



MINUTES
QAAC MEETING
NOVEMBER 28, 2018
1300-1410 EST

ZOOM call participants

Present: Heidelise Als, Deborah Buehler, James Helm, Karen Smith, Dorothy Vittner, gretchen Lawhon, Joy Browne, Nikk Conneman, Melissa Johnson

Absent: Graciela Basso, Inga Warren

Courtesy Copy: Kathleen Vandenberg

Minutes from the October 22, 2018 meeting held in person in Porto were presented electronically. H. Als moved that they be accepted; D. Buehler seconded. Motion carried.

The QAAC sponsored session in Porto on Nurturing the Trainer was briefly discussed based on initial impressions; a more formal review will await results of the on-line evaluations. Overall, the group heard positive responses, and noted that attendees very much wanted the time to reflect and appreciated having time together. H. Als reported that the Tübingen group had expressed the need for more on-going communication on the change process, which she plans to provide using the ZOOM consultation model similar to that described recently by J. Browne.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to reviewing priority goals and issues for the QAAC group to take up in 2019. The discussion was guided by a list of topics that had been under discussion but not fully resolved in the past several years.

NIDCAP Reading List Update

H. Als noted that we recently received a request from Dalia Silberstein representing the Science subcommittee to update them regarding progress on this project, as it was of interest to their members. She reviewed the work that has already occurred over the past several years, representing efforts by Kathy Vandenberg, gretchen Lawhon, and others. There have been several efforts to categorize readings as “must,” “recommended,” and “interesting” in our communication with our trainees. There has also been discussion of a requirement for NIDCAP Professionals-in-Training to do written reflections on their readings, though this didn’t take off. Agneta Kleberg contributed a number of papers and J. Browne contributed articles on reflective process. More material is needed on the change process. There is some uncertainty as to where the collection currently sits.



It was agreed that a leader should be established for this project, and that the charge lay in the realm of the work of the QAAC.

Subgroups/topics that have been identified in the past include articles falling in the categories of Theoretical, Evidence-based, Caregiving, Child's Sensory Experience, and others.

g. Lawhon recalled that the last revision was completed in conjunction with the Chicago Trainer's Meeting, which was ten years ago, and that this revision is the one posted on the website.

J. Helm suggested that each QAAC member lists the top 10 articles that they recommend their trainees read, and that assembling this list and seeing which articles are frequently mentioned may help develop a core of readings. He volunteered to compile this list. The group will then decide how best to arbitrate the final list or a variety of options should be presented. ***Jim requested that QAAC members get their lists to him by JANUARY 15.***.

M. Johnson and D. Vittner offered to assist in the final compilation process.

D. Buehler asked if she needed to retain the file of hard copies of articles that she had received from K. VandenBerg. Most, but not all, have been scanned. It was decided that the hard copies should be retained for now.

g. Lawhon and D. Buehler expressed the hope that we will save videos of interviews with H. Als, that Joy Browne made many years ago. J. Browne reported that she will especially save the video that documents a face to face situation interaction between H. Als and Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, a video originally made by Peter Gorski as an in-house joke.

M. Johnson will update the Science Committee members about the QAAC's plans, and will invite the Trainers among the Science Committee group also to share the articles that they recommend.

Other Priority Issues

Annual Recertification Guidelines: The web-based materials on this topic are as yet to be trialled. H. Als reviewed efforts in this area. She noted that while there has been significant work on this topic, it is not clear how to manage the process, and there is not a parallel process yet developed for the APIB. Current efforts to organize and manage this process have reached a plateau; the effort should be restarted.

D. Vittner said that we should have similar processes for the NIDCAP, APIB and NNCP certifications, and that some alignment is important. This topic will be placed on the list of priority goals.



Variations in Training Practices:

This topic was highlighted by H. Als in her review of possible topics, because it comes up often with Trainers and those in training. g. Lawhon asked if the NNP has addressed this issue; H. Als thought that while there is now a better understanding of the certification process up front due to this work, it doesn't completely address variation in training from Trainer to Trainer. Within details of bedside training and how things are taught, how feedback is given, etc. there needs to be a closer look at crucial ingredients. This is a tricky topic, because Trainers want to feel free to train the way they think is best, while those in training note a lack of comparability.. (A new production source of the Training Binders to help facilitate the comparability of the training process, is also needed.)

N. Conneman was asked for his input as a Trainer, who works in many countries. He found this topic especially fascinating given his work collaborating with other Trainers preparing to work internationally. He suggested a Trainers Meeting session where Trainers would be invited to share "how they train" in a safe environment, without judgement for the "first round" with eventual production of a video book or document that would share what was learned.

APIB Certification Process and Manual Update

g. Lawhon felt that this topic was important, and asked what the group could do to support H. Als in her work updating the APIB Training Binder. H. Als noted that many documents related to APIB need to be updated, along with those in the other Binders that have a number of inconsistencies with current practices, , including some of the "Guidelines for Trainers" that are outdated and no longer accurately reflect current practice. E.g., rather than striving to train a set percentage of staff, the development of a core leadership team to support the NIDCAP work is now the emphasis.

H. Als envisions an APIB Manual that is organized in chapters that include training documents, subsystems, etc. While there is not much that she can delegate at this time, she is working on this project together with D. Buehler. She noted that current steps toward becoming an APIB Professional or Trainer appear to be working well, with few shortcuts possible in this process.

N. Conneman is interested in further discussion of how people use the APIB beyond research, and suggested a brainstorming session on the integrating of the APIB in clinical work and in helping those in training understand the concepts of synchrony and balance within and between the baby and the caregiver. D. Vittner thought it would be useful to see what people are doing out there, and seeking ways to make the use of the APIB broader and more accessible.

N. Conneman also suggested a discussion of the current state of NICU babies, noting that the population of babies has changed in recent years. He challenged everyone to discuss what behaviors we still see, and which are no longer evident in most locations, and to think about how that might influence the lists we use.



Summary of Topics that Appear to be Priorities for 2019

NIDCAP Reading List Update: Action steps are to send J. Helm a list of the 10 articles Trainers most strongly recommend to those in training by January 15, 2019 to be compiled and examined by the QAAC.

Annual Recertification: Discussion of this topic for NIDCAP, APIB and NNP will be discussed in future meetings with the goal of an aligned process for each, with resources on the website to clarify the guidelines and steps.

Variations in training process: specific suggestions included the inclusion of a session on this topic at the next Trainers' meeting. Further discussion is needed at future meetings.

APIB Update: H. Als and D. Buehler are actively working on this process; the QAAC group is ready to assist, and a general discussion of the impact of the changing population of babies in current NIDU's may be appropriate as part of this process.

These topics will be included in future agenda. Given the upcoming holiday M. Johnson will send a Doodle poll to select the January meeting date.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa R. Johnson

December 4, 2018

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.