

Summary Minutes from The Focusing Institute Board Meeting December 23, 2010

The Focusing Institute Board met via a telephone conference call on 23 December 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, Joan Klagsbrun, Pat Omidian, Harbert Rice, and Astrid Schillings. This was the last meeting of the Board in 2010. Melinda Darer thanked the Board members for volunteering their time and skills in serving on the Board.

1. Year End Fund Raising. Melinda reported that this year's end of year fund raising appears to be going slowly. Akira Ikemi reported that he had translated the fund raising letter into Japanese, and Melinda reported that those letters had been sent out. Discussing the slow response this year, Astrid Schillings reported that donations to non-profits are down in Europe. Elene Frezza commented that fund raising in Argentina also is slow. Joan Klagsbrun commented, she has observed that people are now slower to respond to e-mails, and that it takes several e-mails to get their attention. She also suggested that we consider targeting specific groups that share a common interest, like attending the summer school, in our follow on letters Mary Hendricks and Melinda have prepared a short follow up letter that will go out before the end of the year. Mary, Melinda, and Harbert Rice will meet with Margie Herrick in early January to assess where we are in our fund raising, and prepare a second follow on letter that will give an accounting of our fund raising to date.

2. New Staff Member. Melinda reported that she has hired Rita Kirsh as a new staff member. Rita is working 9-15 hours a week on a trial basis. Elizabeth Cantor is training Rita. Melinda also reported that she has purchased a new computer, and is following the plan outlined to the Board to train Elizabeth and Rita to take over more of the Institute's day-to-day operations to free up her time to do more marketing and fund raising.

3. Weeklong Crossing Support Group. The Board briefly discussed and applauded the fine work done by Doralee Grindler Katonah and the Weeklong Crossing Support Group to make the Weeklong Program a more inclusive international program, and to rotate the teaching responsibilities among a wider circle of trainers.

4. Children's Focusing Companion Certificate. The Board approved the Children's Focusing Companion Certificate providing Level 1 Focusing Training plus 60 hours of Children's Focusing as developed by the Childrens Focusing Group. The first instance of this program and certificate is the training being developed by Mary Jennings in Ireland, slated for early next year. The Board also accepted and approved the proposed parallel structure in which someone must become a regular CC before becoming a CFCC, and likewise a Trainer before becoming a CF Trainer.

5. 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.

6. 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 27 January 2011.

Respectfully,

Harbert Rice