**ISWP Professional Standards Board (PSB)**

**July 30, 2020 Meeting Recap**

The ISWP Professional Standards Board (PSB) met by conference call on Thursday, July 30, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. U. S. Eastern Daylight Saving Time/11:30 to 2:30 GMT. This provides a recap.

**Link to meeting recording:** [**https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/pq0ivqit9hbe/**](https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/pq0ivqit9hbe/?OWASP_CSRFTOKEN=d003477f71ffdc25cb5b0139f7d9f8fff1c5fc67d4f5fb1efa451e1df63ead27)

**Next Meeting**: Please input your preferred times here:[**https://doodle.com/poll/hqx46ab6q87czwz6**](https://doodle.com/poll/hqx46ab6q87czwz6)

**Discussion:** Action items are shown in bold/underline.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved.
2. **Approval of May 27, 2020 Minutes:** No changes.
3. **Number of certified providers**: There currently are 85 certified providers from 21 countries, an increase of 16 from May 2020. Uruguay is a new country, with 2 certified providers. Other new certified providers are from Canada, India, Lebanon, and U.S.. Participants who completed the English pilot in 2018 (n=26) are up for recertification this year; the first cohort is expected to complete in October.   
     
   The group discussed the figures Krithika presented on the certification map. In the U.S., 462 have attempted the Basic test, with 14 who completed the certification. It appears there is a rich opportunity in the U.S. and other countries to convert test takers to certificants. Since the March 2019 launch, Krithika follows up with test takers regularly to encourage them to complete the certification. There also are regular social media and e-mail campaigns. A 2019 survey asked how many would recertify and see the value of certification. Most said they were interested; however, we are not seeing the conversion. **Krithika** to check to see if the survey asked respondents to indicate their barriers/facilitators to certification/ recertification. PSB members also suggested doing a quick poll with certified providers eligible for certification to learn why or why they have not certified and include a comments section for additional input. Perry suggested setting a goal to

convert the number of test takers to certified providers. Mary mentioned the ISWP team had discussed internally and had been working recently to target organizations, which could provide a number of participants eligible to certified.   
  
Sharmini suggested adding questions at the end of the Basic test, before test-takers receive their results, regarding their intention to move onto the certified provider status and if not, why.

1. **Website**: Traffic to ISWP’s website, [WIN](https://wheelchairnetwork.org/), varies based on social media and e-mail marketing promotions. Traffic experienced a 44% decrease in May-July compared to March-May, which is unusual given that the site typically receives 800-1,000 page views per month.
2. **Fee Waiver Requests:** During last meeting, the PSB approved a partial waiver for 112 Jordan Science and Technology students. Krithika informed the professor, who has not responded. ISWP is exploring fundraising options to support the group, as well.The Board approved a full fee waiver for 8 service providers at SESOBEL in Lebanon. Of the 8, 6 completed the process.
3. **University of Montreal Students’ Certification:** ISWP provided a conflict of interest letter to University of Montreal in response to the University’s questions about the certification fee being paid by Motion Composites.Paula shared the information with the OT Department and School of Rehabilitation leadership and the prize committee. The prize committee continues to feel it is a conflict of interest; i.e., since the course is optional, there could be an increase in the number of students interested in taking the course because of the potential to receive the certification. The university’s School of Rehabilitation Conflict of Interest Committee will review in September 2020.
4. **Seal:** Krithika presented the seal which the PSB approved for courses which are approved for WSP certification. There is a process for an instructor to provide information on a course being taught in order to be eligible to sit for the ISWP certification. The organization or conference conducting sessions which mirror WHO content can use the seal to help promote the course.
5. **Survey:** A brief survey is now available on WIN ([link](https://wheelchairnetwork.org/iswp-wheelchair-service-provider-wsp-certification-eligibility/)) to help prospective certificants determine their readiness for certification. If additional training is needed, resources are provided, too.
6. **ISWP Forming Committee:** A ten-member Forming Committee, chaired by David Constantine and including representatives from a cross-section of the sector, is meeting regularly to develop a plan for ISWP to become a separate entity. The committee is working with URC and AMCES, a consulting firm. The plan, which will include the proposed organizational model, governance, policies/procedures and funding strategy, will be presented to the ISWP Advisory Board for approval. The goal is to have the plan complete by September 30, 2020.
7. **Nomination/Selection Process:** Seven of nine current Board members are up for election in November 2020: Robertangelo Ciccone, Rosie Gowran, Perry Loh, Patience Mutiti, Paula Rushton, CJ Stanfill and Mary Goldberg. Two current Board members are in their first term: Sharmini Constantinescu and Jeff Spohr.   
     
