



WILLIAM GLASSER INTERNATIONAL

MO Newsletter

September 1, 2020

There was a WGI Board Meeting held on June 24, 2020 to which MOs were invited to discuss the Consultative Document prepared by WGI for the transition to an MO-run organization, rather than a member-run organization. There were concerns expressed over the financial viability of the organization. It was explained that training has been steadily declining in many areas since the mid-90s. We also basically broke even for the Korea conference in 2016 and the Colombia conference in 2018, when the conference has been a money-maker in the past. We are hoping to reduce expenses by having MOs pay for the travel of their representatives to the yearly in-person meetings. People want a better understanding between option 1 and 2 for the business development and a budget. It was suggested that people take the document back to the people in their respective countries and to confer with other countries in smaller groups to generate questions, comments and suggested solutions.

Those Present:

1. Sonia Muñoz – Colombia
2. Geraldine Rowe & John Brickell – UK
3. Maureen McIntosh – Canada
4. Rolf Ahrens – Canada
5. Jim Mishler - US
6. Asmaa Chroqui – North Africa
7. Farida D'Silva Dias – India
8. Faten Najjar – France
9. Edmond Chong Kah Phoon – Singapore
10. Mohammad Ali – Saudi Arabia
11. Mahfodha Noor – Saudi Arabia
12. Susan Fleming – Australia
13. Lois Disilva Knapton – US
14. Dr. Jae Park – Korea
15. Kalika Suich – Australia/New Zealand
16. Juan Pablo – Latin America
17. Nancy Herrick - US
18. Kim Olver, WGI ED
19. John Cooper, WGI Chair

The SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 MO Meeting

Those Present at 1300 UTC:

1. Maureen McIntosh – Canada
2. Farida D’Silva Dias – India
3. Niño Mateo – Philippines
4. Denzyl Witbooi – South Africa
5. Mitchell Messina – South Africa
6. Ahmed – France – in progress
7. Fumiko - Japan
8. Sonia Muñoz – Colombia
9. Jean Seville Suffield – Canada
10. Mohammed Al Zamel – Kuwait
11. Arthur Dunne – Ireland
12. John Mieras – US
13. Janet Morgan – WGI Treasurer
14. Rachida – France in progress
15. Mahfodha Noor – Saudi Arabia
16. Mohammad Al Mahadi – Saudi Arabia
17. Kim Olver, WGI ED
18. John Cooper, WGI Chair

Those Present at 2000 UTC:

1. Cathy O’Toole – Australia
2. Jean Suffield – Canada
3. Bette Blanche – New Zealand
4. Lynn Sumida – Canada
5. Jan Moré - US
6. Asmaa Chroqui – North Africa
7. Rachida – France in progress
8. Kim Olver, WGI ED
9. John, WGI Chair

Those Not In Attendance:

1. EART
2. Iran
3. Korea
4. Singapore
5. Turkey
6. UK

The meeting was started with everyone providing feedback regarding the Consultation Document for the new 2021 board, with a focus on the MO stages checklist and benefits section.

Maureen McIntosh – Canada – Maureen asked about how living in a Choice Theory way would be defined. The answer is that it hasn’t yet been defined and it would be best for the new board to

determine that. Maureen suggested some Choice Theory cornerstones such as responsibility, Connecting Relationship Habits, the Procedures that Lead to Change and quality.

Farida D'Silva Dias – India – Farida was concerned about the MO stage requirement for translation. She said in every state in India, 5-7 languages are spoken. It was suggested that perhaps the document is worded that it will be translated into the language of instruction, if different from English.

Niño Mateo – Philippines – He had no comment about the document but wanted to attend the meeting to be caught up with what's happening at WGI.

Denzyl Witbooi & Mitchell Messina – South Africa – Denzyl believes translating into the language of instruction is how the document should read. He was also asking if WGI would provide permission for South Africa to seek grant funding. It was decided that permission is not needed. Grants are often used by NGOs to maintain their function or to launch new programs. He is saying in South Africa, they must offer more programming than just the regular programs leading to certification. They are working on increasing their capacity to organize additional training. This is challenging because all but one person have regular jobs and can train only when they are not working their steady job.

