

*The Coordinators met on June 4 and 5, 2012, just before the Argentina International Conference. We called our meeting "The Cozy Coordinators Meeting." That was the overall sensed-name for that time together. We were few coordinators, yet the Focusing spirit and coziness were really felt characteristics of our group.*

Present:

Analia Zaccai - Argentina  
Salvador Moreno - Mexico  
Beatrice Blake - USA  
Carlos Aceituno - Guatemala  
Patricia Manessy - Canada  
Nicoletta Corsetti - Italy/Argentina!  
Karin Bundschuh - Germany  
Monica Iturraspe - Argentina  
Isabel Gascon - Spain  
Aaffien de Vries - Netherlands  
Ann Weiser Cornell - USA  
Elena Frezza - Argentina

The first meeting started with an attunement by Analia

We had a round of checking in.

Then we collected an agenda for the whole meeting.

AGENDA:

International conference in general  
How do we support them?  
Should they be every other year?  
No community has offered to put on the 2014 conference

Partnership proficiency recognition - Ann's questions.

What is happening in Europe?

What is happening with the Board and the leadership and the Institute  
Why is the Institute not represented here?

A letter from Kye and another from Mary

Report from the International Support Functional Whole  
Reports on various projects and functional wholes

Reflecting on the evolution of the Coordinators group  
Wondering what power the Coordinators group has, compared to the Board and TFI

## REPORT FROM COORDINATORS

Beatrice Blake (Vermont, El Salvador):

In El Salvador there is now a Board of directors. We have given two levels of training to three groups of people. Melba is giving introductory workshops that combine NVC and Focusing.

Beatrice has been working with Evelyn Proß to teach a workshop called Giving a Language to Stress, based on TAE - it will be a phone course.

Beatrice hopes to teach that workshop to companies in El Salvador in order to make the other programs self-sustaining

Salvador Moreno (Mexico):

“A lot has happened in the last 4 years. The third Iberoamerican Focusing conference was held in Mexico. I brought out a book on focusing - Discovering Your Body Wisdom. I work in a private university, with people becoming psychologists, and in people getting graduate degrees. We are working with caregivers How to Generate Well Being in Daily Life - women who have for example a Down’s syndrome child. Now we are working in a Kindergarten with 2 and 3 year olds, with teachers and also psychologists. And also we work at health centers with people with chronic pain and people recovering from cancer I am starting my first certification group in July.”

Carlos Aceituno (Guatemala):

“I’m starting training groups for level one and two. We have 6 trainers and 8 in training. Priests and nuns come from all over the world, get training and go back home.”  
He also works in a handicap center.

Isabel Gascon (Spain):

“There’s been a great evolution these last 5-6 years. We have created a Spanish Focusing institute. There is a certification previous to Trainer - we call it “diplomado” - 180 hours. The training includes applications of Focusing - each one chooses three courses of 12 hours each - eg, dreams, children, etc. The training includes a lot of philosophy and the EXP scale. Those who want to go deeper and be able to work with others, go on to the Trainer certification, this takes longer. It’s different and shorter if people want the skills just for themselves.”

Patricia Manessy (Quebec, Canada)

This is a report on the organization “Diffusion Focusing Quebec” which was formed from the 2008 conference committee, and has kept going. The mission is to spread Focusing in the French speaking community. She listed the names of the officers of this group

including Solange St Pierre, President, and Marine De Fréminville, Vice President. There is a Mentorship program in its second year (developed by Solange), where newer and more experienced Focusers are matched for partnering. The newer ones have had some Focusing training, they are not brand new. The partners commit to 15 sessions with this person with a short evaluation to fill out after each session. DFQ also has a new project of creating DVDs in French for teaching purposes. There is a website where members can post their Focusing activities, where French articles and books are listed, and there is also an annual Newsletter.

Other Montreal activities: as of September 2011, an English Changes Group was established by Kit Racette, Nada Lou and Patricia; in August 2011, René Veugelers was invited to give a Children Focusing weekend workshop; in May 2012, Robert Lee came for a weekend of Domaine Focusing.

