

**Coordinators Meeting, 29 May, 2013 Emmetten, Switzerland
9:15 - 12:30**

Facilitating: Aaffien de Vries and Patricia Manessy

Morning minutes by Nina Joy Lawrence and Judy Moore

Good morning in all the languages represented.

Attunement led by Kevin Krycka: Find way to be in the chair as comfortably as possible, shift as needed. Feel free to ignore anything that gets in the way... sinking gently inside, more deeply with your breathing, going more and more inside... Turn to inside, hello, how am I... wait ... what comes.... welcome... notice... spending time.... make note of one or two things that need your attention... let them know you will find time for them... using the breath, draw yourself back into room gently, slowly...

News from TFI: Melinda Darer

The Focusing Institute is like a nervous system, with strands extending for different purposes: membership, resources, program, connection. We have a phenomenon right now, 50 new coordinators in training. This happened as we responded to a need of many people getting trained in different countries but no one local to certify them. Process of certifying new coordinators-in-training is explained in guidelines for Coordinators in training, and these are suggestions, not binding. Lots of wonderful statistics were reviewed (handouts on this were in TFI packet.) We are urged to connect our students to TFI as soon as they appear to be interested in going on with Focusing training, using trainee memberships, so they can get to know what it is like to be part of the international community.

Programs rather than dues, or store, or donations are the main financial support that keep the organization going. Recently people from various countries have asked for Institute support, or for teachers to come to their countries. Let Melinda know if you would like the institute to support you in doing something in your country, or if you would like to teach in a different country.

Institute is going through changes. Melinda continues doing what she knows how to do.

A question was asked about why board members resigned. Melinda referred that question to former board members who were in the room. Joan Klagsbrun resigned in 2011 after 14 years on the board when there was still a working board and doesn't know what happened after that. Akira Ikemi resigned in March 2013 for personal reasons, and he saw the board at that time as being stagnant. Astrid Schillings resigned June 2012 because of ill family members, and also due to the limited effectiveness of being in the second tier of a board with a first tier that has the final say. She continues to be enthusiastic about keeping the international network up.

The Board structure was reviewed by coordinators with this background information. There are Board Members of the "First Class" and the "Second Class". These expressions appear in the By Laws. Gene, Mary and Kye are in the First Class, and currently no one is in the second class. Kye writes that the bylaws have been

redone temporarily to make the current situation legal until we find how we want to move forward. The word “coordinators” does not appear in the bylaws, so coordinators have no legal standing in the institute. The coordinators are doing much lively work, without need to report or get Board approval, operating in functional wholes that act and help things happen. Coordinators are free to do what they choose to do, based on discussion amongst themselves. They are not legally bound, though if some things want to be done in the name of TFI they need approval from the “directors of the first class.”

First tier Board’s decisions are binding, second tier board is really only advisory. A number of coordinators expressed they feel the structure does not work. We were reminded that Gene’s political philosophy does not agree with democratic representation, which leads to a majority controlling a minority. We should try to understand his political philosophy. No one here feels able to speak from understanding his political philosophy.

Thinking about the future, we have started in Europe to make continental and local gatherings of Coordinators. We can make our own connections, find new structures, and have a living organization. The international coordinators’ summit next year is where the energy is.

We can see this not as problem, but as challenge. Metaphor of grandparents, parents, and children and how the children DO grow up to do their own thing. We are over 21 by now.

TFI is adaptable. One example is that a practitioner certification is being developed now.

Reports from Functional Wholes

Crossing Support Group - see comprehensive report provided. Meets 1-2 per month to support Connections and Crossings Across Cultures - The Advanced and Certification Weeklong. This group senses into how the Weeklong can develop, looking for new members of the group to continue as international and always fresh... inviting many different ways of bringing Focusing into the world. Every Weeklong invites attention to two areas, following one’s own passion and also connecting with different ways around the world. Sending our students is highly recommended. The Weeklong is TFI’s longest on-going program, 32 years. Its purpose is to recognize and honor the new trainers. This year we have 10 Korean students. Janet Klein scholarships offered yearly. People stay on teaching team for 3 years. We celebrate diversity in culture and in approach to teaching. We are trying to organize so that people with every language can come there. We encourage local groups coming together to find a translator who could benefit from the weeklong, perhaps an advanced focuser who isn't yet ready for certification. If there are a minimum of 3 people, TFI will work out a financial arrangement with the translator covering all or partial room and board. If the translating person is also coming for Certification they would need to pay the tuition. A concern

was expressed by some coordinators that the Crossing Support Group doesn't have any of the most experienced Focusing people on it. They were excluded when the new type of Weeklong was begun. Many people are coming onto the committee now in a way that is very open, but in the past there was a time of exclusion. We want to develop new leaders AND continue using the expertise of our most experienced people too.