Ahmed – France in progress – Ahmed said he was simply listening in to the meeting.

Fumiko Hamada – Japan – She explained she believes Japan would be considered a Stage 3 MO and that their NPO is quite stable in Japan. Congratulations, Japan!

Sonia Muñoz – Colombia – Sonia was asking if all the items listed for each stage must be checked off prior to moving to the next stage. That is how the MO Committee had conceived of it. She believes Colombia is very close to becoming a Stage 3 MO. She also asked if the people counted as instructor and supervisors need to be active and available to train. While we hadn't considered that, I responded that I believe that would be best and will take it back to the committee. She also wondered if MOs could go backward in the stages. Again, a question that hasn't been discussed but it seems a good idea to have MOs reevaluate their stage every five years or so and may determine that they should go from a Stage 2 to Stage 1 or perhaps a Stage 3 to Stage 2. Another question would be, if this occurs, will they lose their benefits? She also asked about the report WGI was requesting from MOs, as in budget, Strategic Plans and annual reports. She wondered if WGI would be evaluating them. I let her know, that wasn't the intention to evaluate but rather to support and work in partnership. The reports would help WGI to know what help to provide, if needed, and it would be easier for WGI to plan its own strategic plan, once we know the strategic plans and financial viability of our member organizations.

Jean Suffield – Canada – Jean simply stated that the money required will be the issue for Canada. She also mentioned the Canadian initiative of the eGlasser platform and invited everyone to check it out. It is currently in English but they will be developing the French translation soon.

Dr. Zamel – Kuwait – Dr. Zamel reported that Kuwait has translated many of Dr. Glasser's books into Arabic. He also wanted to know if all the requirements under the stages for MOs were required. I explained that was the intention of the MO Committee, that an MO wouldn't advance stages without completing all the requirements. He believes Kuwait is very close to Stage 3 but not there yet. I explained we purposely wanted the process to take time. By the time an MO is at Stage 3, they have demonstrated trust and alignment with WGI's guidelines and values. This takes time to demonstrate. He was also concerned that when all the countries in the Gulf have their own MO, there may be too many people on the board, making things unwieldy. Others expressed agreement with this. I said we would take it back to the board.

Arthur Dunne – Ireland – Arthur explained that Ireland began in 1985 and experienced massive growth until 2011 when a deep recession hit there. They also have a generational issue with most of their trainers being of advanced age. Ireland is making plans to transfer the leadership to a new generation. It has been challenging to have faculty training because the numbers have been small. They are considering cohort groups. He is in agreement with the idea of MO stages and agrees it makes more sense to have MOs as WGI's members and individual members as members of their MOs. He believes one member/one vote doesn't breed accountability. He also asked if WGI would be the body to approve recognized programs. WGI will approve any programs looking for WGI endorsement. Of course, MOs can teach any programs, other than certification programs, that they want without WGI's approval. But if they want to have WGI's seal of approval, their program will need to be submitted to WGI's Program Committee for approval.

John Mieras – US – He enjoyed the conversation but had nothing to add because they hadn't yet reviewed the document. They planned to do that at their next scheduled executive session in one week's time.

Janet Morgan – WGI treasurer – She attended the meeting so she could let the MOs know about the WGI Research Committee meeting. She also talked about the committee looking for chapter submissions for their book on case studies for counseling, education and management. Finally, Tom Parish, editor of the Choice Theory/Reality Therapy International Journal is looking for bios from all the people who have contributed to teaching the world Choice Theory over the years. The deadline is September 15.

Rachida – France – speaking through Jean Suffield as interpreter, Rachida introduced herself as a psychotherapist who speaks French. She is the president of WGI-France and is currently organizing Choice Theory training in France.

Mahfodha Noor & Mohammad Al Mahadi – Saudi Arabia – neither had anything to say about the document.