Nicoletta Corsetti (Italy)

She has a lab system where people from all levels come to the same group. People can start the training any time they are ready. It meets every two weeks. A level is three individual sessions, three group sessions and one partnership coaching session.

JUNE 5

Ann offered an attunement to start the day.

We read (and translated into Spanish) letters from Kye and Mary. Mary mentioned the Felt Sense Literacy project in her letter. Analia explained what it is. It's including felt sensing in all kinds of processes, organizations etc.

There is a question from a new Coordinator about power and decision-making in the Institute, the Board, and the Coordinators.

**We replied:** Coordinators have the power to do what we will do. The way that is done is by creating a Functional Whole (FW). A FW is a group that wants to do something. There doesn't have to be consensus from the whole group. An example of this is the Focusing Institute Summer School. Another example were the Meeting at the Edge retreats.

### **Board news:**

Elena talks as a Board member about TFI going through a transition time. The Board is meeting to really sense what are the functions of the Board. The spreading of Focusing is a key mission.

There is a reality that concerns health... The health of Mary, and Gene... Kye is the person who is taking on/sharing Mary's work as director. Kye is now the Co-Director.

The funding is a big problem. Both for new projects and to keep the Institute going.

Melinda has help now.

Joan Klagsbrun has left the Board, and Reva died.

Who is on the Board? Akira Ikemi, Rosa Zubizarreta, Astrid Schillings, Elena Frezza, Pat Omidian, Kye Nelson, Mary, Gene. And Melinda also attends the meetings.

The Board has discussed being involved when there are conflicts among Coordinators and mentees, for example.

It is pointed out that there is a conflict resolution functional whole that includes Patricia, Anna, Astrid, and others... but it has never been used.

(Beatrice Blake (USA), Lucy Bowers (Canada), Francesca Castaldi (USA-Italy), Leona Dawson (Australia), Heidrun Essler (Germany), Rob Foxcroft (United Kingdom), Bilha Frohlinger (Israel), Soti Grafanaki (Canada), Mako Hikasa (Japan), Kay Hoffmann (United Kingdom), Anna Karali (Greece), Greg Madison (United Kingdom), Patricia Manessy (Canada), Claude Missean (Belgium), Laury Rappaport (USA), Astrid Schillings (Germany).)

Another question the Board is addressing is how the Institute can provide certification for new areas such as Focusing with children.

**Monica** feels Trainers in Argentina don't feel part of the Institute, they work individually. She suggests that those who want to, and are members, could have their workshops announced on the TFI website and pay a small percentage of their fee to TFI.

**Analia** says, People ask why they should be part of TFI, it seems so far away.

**Isabel** says, people who don't want to be Trainers, don't see why they should join TFI.

**Monica** says, Maybe we don't deliver the message from the Focusing Institute clearly and from the heart.

**Isabel** says, The language is the problem. It's true there is a lot of translation on the website, but mentally there is a problem.

**Elena** agrees that in Argentina it happens all the time, that people pay dues for a few years and then stop, and they ask, Why should I pay?

Before we used to have the Folio, now we don't have that.

So what is the difference between being a member and not being a member?

For example, members of the counseling organization get a ten percent discount on workshops.

**Analia** says Focusing is in a process of becoming international.

But our students are still so national. They live day to day, here. It's not even thinkable for them at the beginning, to think internationally.

**How can Coordinators be involved in helping members renew their dues?**

We discover that some of us are receiving emails from Melinda telling us which if our trainers have paid -- and others have not be getting those.

**Isabel** says that there is a Spanish Focusing Association which gives people many benefits, and in order to be a member, the people must have joined TFI. She wishes that the TFI would provide an option for automatic renewal.

One suggestion is to include in the form the question, How are you going to pay your dues next year?

**Carlos** says there is a problem if, at that time the person doesn't have the money.

**Karin** proposes that there might be a way to pay two or three years in advance.

**Isabel** says it would be a good investment for the TFI to put more effort into smart renewals, such as automatic reminders, etc.

BREAK

After the break, the discussion continues.