A coordinator of 3 years experience shared he doesn't know much about the organization, or about the weeklong, or about the training. He tries hard to follow, but doesn't get it. He keeps hearing new things and again new things. He says he can not explain clearly about our organization to the many new members in his area. He feels it is important to understand the difference between us as trainers and us as an organization. We have two functions as teacher and part of an organization, and they really can't be split.

Concern: If we had a central group of experienced teachers to guide the new trainers would we create the two tiers again? We want to find some way to let the "children" and the "grandparents" work together respectfully in a just system...we want the new to come in AND not lose the wisdom of long experience.

The process of how this committee started wasn't done well. At the same time the last 3 years experience in the Weeklong has been very good for the attendees. Those on the committee have learned from more experienced trainers and bring that with them in their attitudes and bodies.

When we have small groups this afternoon, one group could work on this in particular if desired.

European Coordinators Report: Peter Afford

There is a European Focusing Coordinators Group, developed 3 years ago. Series of weekend meetings, in Paris, London, Liege (Belgium). Going to Madrid in October. Will hold one such meeting at 6:30 on Thurs. evening here. One possibility we are considering was having a European Focusing Association, but nothing has happened about this so far. We decided to collaborate, have projects together... maybe have shared training programmes. We have talked about a European level of certification, but it is not yet going forward. We are working on sharing with each other our different applications of Focusing, and have held a meeting where we shared our different ways of working with decision making. We also want to learn about each other's models of training, and have developed a form to write up models of training. We are developing a European Focusing website, and Olivier Gourmet (Luxembourg) is doing this, beginning now, with a test page up at focusingeurope.eu.

A UK Focusing School was held in 2011 in England, and another is planned for 2014. We plan to hold a 'Focusing Fair' next year for Coordinators to go into depth about what we are doing. We have a steering group (Olivier Gourmet, Heijo Feuerstein, Isabel Gascon, and Peter Afford) and talk on Skype every 2 months to keep threads together. We are willing to link our new webpage for coordinators with TFI coordinator info. In 2015 we hope to have a larger 'Focusing Fair' for all Focusers. We are working on all this in a Focusing way, and using Dynamic Facilitation also. We want to maintain a

close and supportive relationship with the Institute to balance global and local levels. Together we want to build something that will support the spread of Focusing in Europe.

Break

Celebration of Gene : Joan Klagsbrun

We have some wonderful elders in our community, including Gene, Mary, and Mary McGuire. Mary McGuire says a warm hello to all those whom she knows and has worked with for a number of years and to newcomers. A piece of paper will come round if we want to send words to Mary McGuire. Her health is good.

The other two elders--Mary and Gene---both are in need of more care. Lynn Preston has had the idea of celebrating Gene's work. There is a video/DVD of Gene working with some of Lynn's students (2005, shot by Charlotte....) and this can be offered to people who would like to host an event. Idea: Show the video/DVD (with talking points), charging c. \$25 dollars, then maybe have discussion or do Focusing in pairs. Wants to test the interest. Half the money would go to Gene and half to TFI. The intention is to honour him.

Show of hands, indicating interest. Also suggested that the video could be sold, part to go to Gene, part to TFI. Maybe there could be some money paid towards translation.

Other suggestions to support home healthcare workers for Gene and Mary: Russell Delman set up a fund to support their healthcare workers. Only one name is on the website because only this is allowed (in reality the care is for both of them). Gene gets 50% money from sessions done jointly with Anne Weiser Cornell.

Melinda: finances of the Institute also in jeopardy and could also use funds. Institute funding: concern expressed. How can we help to raise money for the Institute?

International Support Group: Patricia Manessy

Report circulated to all present. Formed 3 years ago in Pforzheim. Has been actively operating for past 3 years. In 1st year, a lot of brainstorming, many issues arose. We looked at regional organizations: Japanese group huge; Spanish organization also solid and close to TFI. We looked at inter-regional organizations - e.g. – The Ibero-American Focusing network, the forming European group. Many ideas generated. Monthly conference calls.

2nd year: membership changed. Now a group of 8; 5 present here today (Christiane, Marine, Mako, Melinda, Patricia). The group became more of a working group. The Spanish discussion list became operational. A spreadsheet was created to include different languages- all Japanese articles on spreadsheet, all Italian, all Spanish, other languages following.

