

Policy: Board Advisory Member – Approved **12/9/2022**

At its discretion, the board of directors may seek to appoint a non-voting Board Advisory Member for a term of one year to fulfill special needs of the board, for example a person who:

- represents a missing demographic to the Board, especially (though not exclusively) from one of the groups listed in our DEI statement as being from a group traditionally excluded
- is outside the Focusing community, who brings particular skills in non-profit governance
- lacks relevant board experience and wants to gain some experience
- would otherwise be of interest as a board member but is unable to commit the required time at this point

Procedure

If the Board identifies a need which is not currently met by regular Board members, then the Board can request that the Nominating Committee identify one or two people who bring those particular qualities or skills who might make good “Board Advisory Members.” Once nominated, the Board will vote whether to approve these individuals to act in this role. The Board Advisory-Member will not have a legal vote, but they will be otherwise invited to participate in Board meetings and deliberations. There might be certain conversations from which they will be excluded, as determined by the Board or Board President, if, for example, there is an issue of a legal or especially delicate nature. These exclusions would be rare, and the reason for the exclusion will be explained.

Role and responsibilities of a Board Advisory Member

- They attend all Board meetings and fully engage in conversation during the meetings
- They make a one year commitment
- They *make an effort* to read documents related to the Board and attend special meetings, but with the understanding that this will be on an “as able” basis
- They hold the same responsibility for maintaining confidentiality, and to act in the best interest of the Board and TIFI, always bringing concerns directly to the Board and/or the Executive Director, and speaking publicly with awareness of their responsibility to represent TIFI and the Board in a positive light.
- Because they are not legally a member of the Board,
 - they do not have a vote,
 - they do not have legal liability and have no need to be covered by TIFI’s Board insurance policy,
 - they are not required to abide by the Conflict of Interest policy,
 - they are not counted toward the required range of 3-10 Board members nor the quorum of 3 members,
 - they are not asked to represent any group and should not be expected to be the voice of anyone other than themselves.