



MINUTES

Quality Assurance Advisory Council (QAAC)

Video Conference Meeting

February 19, 2020

1200-1330 EST

Participants

Present: Heidelise Als, Deborah Buehler, Melissa Johnson, James Helm, Inga Warren, Nikk Con-neman, Dorothy Vittner, gretchen Lawhon, Jean Powlesland

Absent: Joy Browne, Karen Smith, Graciela Basso

Courtesy Copy: Kathleen VandenBerg

Minutes from the December 20, 2019 Quality Assurance Advisory Council (QAAC) meeting were presented electronically. Motion to approve the Minutes carried.

Update from previous meeting: H. Als followed up on the issue of completing an updated de-scription of the function and goals of the QAAC. She sent out a draft, which will be reviewed and finalized by D. Vittner in her role as Program Committee chair.

Follow-up of QAAC breakout sessions at the NTM: The Council reviewed the progress made col-lating the concerns, issues and recommendations emerging from the QAAC breakout sessions at the NTM and prioritizing actions based on these. The issue of preparatory education prior to NIDCAP training in general, and the role of FINE in particular, was selected as the priority issue for today's meeting. Some of the questions that were raised and discussed in detail included: How can we increase the cohesion between FINE and NIDCAP training? For individuals who have completed FINE 2 and/or 3, does this impact when/how they enter the NIDCAP training process? In general, what is required of those who enter NIDCAP training in order to be prepared optimal-ly? What competencies are acquired after completion of the different levels of FINE? I. Warren clarified the activities that are included in the levels of FINE, and noted that there is not a compe-tency assessment component to the FINE. However, she noted that especially at the more ad-vanced levels of FINE, the FINE Trainer (especially if also a NIDCAP Trainer) develops a good sense

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of the trainee's readiness for NIDCAP training. It was also noted that there is not a formal entrance qualification for NIDCAP training, and that part of the original goal of the FINE was to strengthen the readiness of future trainees. I. Warren also clarified some of the goals and unique features of the FINE, which is designed to be applicable in settings where language and other aspects of staff preparation may offer barriers to NIDCAP training. Therefore, extensive readings of articles in English and the use of the full NNP is not a part of FINE training, and data on impact on care practices have not yet been gathered. Data on the number of FINE trainees, who go on to NIDCAP training is also not yet available. I. Warren noted that this is quite variable by country.

There was a related discussion about the individualization of NIDCAP training procedures, as well as the aspects that are "non-negotiable." Specifically, several Trainers noted that they are flexible about required readings, as well as the number of reports submitted to the trainer, depending on the quality of the work submitted, prior to advancing to the Advanced Practicum. On the other hand, there was agreement that the non-negotiable features of NIDCAP Training included observations of healthy newborns, incorporation of the NNP, and the ability to integrate observations with goals and recommendations. The Council agreed that it would be very helpful to have a statement that clarified some of the above issues related to the FINE, especially strategies to smooth the path from FINE to NIDCAP training and to support collaboration among Trainers and clear messages to trainees. **I. Warren will work together with M. Oude Reimer and N. Connerman to develop a draft of such a statement.**

It was also clarified that there are some misconceptions about some FINE procedures; more than one license per country may be permissible, as long as there is collaboration among Trainers. Work on an on-line pre-FINE program is underway, as is a draft of a University-based Master's degree based on NIDCAP.

Follow-up of survey on the topic of mentoring meetings via ZOOM during and after training:

The survey, developed by J. Helm, has been edited by H. Als and shared with the QAAC. **J. Helm will send the survey to the Trainer's Google Group list serve.**

Other NTM session follow-up: The summaries of the feedback from the four group sessions are close to completion. The summaries will include action steps, with "point people" identified for each action. **These summaries and action steps will be shared with the Trainers/Directors Google Group list serve.**

Other communication issues: There was discussion of how best to keep Trainers and other NFI members informed about the activities of the QAAC. There has been some concern about sending too many e-mails, but on the other hand, open and complete communication with the NFI membership is very important to the organization. Thus, **it was decided that the QAAC chair**

would share a draft of the minutes with the QAAC members, and once the QAAC members have edited and approved the minutes, the QAAC chair will share the QAAC Minutes with the entire NFI Membership via Google group list serve simultaneously with sending the approved minutes to S. Kosta for posting on the NFI website.

Scheduling next QAAC Meeting: In order to give all QAAC members input into selection of time/date of upcoming meetings, M. Johnson will send out a Doodle poll for the schedule.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa R. Johnson

February 20, 2020

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