   Current members who are interested in continuing for their third and final two-year term (January 2021-December 2022) will be invited to express their interest via a Google form. Based on their response, ISWP will determine how many spaces still need to be filled for the nine-person board. ISWP hopes to have the process completed by December 2020 so the new board term can begin in January 2021. **Krithika** to send Board members the link to the expression of interest form.
8. **Recertification Questions:** As part of the certification, certified providers must provide evidence of 10 hours of continuing education, with minimum of 4 hours in each year. The website provides a list continuing education that would be considered eligible. ISWP has received questions whether the following would be eligible, which the PSB discussed:
   1. *ISWP Intermediate knowledge and skills:* (No one has passed both parts of the test yet.)
      1. The intermediate test, especially the skills portion, is very time consuming, because it requires someone to go through the whole process to demonstrate their capabilities. There are challenges related to the skills portion, including identifying users, getting consent for wheelchair users to have photos taken, plus the time involved in the process. The requirements for someone to pass the case study are quite high. Also, training is only a foundation. Individuals need a lot of mentoring to ensure good practice; often the mentoring is not available. While no one has passed the case study portion, it could be a way to demonstrate they are actively working in wheelchair provision (Patience).
      2. The group may want to consider accepting the knowledge portion of the test, but be cautious in certifying the skills level of the test as the skills vary for different users (Sharmini).
      3. The intermediate test could be considered if the person passes both the knowledge and skills components (Paula).
      4. There are some concerns with counting test alone. Continuing education typically has learning objectives. Test takers are not learning much from the test; rather, they are being assessed. The prep work associated with taking the test could count. Completing the appropriate documentation on the self-study that they did to take the test seems like a better activity (Mary).
      5. The Intermediate test prep work goes a long way to continuous improvement (Perry).

Mary explained that there were not a designated number of hours dedicated to one activity or another. It would be acceptable if all 10 hours were associated with one activity, if the Board approves.   
  
**PSB members** to consider the request. Krithika to send poll to vote.

* 1. *Webinar recordings*: A person asked how many completed webinars would be permitted toward the 10 hour requirement.   
     1. There not should be a limit, particularly now during the pandemic (Perry).
     2. It would be beneficial to have the person record reflections on a template which is submitted as evidence of completing an in-person or online training, as is done with other professional registrations and continuing professional development (Patience).   
          
        There is a reflection form as part of the self-study, not just for webinars yet. **Krithika** to add the form for webinars and other in-person and online training.

**Participants** *(check mark indicates participation on call):*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *√* | Sharmini Constantinescu, DDO |
|  | Robertangelo Ciccone, ICRC |
|  | Rosemary Joan Gowran, University of Limerick |
| *√* | Perry Loh, Loh Medical |
| *√* | Patience Mutiti, Motivation |
| *√* | Paula Rushton, University of Montreal |
|  | Jeff Spohr, Canadian Provincial Government |
| *√* | CJ Stanfill, Pencils of Promise |
| *√* | Mary Goldberg, ISWP |
| *√* | Krithika Kandavel, ISWP |
|  | Maria Toro Hernandez, ISWP |
| *√* | Nancy Augustine, ISWP |