**Aaffien** says that community building is key.

She misses a presence here from the Board and the Institute, and a formal letter from them.

We understand why not... Because of illness... But we still miss it.

**Elena** also feels the missing of this, to the conference as a whole.

She says it is an empty space. There is sadness and anger and an understanding too. There is a process, and the new isn't here yet.

We do remember that the minutes of the Board are on the website, and we do appreciate that.

[Comment from Kye Nelson added July 3: “Actually, I did write and send a message to the Conference as a whole, in addition to the letter I sent to the coordinators meeting. I don't understand why the one was received but not the other. I asked Gene to check, when he did the Skype call, that my message for the conference had been received.

He told me that they said it had. I'm puzzled by what happened, and was greatly dismayed when I understood that it had not been read. That message to the Conference is now [up on the website](#). It is titled Being What We Are About.

“It was not intended to be a report on the status of TFI, but more in the tradition of Mary's 'Revolutionary Pause' address to the Conference in 2003. It did talk a little about the projects Gene and Mary are working on, as I felt that people would especially want to hear more about what our founders are doing, A lot of work went into that message, and it's a shame that it didn't get read, but at least it is available online for those who want to read it.

“It is obvious in retrospect that in the absence of an in-person TFI presence a formal report, in addition to my message, would have been appropriate. I appreciate you all pointing that out, and apologize on behalf of TFI.”]

## REPORTS FROM FUNCTIONAL WHOLES

The report from the International Support Functional Whole which was created in Germany two years ago, with the initial mandate to assist and support TFI with this transitional period.

Eleven people - Francesca Castaldi, Melinda Darer, Heijo Feuerstein, Marine De Fréminville, Isabel Gascon, Christiane Geiser (joined after Asilomar), Mako Hikasa, Patricia Manessy, Kye Nelson, Astrid Schillings, (Pat Omidian)

... ..

The process of the first year was brainstorming ideas; elaborate report presented at Asilomar. In the second year, the FW has become more of a working group.

The process of meeting has been by conference call regularly, almost monthly for one to two hours.

Kye has a global and international vision.

1- a lot of improvements to the website

2- the Spanish discussion list, and a question of which other languages we need

3- Kye has developed a Smart Sheet for French, English, Spanish, Japanese, Italian, and German.

The Smart Sheet includes all books and articles available in that language and the reference to where to find them.

Other language groups are welcome to participate. (Other countries who wish to contribute are invited to contact Kye who will give them access to the Smart Sheet.)

4- it's difficult for people who speak other languages to become a member of TFI. Francesca went through the website to find the blockages, and Bill is looking to facilitate the process. A longer term vision is for registration in other languages.

5- There is a long-term project to look for a translation school, arrange for an internship program so that interns would complete their program by helping TFI with translation. Attention would be given to the Focusing language.

6- to look again at the Partnership Pool and make it possible for people to find partners in their own languages

**Isabel** adds that we would like to be a bridge between our students and TFI. That the trainees, our students, feel that they are important, they matter, they will be listened to.

**Salvador** says there is an important question of how to translate specific words because some words have different meanings in different Spanish speaking countries. Felt sense, TAE, carrying forward  
Maybe a new functional whole?

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We asked Ann about the question of a functional whole to create a profession of Focusing guide, which she volunteered to head last year, and Ann said nothing has happened with that.

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Last year, Monica and Suzanne started a FW to give attention to Trainers. Trainers Care. How to support trainers after their training is finished.

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#### EUROPEAN REPORT

Isabel on What is happening in Europe

This emerged in Germany 2010

Inspired by the Iberoamerican conferences

The idea was to share knowledge, projects, activities

There have been two meetings already, one in Paris with 14 people and one in London with 10 people.

It's open to all European coordinators.

Key figures have been: Peter Afford, Olivier Gourmet, Heijo Feuerstein, and Isabel.

The first question was whether this is about forming an association.

However, the majority agreed that this is not about that, but about collaboration, talking, going slowly, finding out what we really want.

Now we have some ongoing projects.

One is to create an interactive website... But the language question remains to be solved.

