

Summary Minutes from The Focusing Institute Board Meeting February 11, 2010

The Focusing Institute Board met via a telephone conference call on February 11, 2010 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (USA).

1. The Weeklong and Crossing Support Group. Mary reported on her phone meeting with Ann Weiser Cornell, Robert Lee, Mako Hikasa and Melinda about the selection process in asking Mako to teach the upcoming weeklong and about how the CSG might function to both support and expand the reach of the weeklong. On balance, the selection process worked well. The criteria were country, age and experience of the weeklong. Ann, Robert, and Mako support working with the CSG. Robert will join the CSG when he steps down after this coming year's teaching. Both Ann and Robert indicated that CSG would provide a means to pass on their valuable experience with the weeklong, and to integrate new trainers into the teaching of the weeklong. Ann and Robert suggested that teachers should be coordinators and have certification experience.

As a next step, the Board discussed how to further form the CSG and develop its functions. The board suggested the CSG have 5-6 members with Melinda acting for the staff as an ex officio member. The Board will ask Doralee Grindler Katonah to meet with Melinda, Pat to develop the criteria for invites to form the committee, and to further develop the functions of the committee. The board requested that the CSG develop a written record of their meetings.

2. International Programs and the Community Wellness Retreat. Pat Omidian reported on her first steps in developing international programs and wellness programs. She is beginning to act as the point person for the Institute, developing ties to requests from Kenya and Nepal for further Focusing help. As a next step, Mary will contact the International to have Pat stand in for her if Mary does not make the trip.

The upcoming Community Wellness Retreat is developing as a focal source for many nascent international programs. To further the reach of the retreat, the Board suggested making personal invites to others who might be interested. Mary will extend an invite to Atsmaout Perlstein or others from Israel to attend, as well as to Ruth Elmsley from Oxfam in the UK. In addition, the Board suggested putting out a request for referrals on the coordinators list.

3. Bringing Focusing Work to Light. In reviewing the international programs and community wellness retreat (above), the Board concluded that we, and the community at large, do not have a way of readily seeing the range and type of Focusing articles and presentations that are taking place. As an experimental first step in soliciting and listing these type of activities, Rob Parker will create a form for people to announce (a) publications, or (b) presentations, or (c) college/university courses. Rob will circulate the form for Board review and work with Bill Silverman to set up how the forms can be returned and posted on TFI's website. Then the project will be announced in the Gazette with a link to fill out the forms.

4. Vision Statement on Focusing and Conflict. Following up on last month's review of the Wellness/Focusing Project in Gaza, the Board began work on a vision statement for teaching Focusing in areas of conflict.

The Board wants to make a clear statement that our vision of Focusing is a part of a peaceful solution in any conflict area. The Institute looks forward to supporting projects of teaching Focusing on both sides of nations or peoples in conflict. We hope to build channels through which Focusers from each side of a conflict can support each others' work for peaceful outcomes.

When completed we will post the statement on the Institute's website.

5. Planning for the International. The Board received a preliminary report from Melinda, Rosa, and Astrid with regards to TFI's presence at the International. Key areas are: Giving specifics on international activities; explaining the Board's selection process; distributing a diversity statement; and preparing TFI's hour presentation. Further, the Board needs to address coordinators' dissatisfaction with how the coordinators' meeting has been run, and ask for input from coordinators and others on how TFI should move forward. Astrid will continue talking to Chistine Geiser from Switzerland about TFI's process and report their discussions back to the board.

6. Compensation Policy and Procedure. Following a recommendation from Melinda and Harbert, the Board approved a uniform policy and procedure for paying non-staff consultants to the Institute on a hourly basis with a requirement that invoices for hours and associated activities be submitted for payment in the week after the end of the month.

7. Ongoing Projects. The following is a partial listing of other ongoing projects or issues before the Board. [New] indicates this is a new item added to the Board's list

- A. Ideas for Marketing School Focusing Training. [New]
- B. Discussing and clarifying issues raised by Coordinators regarding training, certification, and policies, including communications to and with the Board.
- C. Creating a Functional Whole for Membership.
- D. Additional staffing for Melinda Darer at TFI.
- E. Regional Organizations. Survey regional organizations and coordinators to better understand relationships and to move TFI towards a more global view in its activities.
- F. Fund Raising. Improve and expand our donor funding.
- G. Website Redesign Donation Page. Gather information necessary for the design of a new easy-to-use donation page.

6. Next Board Meeting. The next Board meeting will be held on March 18, 2010 from 11:00 to 1:00 PM EST (USA). The next Board retreat will be held in New York on April 10-11, 2010.

Respectfully,

Harbert Rice