

Summary Minutes from The Focusing Institute Board Meeting December 03, 2009

The Focusing Institute Board met via a telephone conference call on December 03, 2009 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (USA).

1. Number of Coordinators. The Board unanimously agreed that there should be no limit on the number of coordinators per country or region. Rather, certification rests on the local conditions and people's readiness. Mary Hendricks will reply directly in more detail to those persons who raised this concern about numbers.

2. Weeklong Certification. The Board decided to postpone the decision on teachers for the 2010 weeklong for 1 month, pending the Board reviewing a longer-term proposal for the weeklong, coordinator e-mails and other notes on the topic. In addition, the Board agreed that whatever we decide in January would be only for the 2010 weeklong. We want to continue a process that has already started of creating a working group to coordinate the program. This group will clarify the process of selecting teachers to fulfill the vision and purpose of the weeklong, offer access to diversity of teachers, and input from coordinators. We want this process to be established and in place so that this new group will offer a recommendation to the Board for approval for the 2011 weeklong.

The Board asked Mary Hendricks to communicate our waiting a month to Robert Lee and Ann Weiser Cornell, letting them know that Board is pleased with the positive outcomes of this year's weeklong, and that we will be getting back to them in a month with regards to next year's plan, and also to ask their input on the longer-term selection process.

3. Palestine Project. The Board agreed that we all support this project in principle. We also agreed to support the next stage of the project financially by providing 8K USD as "seed money." The funds will be provided to Jerry Conway (UK TFI certified Focusing trainer) to continue to teach Focusing to Dr. Mohamed Altawil in the UK, and to oversee the translations of Focusing materials into Arabic. We have a matching donation of 4K, and have already raised 1K towards the balance. We will be sending out an appeal in late January/early February, inviting contributions for this worthwhile project. Money will be disbursed in two stages, 4K now, and 4K early next year. Pat Omidian has offered to contribute some time to the fundraising appeal.

4. Afghanistan Research. Pat Omidian will look into obtaining the research on outcomes that has been done in the Afghanistan Focusing Project and share it with Board members.

5. PFP Project. Intermediate Certification for "Proficiency in Focusing Partnership." The Board agreed unanimously to endorse the recommendations of the project group. The Board extends congratulations to Reva, Olivier, Ruth, Lori, Nada, Astrid, and Melinda for their work.

6. Partnership Program. To help expand the program, the Board discussed, agreed to, and asked that an e-mail be sent to the Coordinator's list inviting everyone to include (as part of their training programs for Focusing Certification) having their students serve as

free coaches for the Focusing Partnership program for people from developing countries or others, who are not able to pay for this service. This is suggested as a guideline and not a requirement. Lori Ketover has been coordinating the FFP project. To expand the program, we are looking into creating a “functional whole” of people who are interested in helping grow the Partnership Program.¹ We are especially looking for people who have a background in marketing and/or proposal writing. Also, the Board asked that an ad be put in the Gazette. Mary Hendricks will ask Lori to work with her on the ad.

7. Donations. Several Board members agreed to make 3-4 phone calls to potential donors to help in fund raising. Melinda Darer will provide the contact information.

8. 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. Legal Advice on Copyright and Royalty Issues. [New]
- B. Focusing Outreach to Young People. [New]
- C. Getting FOT into the Mainstream of Psychotherapy Research. [New]
- D. Additional staffing for Melinda Darer at TFI. [New]
- 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. Overview Document. Lay out TFI’s vision and activities in one document.
- G. Fund Raising. Improve and expand our donor funding.
- H. 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 January 07, 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

¹ A functional whole exists when a team of people comes together around a specific goal or function. It lasts as long as the function is needed. People may be part of more than one functional whole so there is a cross fertilization between wholes.