Another is to gather all the training models so that training in Europe can have continuity and quality.

To unify training criteria IN SOME WAY while still acknowledging diversity.

We are against standardization but we can communicate and we can communicate on letting quality grow.

There are two joint projects on sharing training.

One is a summer school in Europe.

Another is to share different applications.

The next meeting is in Lieges in December and it will be followed by a workshop on various approaches to decision making including workshops from Peter and Heijo so that people could have a certification on decision making.

It is clear that we belong IN the TFI. We don't want anything that separates us. For example, we want to schedule our Summer School with awareness of the summer school dates in New York.

Wanting to sustain TFI in New York strongly from Europe.

We don't know the answer to who will pay, for example for a website.

Those present at this Coordinators meeting requested to receive reports and minutes from the European meetings.

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#### TRAINER AND COORDINATOR SUPPORT

**Ann** raises the question, if the focusing institute would stop doing workshops in competition with Coordinators.

**Karin** offers the example of PCA training, 10% is given to the association. In the magazine all trainings are listed. And in the web page. One has to be a member, in order to be listed, and to be in supervision groups. "And we feel connected."

**Monica** points out the importance of being part of a group, not being alone.

**Aaffien** says there is a big discussion on the requirement to be a member. In Holland there is a big discussion, whether requiring membership is against the right of free education.

We are pointing out that in this situation we are talking about an option, not a requirement.

**Monica** suggests we look at "competence" instead of "competition."

**Nicoletta** says that there are so many people in the world who don't know Focusing yet, competition is hardly a question really.

At this point the group of us CREATE a proposal, which would result in greater community, greater connections, a greater sense of shared support as equals. It offers a clear benefit for membership, and a clear benefit for TFI. The proposal is not included in these minutes because a committee forms to make sure our communication to the other coordinators are clear. Ann, Isabel, Nicoletta, Carlos, Beatrice are on the committee, and Aaffien is willing if needed. The committee is going to check out the proposal with some colleagues who were not here, and see if it is clear. And then we would send it both to the coordinators and the board, and Kye, Gene, and Mary.

A big issue how we preserve quality while preserving diversity.

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## REPORT on the Iberoamerican Conferences

The first had 160 people in Argentina.  
The second had 90 people in Chile.  
The third had 40 people in Mexico.  
They do seem to be decreasing in attendance.

The question is being discussed whether to join them with Person-Centered Approach conferences.

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## DISCUSSION ON International conferences

The big question is whether to continue to have conferences every year, or move to every other year.

It's hard to think about meeting as Coordinators only every two years BUT Coordinators meetings can be separated from the international conferences.

There can be web meetings more frequently...

Perhaps twice a year

We imagine an afternoon, evening, and morning, but we would need to work out the question of time zones.

With the maestro conference system, large groups and small groups could meet as well

We would still meet in person as part of the international conference.

Perhaps we could use a technological solution like Skype to allow more people to participate in in-person meetings.

We like in person more, but this meeting by conference call and Skype better than nothing.

It is pointed out that after next year's conference in Switzerland, there is no conference planned.

**Patricia** is going to ask the New York people attending this conference what happened to the idea of a conference in New York.

**Ann** points out that it's difficult for strong coordinators to arise in new York in the shadow of the Institute.

**Isabel** points out that a group of coordinators from other places could put on a conference in New York.

**Isabel** proposes the 2014 conference in Stony Point, organized by an international team.

As Kye pointed out in her letter, the reasons to move the conference to every two years include

- increasing plane fares
- fragile economy
- increasing numbers of other events in our community

**Karin** suggests maybe groups that put on conferences could use more support, not to be on their own

Isabel thinks that Spain's conference year could be 2018!

What about the idea of having an international conference every other year... And regional or national conferences in the alternate year. Recognizing the growth of regional groups.

We suggest that we TRY skipping a year... Not setting a policy forever, but not having a conference in 2015. Just to give a try.

*Respectfully submitted by Ann Weiser Cornell with additions and corrections from Isabel Gascon, Monica Iturraspe, Patricia Manessy, and Analia Zaccai*