budget.

2. Discussion on NIDCAP Trainers Meeting 2020 Format

Due to COVID-19 concerns, it was not deemed feasible to have an in person Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting (NTM) as planned in Germany in 2020. This decision was made in conjunction with the German meeting hosts. The Tübingen group would like to maintain their meeting program for presentation in 2021 and are exploring dates and possible venues.

J. Powlesland and F. Clemente gave a brief overview of possibilities for alternative ways to hold the NTM 2020 in light of this development. Ideas included: 1) holding the required NFI Annual Membership Meeting with an online platform only; 2) virtual, online modified meeting for all participants; 3) virtual, online modified meeting for a smaller set of participants; or 4) small core group in-person modified meeting (which could be electronically transmitted). At this point in the pandemic, it is difficult to predict if travel will be an option in October. Discussion included the success of the Ultra-Early Intervention Conference which this year was held entirely virtually. In planning the NTM, the Board agreed that meeting attendees value the interactive, sharing workshops that are a challenge to present in a virtual format. To accommodate various time zones around the world, it was proposed that the sessions would be limited to three hours and some of the content could be recorded and accessed in advance. The call for abstracts to NTM invitees has already been sent out and a follow up communication will be sent. The Board was asked to decide if the Program and NTM Planning Committees and Quality Assurance Advisory Council should pursue an online, virtual meeting.

***Upon motion duly made by D. Vittner, seconded by J. Degl, it was Voted unanimously:*** to support the on NIDCAP Trainers Meeting (NTM) Planning Committee, Quality Assurance Advisory Council and Program Committee to explore plans and logistics to hold the 2020 NTM Meeting online through the internet.

3. NFI Position Statement for Guidance Around the COVID-19

D. Vittner reported that she received numerous parent organization requests for support from the NFI for families with hospitalized newborns and infants during the coronavirus pandemic. A proposed draft was shared with Board Members. It was agreed to add a message of appreciation to our members and others in this challenging time. D. Vittner stated that she was mindful that the NFI overlaps and includes and supports healthcare workers from many different professional and parent organizations. Sensitivity to each group's navigation of issues around care related to the COVID-19 suggests that the NFI's to offer a Position Statement that takes these considerations into account. Text suggestions were

offered by Board Members and D. Vittner, G. McNulty, D. Buehler and J. Tyebkhan met after the Board call to finalize the language. It was planned that the final version of the NFI's Position Statement would be shared the following day within the monthly membership communication by the President as well as posted on the NFI's website and social media sites.

Meeting was adjourned at 13:43 MDT

Submitted by Secretary Jean Powlesland

