



THE INTERNATIONAL
FOCUSING INSTITUTE

carrying life and thought forward

PROPOSAL for the NAMING OF COORDINATORS

December 2017

Note on implementation process

The implementation of this proposal will begin with a pilot program which will last throughout 2018. During the pilot program, the old guidelines for appointing Coordinators still apply for all other Coordinators in Training (CiT) and Coordinators. (The old guidelines are found at <http://www.focusing.org/coordinators/Guidelines-to-Become-a-Certifying-Coordinator-2013.pdf>.) In other words, during the pilot program, two different methods of appointing Coordinators will be in place. This will allow us (the International Leadership Council or ILC) to ensure that the new system is workable and useful before everyone must follow it. Any CiT who enters into a training program with a Coordinator under the old guidelines will be allowed to complete their training under the old guidelines.

At the end of 2018, the ILC will assess how the first year pilot went and will report to the Board and to the Coordinators. We will probably revise this document, based on what we have learned. We might decide to continue with the pilot program in 2019. Or, if we determine that the system is working well enough to implement, we will ask the Board to confirm the new system, after consultation with all Coordinators.

Introduction

The International Leadership Council (ILC) is planning in the near future to discuss more fully (with your input) the function of Coordinators in relation to The International Focusing Institute (TIFI). We anticipate that there will be many conversations around the function of Coordinators in the future. In *this* document, we wish to discuss with you primarily the issue of the *naming* of Coordinators. This is an *updated* proposal that incorporates your feedback. The analysis of your feedback by Sergio Lara using Grounded Theory can be found at www.focusing.org/ccr. This document will serve as the basis for the pilot program.

In the early days of Focusing, many trainers were “appointed” as “Coordinators”. In other words, we were “handpicked” by Gene Gendlin and Mary Hendricks-Gendlin to serve the Focusing community worldwide by becoming the teachers of those who would carry forward Focusing as professionals. Since the passing of Mary and Gene we need to update and unify a present-day process for the naming of Coordinators.

Updated Proposal:

A system for naming Coordinators of the International Focusing Institute

Beginning of Process (Becoming a Coordinator in Training - CiT): A certified Trainer (Certified Focusing Professional, or CFP) interested in becoming CiT would first declare their interest to their mentor (Mentoring Coordinator - MC), or a Coordinator identifies a Trainer/CFP as a good candidate to be a CiT. A Trainer/CFP who doesn't have an MC can approach the ILC to request assistance in finding one. When a relationship is formed with a Coordinator willing to become their MC, the MC initiates the process. They do this by notifying the Executive Director (ED) that the Trainer/CFP is now a CiT. The ED will announce to the ILC and the community of Coordinators that the person is a new CiT.

Becoming a Coordinator: The MC, together with the CiT, would create a Support Team for the CiT as early as possible in the process. They then send the names of the Support Team to the ED, who will communicate it to the ILC. The MC is always a member of the Support Team. The Support Team will amount to 3-5 members,

including the MC. Attention should be paid to language compatibility and following the guidelines as shown below (in the section about the constitution of the Support Team). The MC remains the primary leader of the CiT's process. Members of the Support Team would interact with the CiT individually or as a group. The Support Team may refer the CiT to available resources, based on its assessments of the needs and interests of the CiT. When the MC and the rest of the Support Team agree that the CiT is ready to be appointed as a Coordinator, the Support Team will recommend, via the ED, that the CiT be appointed as a Coordinator. (In a situation in which the Support Team cannot agree, or in which the CiT has been unsuccessful, the ILC with the ED offer themselves as resources to help resolve the conflict.) We envision that the Support Team, with the exception of the MC, will work for no fee.

Purposes and principles

General Purpose:

To protect diversity while also ensuring that those who are appointed as Coordinators by TIFI are those who are able to carry forward Focusing in theory and practice.

Specific Purpose:

To update and clarify the process for approving the appointment of Coordinators.

Working principle:

TIFI recognizes the importance of proceeding in a way that is truly international, and respectful and supportive of a wide variety of languages, and cultures and styles of Focusing. We will proceed in a way which is respectful of the traditions that already exist. We wish to ensure that Coordinators are well prepared and able to fulfill their responsibilities without imposing one way of teaching or practice.

Training Sequence:

To be considered as a CiT, one must first be a Certified Focusing Professional (Trainer) certified by TIFI.

Qualities of a Coordinator

TIFI recommends that the MC assures that those seeking to be named as Coordinators demonstrate the following:

- Skill as a Focuser;
- Familiarity with the theory, philosophy, research and practices from which Focusing and TAE arise, as well as the Experiential use of other methods;
- Skill in communicating and teaching Focusing;
- Willingness to be active within the Coordinator community in various roles/tasks as needed;
- Openness to continuously carry forward his/her Focusing practice;
- Commitment to the ethical dimension of the role of a Coordinator;
- Other general qualities necessary as a Focusing Coordinator.

If certain qualities need to be advanced prior to a CiT being named as a Coordinator, the Support Team will interact with the CiT to discuss how these qualities can be further advanced as needed.

Means of assessment

TIFI protects diversity by not setting standard criteria on how to evaluate a CiT with regards to the qualities outlined above. The MC will present to the rest of the Support Team how these qualities can be assessed for the particular CiT. Documents such as the following, while not necessary, may be helpful for assessment:

- A resume showing the CiT's experience in teaching and co-teaching Focusing workshops/sessions;
- The CiT's approach to Focusing Training;
- Articles that the CiT has written;
- A list of Trainers (Certified Focusing Professionals) that the CiT has certified under the MC's supervision.

In order for the CiT to be named a Coordinator, the Support Team must be in agreement about the CiT's readiness.

A note on why three to five: While three to five might seem like a lot, it assures the community as a whole that the CiT is well qualified. Also, it will be encouraging for the new Coordinator to be recognized by a diverse team (international whenever possible) of Coordinators.

A note on specialization

The current proposal calls for a single status of "Coordinator." Although Coordinators specialize in certain fields (including teaching Focusing to adults, working with children, working with clients in psychotherapy or working with art), all Coordinators of TIFI share the common ground of Focusing. The current proposal respects the specialization of the CiT by recommending that a portion of the Support Team work in the same specialization as the CiT. At the same time, the proposal recommends that the CiT be sufficiently knowledgeable in the core theory and practices of Focusing, by having a portion of the Support Team be from other areas of specialization. Beginning with the implementation of this process, the title will simply be "Coordinator," without distinguishing types of Coordinators.

PLEASE NOTE: A number of support systems have been proposed in TIFI's Strategic Plan which may become resources in the training process for CiT's. To see the Strategic Plan (in several languages), go to www.focusing.org/mission.

Pilot Program

The pilot program for this proposal begins on January 1, 2018 and will continue for a period of one year. The pilot program might be extended if deemed necessary. During that time, the ILC will be monitoring the process, and will make improvements based on feedback received. Please write the ILC with any comments or suggestions at ilc@focusing.org.

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