2000 Meeting:

Cathy O'Toole – Australia – Cathy had great feedback from her unique perspective in government. She spoke of the checklist needing consistency, with WGI's expectations of the mentoring process for Stage 3 MOs to deliver. She asked about committee expectations. She reminded us that COVID-19 has given us opportunities to be more accessible than ever before. She mentioned how attaining a research-based status would help us. She, personally, would like to see WGI focus more on leadership, in addition to counseling and education. She thinks we have opportunities in palliative care, carers and grief & loss. She sees application of Choice Theory for the growing mental health needs during this time and application for the multicultural community. She sees it as an answer for suicide prevention. She believes there needs to be clear, consistent standards written by the program committee for any new proposed programs. Jean mentioned that there has been a short- and long-form template created, but not yet approved, that could be used to submit programs first to the program committee, and then to the full board, for approval. In response to Lynn's question about the size of the board, Cathy said 30 board members is too many. She suggested have 10 board representatives with subcommittees. Expertise and interests need to be optimized. Expectations need to be clear about representatives communicating with the countries they represent. She mentioned WGI being at a crossroads internationally.

Bette Blanche – She explained she would be substituting for Maine while he is busy with his duties at school during this time. She finds the two business models interesting. She explained that New Zealand

has been around for a long time but they are quite small. According to the MO stages they would miss Stage 2 because they don't have the number of faculty but they have always relied on Australia to provide the faculty they need. Would there be some kind of exception made? I told her we had discussed the possibility of exceptions and also the possibility of smaller MOs attaching themselves to a larger MO, particularly if they couldn't afford the MO dues for WGI membership. These details have not yet been worked out. New Zealand updated its look, has a new name and logo. They are calling themselves Glasser Aotearoa New Zealand. Bette mentioned being impressed with Australia's annual report. She and Ginette Goguen have put an entire school through training (30 people) online. They used Zoom and its breakout room feature. The school is making the shift from external control to internal control in central New Zealand.

Lynn Sumida – Canada – Lynn would like to have the fees, budget and different business models explained more fully. She is also wondering what will happen in New Zealand's case, will there be an exception? She wanted to have an approximation of how many MOs would be in each stage. She also expressed concern about the potential size of the board and how that would work. She wondered if there were other options besides the two mentioned. I told her we would be open to hearing other models. Lynn agreed with the model proposed by Cathy. She also asked if we could have people ready to debate the advantages and disadvantages of the two models under consideration because she doesn't believe the differences are clear in the document. Lynn spoke of Canada's eGlasser platform. It's been two years in preparation. The purpose is to share interests, have forums, in a free platform. There will also be membership, where members can advertise their own courses. With COVID, Glasser Canada did their first online training. They are addressing revitalization and are pleased to have some younger members who are excited about the technology.

Jan Moré – US – She said the US hasn't discussed the document yet but will be doing so in the near future. She mentioned that WGI could import names and email addresses into an email program like Mailchimp. Jan mentioned GIFCT-US' online basic intensive training and they are hopeful WGI will approve it soon. She also reported that their GQS committee is working on some new things for the US with their new board members who are school-focused.

Asmaa Chroqui – she mentioned that North Africa has spent a lot of money to translate Dr. Glasser's work and to buy copyrights of other Glasser-related books. They are currently doing a research project through the university on adolescents with WGI instructors. It's a prototype and they are getting governmental approval. They will apply it to North African countries and WGI-France. They would like WGI international support. Jean will send the summary to WGI. It's used at the master's and PhD level for theses and dissertations. Their goal is to achieve evidence-based practice. Asmaa also mentioned that COVID has indeed provided more opportunity for online work. They have redone handouts and unleashed their creativity.

Rachida – France – she attended to listen to others and gain experience but had nothing to add. She spoke about COVID providing opportunities. Their advanced training was done online.

John Cooper spoke about how refreshing and heartening it is to attend an MO meeting. He also questions if it is still necessary for English to be the language of the board, with the availability of apps to help with translation. He also spoke of Australia's annual report with financial figures, training number and anecdotal information.

Our next meeting will be September 25 at 1300 and 2000. Please plan to attend or send a representative. John and I are looking forward to it.