



MINUTES

Quality Assurance Advisory Council (QAAC)

Video Conference Meeting

11 NOVEMBER 2020

1100-1200 EDT

Present: Graciela Basso (Chair), Melissa Johnson, Inga Warren, Heidelise Als, Dorothy Vittner, Jean Powlesland

Absent: Joy Browne, gretchen Lawhon, Nikk Conneman, Deborah Buehler

Minutes from the October 2020 Quality Assurance Advisory Council (QAAC) meeting were presented electronically. Motion to approve the Minutes carried.

NIDCAP Certification Discussion

The document outlining hours required for NIDCAP training and certification was discussed in detail. D. Vittner reported that extensive feedback was received from members of the QAAC, and that this feedback is being incorporated into a revision of the document led by H. Als. Some of the topics in this revision include: The length of the bedside demonstration day; inclusion of preparatory work including system building and self-assessment; and the individualization of some aspects of the training process, especially the number of observations required. D. Vittner noted that the conversations highlight the importance of updating the Program Guide document, since it informs Trainers of some of these decisions. H. Als suggested that the proposed use of the training time required will guide the changes in nursery-wide care practice, the ultimate goal of all training. The role and timing of involvement of the hospital leadership was discussed. H. Als described the NIDCAP Nursery Program as a tool that may help individual nursery leaders “move towards a dialog with others.” She also emphasized the importance of ensuring that NIDCAP Professionals-in-Training observe a range of infants, including healthy full-term newborns, which can be a challenge in some settings. G. Basso brought up the importance of considering economic and resource issues, especially in lower-resourced countries. I. Warren pointed out that different countries have different systems and labels for their varied settings, which should be reflected also in the document. **Action Step: The document will continue in revision, with the term “NICU” changed to “newborn infants in hospital settings.”**

On-line Training Discussion

G. Basso noted that On-line Training is an especially important topic at this moment, and that both the demand and our group's experience are increasing. The group discussed the potential value of a document reflecting the key components of on-line training. H. Als shared some of the experience gained from on-line training in process with N. Conneman, utilizing videos made in Europe of care episodes that were then reviewed by the trainers in Europe and the US. This helped solve the challenge of differing time zones, and worked very well. The team solved logistical challenges such as multiple cameras, shared screens, the desire for several individuals at the bedside, and observing/scoring videos, etc. G. Basso reflected on the advantage of having already visited a nursery prior to doing training on-line, though H. Als and D. Vittner have plans to begin working in nurseries not yet visited in person. D. Vittner has done an introductory lecture that went well, with increased active audience participation and interaction. I. Warren noted that 3-4 hours is the maximum length of time that she has found feasible for trainees participating in an on-line lecture. **Action step: The QAAC will e-mail Trainers to elicit ideas and strategies that they have found helpful, and also will share with the NIDCAP list serve that the NFI is actively working on this issue.**

Discussion of Building on Pilot Reflective and Mutual Support Groups: G. Basso led a conversation about the value of holding groups of Senior and Master Trainers that are language-specific in order to encourage good communication and shared problem-solving. H. Als thought that such groups may be valuable for English-speaking Trainers as well. I. Warren described "master classes" of NIDCAP professionals that she has developed; they run about half a day and include both presentations on interesting work, as well as coaching around the training process. **Action step: G. Basso will write a proposal about the Senior/Master Trainer group proposal; I. Warren will share more details about her suggestion in the new year.**

Planning for Next Meeting: G. Basso included the process of APIB training as a high priority topic for the agenda.

Tuesday, 8 December 2020, 11.00 Eastern Standard Time was selected for the next QAAC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Graciela Basso, MD

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.