3rd year: looked at glitches involved in joining TFI. Work slowed down. A very long term vision involves linking with a translation school. The International Support Group is a small representational group of the larger community. Much discussion ensued around the Board, what was happening + financial situation.

2011: letter from Board asking for funds. Need for this kind of letter to be sent out more broadly. Not clear on website about where to donate money for the general operating needs of TFI.

All of this and more in the report. Anyone wanting a digital copy of the 4-page report please contact Patricia (pmanessy@hotmail.com).

Discussion: please feel free to contact any member of the group any time. Patricia will check as there was an email address created by Bill Silverman for this group.

Children Focusing: Heidi Essler

Children Focusing coming to more countries besides those places where there is a long tradition; examples - Ireland, Italy. Children Focusing came out of the 'corner', not only something for children. Heidi taught Children Focusing in Athens and these methods are also used for adults. The Children Focusing approach is kinesthetic, tactile and can reach more people.

Community wellness aspects: we started to reach children by reaching adults. Now children teach the adults as well. Pioneer work, a lot happening, e.g. Israel, Sweden, Afghanistan, Gaza.

2014 - 2nd weekend in October: Children Focusing in Ireland. Aisht- the power of listening for our children (title- 'aisht' means listening in Irish). Oct 2013: Lucy Bowers- Children Focusing gathering in Canada.

Point of clarification: how do people become Children Focusing Trainers\Co-coordinators? Should people be regular Trainers first? Before becoming a Children Focusing Trainer/ Coordinator, they have to be an adult Focusing/ Coordinator first.

Focusing Institute Summer School: Nada Lou

From 2006 until today, close to a thousand people have gone through FISS. About 70% of people who come to FISS are new to Focusing and many become members.

Teachers volunteer their time. It is the most important fund raiser for TFI.

Our Committee meets about once a month to plan, find ways to advertise and reach people, arrange schedules and activities. There is a sense of emerging community which is built from inside out. Please encourage your students and new people to come. It's a unique place to meet Focusers from around the world and 5 teachers all at the same time and place. There are many discounts offered to attract new people; you get a discount if you register 2 people at the same time for instance. It's a very restorative experience, a very safe environment.

Next International Focusing Conference:

This current conference is the 25th. We plan 3 years in advance. No invitation was offered from any group in 2011 or 2012. We are now looking at 2016. Conferences are not organized by TFI, but by local group.

Is there a folder of best practice? It exists in Dutch! Also Dutch provided \$4,000 dollars as start-up money for new conferences, held by TFI, and needs to be returned to TFI after conference.

Suggestion for less frequent international conferences, with continental conferences in between. Maybe every 2 or 3 years. Then regional collaboration for next conference.

Peter Afford: coordinators in Britain have agreed to research holding an international in Britain in 2016. Inspired by Swiss conference and the fact that this was fully booked even with its higher price. Aim to have a firm proposal ready by the end of this year. Proposal warmly received. Re money: a two-tier system, with some cheaper accommodation might be a good compromise.

Nina Joy: Pacific Northwest Gathering of Focusers (Oregon, Washington and British Columbia) would like to organize something, doing it the NW way! Would people be interested if we offered a conference based on open space and low tech? We make the schedule on the spot, and even schedule in time for Focusing. We hold low cost meetings in a place that's affordable. This means close to a main transportation system. Proposed for 2015 if can find a venue fast enough! Warmly received. This would be in Washington state or Oregon, US where no International has been yet.

There are no rules about how an international is organized. Also, no rules about date. It's traditional to be end of May/early June. The complaint about May is that it's in school term time. If out of term time, UK conference could be in Oxford or Cambridge.

Concern about Limited Participation on part of Coordinators

We are only 50 coordinators here. How can most of our coordinators be involved in decision-making processes?

We have the CC meeting next year, after the FOT conference. Important to schedule dates carefully so we are not creating a financial overload. Maybe we will move to every two years rather than every year?

2014 International Coordinators Conference will follow the FOT Conference (14-18 May, 2014); see Melinda or Soti for fliers on the FOT Conference.

Reminder: Germana Ponte

There will be Italian speakers and their translators at the Conference so please remember to speak slowly for them during your presentations.

Research

Kevin Krycka asked for any details of qualitative or quantitative research that's going on at the moment for a work that he is putting together for the APA. Anything that's been published re: Focusing Research, let Kevin Krycka know.

