

## **Summary Minutes from The Focusing Institute Board Meeting    November 24, 2010**

The Focusing Institute Board met via a telephone conference call on 24 November 2010 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (USA). Those present were: Reva Bernstein, Melinda Darer, Elena Frezza, Mary Hendricks, Akira Ikemi, Pat Omidian, Harbert Rice, Astrid Schillings, and Rosa Zubizarreta.

**1. Health Benefits for Staff.** The Board approved offering health benefit compensation to Elizabeth Cantor. In addition, Harbert Rice and Reva Bernstein will begin work as a subcommittee to set out a generalized policy for staff compensation at TFI.

**2. Next Board Retreat.** The Board reaffirmed the dates and location for the next Board Retreat. It will be Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29, 2011 at Stony Point, NY. The retreat will start later in the morning on Saturday (10 or 11 am) so that people do not have to stay at Stony Point on Friday evening. The Retreat will run later on Sunday (3 pm or so). TFI will cover one night's room and board for Board members at Stony Point. Board members can voluntarily donate that amount back to the Institute if they choose to do so.

**3. Children's Focusing Companion Certification.** The Board tabled a decision until December on certification in order to work out a policy for similar certification requests. Board members will correspond via e-mail to clarify their policy concerns, and flesh out policy recommendation for approval in December. Mary Jennings currently has executive approval from Mary Hendricks to move forward with workshops in Ireland. The Board also requested a clarification about the current and projected relationship between TFI and the Childrens Focusing group. This already may have happened, but it would be helpful to have a letter laying out the relationship.

**4. Teaching Roster for 2011 Weeklong.** The Board wants to express their great appreciation for the work done by the Weeklong Crossing Support Group (CSG). The Board reaffirmed its policy considerations of wanting more international teachers, as well as some younger teachers as staff of the Weeklong. We also reaffirmed our desire to distribute teaching opportunities for TFI-sponsored events more broadly (for example, in general not having the same teachers teach at both the Weeklong and Summer School.) The CSG's roster recommendations are in line with these policy considerations. The Board held over approval of the Weeklong teaching recommendations until all the persons have been notified and the financial details for travel and accommodations compensation have been worked out.

**5. The Focusing Partnership Program (FPP).** The Board acknowledged receipt and appreciation of the report from the subcommittee on the Focusing Partnership Project. This is a report of Mary and Rosa Zubizarreta's phone meetings with Lori Kekover. We will be discussing the next steps with regard to the FPP at a future meeting.

### **6. Items Carried Over to Our Next Meeting.**

- A. Reports on progress with the Functional Committees.
- B. Discussion of the Focusing Partnership Program (FPP) subcommittee report.
- C. Childrens Focusing Companion Certification.
- D. Teaching Roster for 2011 Weeklong.

**7. Next Board Meeting.** We agreed to hold our Board Meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. The next Board meeting will be via phone at 9:00 am Eastern Standard Time (EST) on 23 December 2010.

Respectfully,

Harbert Rice