



MINUTES
Quality Assurance Advisory Council (QAAC)
Video Conference Meeting
October 28, 2020

1100-1210 EDT

Participants

Present: Heidelise Als, Deborah Buehler, Melissa Johnson, Inga Warren, Dorothy Vittner, Jean Powlesland, g Lawhon, Graciela Basso, Nikk Conneman

Absent: Karen Smith, Joy Browne

Courtesy Copy: Kathleen Vandenberg

Minutes from the September, 2020 Quality Assurance Advisory Council (QAAC) meeting were presented electronically.

New QAAC Chair

Graciela Basso, MD agreed to serve as Chair of the QAAC for the NFI Year 2020-2021. M. Johnson, who stepped down as Chair, a position in which she served for two years (2018-2020), offered to support G. Basso in her new position especially in terms of taking Minutes. The members of the QAAC expressed their deep gratitude to M. Johnson for her excellent service and welcomed G. Basso into her new position.

QAAC Membership

The value of adding new members to the QAAC was brought up. Senior Trainer status is a requirement. Several individuals, who are eligible and have as yet to participate, are encouraged to join; others who may meet criteria are encouraged to apply. There are currently 48 Trainers world-wide, in addition to 15 Trainers-in-Training. It was noted that as the revised website is completed, it will be easier to follow training activities. **Action item: H. Als and D. Vittner will contact Trainers by e-mail, attaching the QAT re Senior Trainer criteria, and encourage those who meet the criteria to apply for Senior Trainer certification.**

NIDCAP Certification Topics

Training hours: D. Vittner shared a document in September that she and H. Als had developed and that estimated the number of hours by training component deemed necessary for NIDCAP Professional Certification. She requested feedback from the QAAC Members. One member responded. **Action item: D. Vittner will resend the document, and requests a response by email within the next week.**

Master's Degree Curriculum

I. Warren and her team shared a detailed draft of a curriculum for a Master's Degree focusing on NIDCAP academic and clinical skills. She requested feedback on whether this material provided a useful template, and whether it might merit in the future the approval and endorsement of the NFI. One QAAC member had reviewed the document and provided feedback to I. Warren following the document's earlier mailing.

The Council discussed several questions regarding this initiative, and concurred in the overall consensus that this work held great promise and that the Council should actively consider the relationship between the NFI and interested universities, the role of Trainers on faculties that might provide such a program, and the adaptation of the curriculum to the requirements of individual universities, disciplines, and countries. I. Warren noted that provision of such training in an on-line format would involve a massive effort, and also held great promise for increased availability to interested parties. The current COVID pandemic clearly highlights the importance of such an approach. **Action item: By December 4, 2020 QAAC members will have reviewed the document and provided initial feedback focused on general impressions and strategies for next steps.**

Guidelines for On-line Training

The complexity and timely importance of this topic was noted. Some specific challenges for initial discussion included the importance of considering time zones and the length of time per session that trainers and those in training may be expected to stay focused in on-line training. The logistics of bedside observations will require consideration (a separate person to videotape/film; the need to capture the monitor, the level of light, and the surrounding environment as well as the baby and caregiver/s), along with translation requirements when appropriate. The value was discussed of having examples or models to help guide those in training in the video creation of their own live bedside observations to then be shared with the trainer. Most QAAC members have experience with providing on-line lectures, conversations, and feedback on observations. Drawing on these experiences will be helpful. The provision of video examples early in training was especially deemed to be useful. **Action item: This topic will be explored in greater depth at the next QAAC meeting.**

The next QAAC meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday **November 11, from 1100-1200 Eastern Standard Time. NOTE CHANGE of Daylight Savings Time in some countries.**

Respectfully submitted, October 28, 2020
Melissa R. Johnson

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.