How People become and remain Certifying Coordinators

About the coordinators missing these meetings: Suggested that coordinators should attend every 3/4 years to maintain their certification? Important that we include those who can't afford to join the Conferences. People can present through Skype and participate through other technologies. Need for 'engagement' and commitment to remain in the organization? Even at this conference, some coordinators have chosen not to be at the CC meeting. A certain responsibility comes with being a coordinator, to let people know what's going on, to participate.

How do people understand what it means to be a coordinator? It's about more than just training people. How do we train people to be coordinators?

The integrity of a meeting, making decisions becomes different when there are people who aren't physically present. Maybe we can meet in regional gatherings, still meeting with our bodies in the same room, even if not all of us are at international meetings.

(End of Morning minutes)

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2:30 - 4:30

Afternoon minutes by Ann Weiser Cornell

Astrid spoke on the new "Practitioner" certification.

A certificate acknowledging that a person can accompany someone else in Focusing. Just to be able to facilitate the Focusing process.

This certification is issued by TFI as well as the local training program, and has the local language on the certificate as well.

The Trainer certificate is now also issued for Köln in two languages.

It's completely voluntary but might be interesting.

"recognizes as capable of facilitating the Focusing process with individuals and can accompany them as individual..." ...there is more.

This is to accompany someone who does not know Focusing.

It is recognized as a qualification when people apply for a job, etc.

This is not the same as the Partnership Proficiency certificate.

The procedure is that the Coordinator creates a training program for this certification.

The person pays \$90 to the Institute for this.

ANN says this is a big surprise, and it affects everyone.

NADA says we changed the title to "Focusing Professional" from "Trainer" because this was not only for training, so how is this different? Also, that for the Partnership Recognition, the word "certificate" was deliberately withheld.

MAKO says she also understood that “Focusing Professional” referred to someone trained to work with individuals, to include people who may not necessarily want to teach groups.

PETER reports that Britain has had a practitioner certificate for quite some time, and there are more practitioner certifications than there are trainer certifications. He says that Astrid’s training sounds lighter. Peter says practitioner training in Britain takes up to 3 years after basic training.

ASTRID says it takes 160 hours the way she is doing it.

ROBERT gives a historical note, he was behind the term “Focusing Professional.” There was “Focusing Trainer,” and there was “FOT.” “Focusing Professional” was intended to cover both. Suggests we need to rethink all the training programs.

CHRISTINE hears the Practitioner is called in German “Begleiter”. In the Netherlands there is a training for teaching Focusing to one person, and that is called “Begleiter” and after a second year, training to groups. So it’s confusing.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION GROUPS

How people become CC... What is a CC...

The frequency of Internationals... annually? every two years? Or...

Levels of certification

Two levels of the Board? Or one? The position of the Coordinators.

The weeklong.

The structure of the Coordinators meeting.

HEIJO suggests these categories might be coming from the old system. In the words of a German philosopher, “In the old system, nothing is right.”

WE DECIDE that these groups are just for now, not to set the agenda for 2014... though they may carry forward somehow.

Finally there were only 3 break-out groups. Reports follow below.

Notes from the meeting on **Levels of Certification:**

Many groups are offering a practitioner level of certification. Xu Jun in China does so, Germana in Italy does so, Eveline and Friedgard in the Netzwerk do so. Erna and Christine offer one-to-one teaching and then group teaching.

We are left with the feeling that the Institute should probably offer a Practitioner certification. But there needs to be further clarity on what -- while preserving diversity -- level of training this should involve. Being able to successfully lead a *new person* through Focusing, and to do so at a professional level... would be my suggestion.

We also recommend further discussion about what this should cost. We believe the implying of the cost will be clear when it is clear what the person will be able to DO.

Present at this discussion group: Mieko, Germana, Bernadette, Xu Jun, Evelien, Friedgard, Haqmal, Erna, Christine, Sergio, and Ann

Report: ANN will share a proposal with the group and then the group will share it with the Coordinator's group.

Report from large discussion group re: position of Coordinators regarding the levels of the Board.

ATSMOUT reports that there is energy and wanting for a change in the Institute structure.

The next step will be to write something from the discussion, and then take it to Mary, Gene, and Kye.

(A letter was subsequently written, signed by some 50 coordinators and sent to Gene, Mary and Kye on the last day of the Conference)

Report re: Structure of Coordinators Meeting

Present: Monica, Barbro, Olivier, and sitting in also Aaffien and Patricia

BARBRO reports on a discussion of ideas for the Coordinators Meeting. Would like to see more of a Focusing way in meetings and more 'pausing'. Recommends that the team preparing for the 2014 Coordinators Meeting has a model to follow, something like Dynamic Facilitation.