



General Membership Meeting August 28, 2019

Meeting called to order: 16:50

Present:

from the Board: Kim Parker, Kelli Parcher, Tiina Röning, Johan Björkehed, Cecylia Biegnowska

members at large: Robert Calame, Knut Gundersen, Jens Fokdal, Bo Ertmann, Shannon Burns, Thomas Zandstra Helmsgård, Vegard Viestad, Morten Sigurdson, Dennis Thomsen, Lene Norgaard, Karina S. Vase

Kim Parker, in her role as President, read the annual report:

The last time we held a General Meeting was in October, 2016. The board came away from that meeting with a list of requests from the members, which, amongst other things, we have been working to fulfill. Since then, an annual report was sent to all members in June of 2018, reporting our progress, however, in case not everyone here read it or remembers it, I shall risk repeating myself at the appropriate times. Although the board meets on SKYPE usually every 2 months, we were so glad of the opportunity to gather here together over the past few days.

Where to start...

I decided to structure the beginning of this report according to our Mandate in the Statutes:

The purpose of the organization is, through empirically based theory, to develop and improve professional practice in order to help improve interaction patterns between children and adolescents and their environment. This vision will be fulfilled through the following means:

- a. **Dissemination of information about the different programs by arranging conferences and seminars, and by making relevant literature known and available to members.**

In the past 3 years we have:

1. Collaborated with ENSEC to host our own Pre Conference day, encouraging members to attend, encourage colleagues to attend to learn more, and speak and network at the ENSC conference

2. developed a more dynamic website and encouraged National organizations to contribute on their own page within the site
3. placed articles on the website when provided
4. encouraged Facebook posting around trainings and other relevant news
5. These past few years, national organizations have had difficulties getting enough people to attend their conferences. This week there was discussion on proposing to not have national conferences per se, but a collaboration with PREPSEC International to open them up internationally, in hopes of greater attendance. There would be a schedule made, where each national organization would take a turn, giving them the time to plan, perhaps get funding from external resources and be helped by the PREPSEC International Conference Committee in the organization and marketing.

b. Contributing to the dissemination of the programs outside the organization.

ENSEC Conference, Budapest, August 29-31, 2019

c. Encouraging the validation of specific programs, program combinations, and implementation strategies.

We have been attempting to create research collaborations. Finnish ART Society has been diligent in their advocacy for ART and Family TIES throughout the country and have come to us to help with research collaboration.

In Norway, Johannes Finne is now a professor at the University of Stavanger. This will lead to possibilities for research and international collaboration.

In Poland, shortly there will be a full training of the PEACE-ART Curriculum for the juvenile justice system in the Law Dept. of the University of Wroclaw

d. Through exchange of experience and openness, contribute to the testing and improvement of existing programs.

AART has been spreading through Europe. SPT, through Knut Gundersen, Frode Svartdal and Johannes Finne (our board's treasurer), has been further researched in its effectiveness in whole school anti-bullying programs.

e. Encouraging evidence-based practice through inclusion of research supported developments, quality in delivery and prescriptive matching.

We were pleased to receive news of the publication of Bo Vallø Ertmann's "Strengthening Youth in Residential Areas: Development of Social Skills in 3 schools in the Municipality of Copenhagen, Denmark"

As well, Johannes Finne and Frode Svartdal have had 2 studies published in

- the International Journal of Emotional Education entitled "Social Perception Training: Improving Social Competence by reducing cognitive distortions"
- Nordic Studies in Education: Relational Rehabilitation: Reducing harmful effects of bullying

f. Contribute to the knowledge of program implementation, quality assurance, and description of what constitutes quality-based trainer education.

Quality Assurance Committee has been working over the past 3 years to further develop their document. A difficult task as they must consider the limitations of some countries and create reasonable minimum standards with realistic supervision standards. The Quality Assurance document was adopted by the Board, August 27,2019 and will be posted on the website.

Goals: items in bold are those that have not been discussed previously or are not pertinent at this time.

1. Research

- PREPSEC International has a library of relevant research available which is accessible on the PREPSEC International web site.
- Initiation of research cooperation pertaining to the different programs and program combinations represented by PREPSEC International, including implementation.

Please, during this conference, be aware of opportunities for research collaborations and refer them to our website so follow up can be done

- Development of assessment instruments to be employed by practitioners and researchers.
- Initiation of publications and presentation of research results.

It will be the responsibility of the research committee to respond to global issues and problems related to research.

2. Quality systems

- Establishment of quality systems which give recommendations about criteria for necessary competence for trainers and master trainers as well as criteria for effective implementation of the different programs and program combinations

3. Adaptations

- Development of program adaptations to specific age and target groups and strategies to integrate the programs into ordinary milieu therapy, residential, school wide programs, alternative education programs, correctional institutes, and mental health facilities.

4. Academic foundation

- Universities and university colleges have established academic training in PREPSEC International programs. The goal is to continue expanding in this direction.

5. Dissemination

- Several countries have implemented and established quality systems for PREPSEC International programs

6. Policy

- A country's introduction of evidence based methods for training of social competence is based on several coherent levels of decision-making. The goal is to make sure that governmental, regional, county/borough, and the actual organization are involved in this process.

In some countries, this has been in effect for many years. Newer initiatives to report on are

In Finland where the Finnish ART Society did just this in May, 2019, inviting 2 government officials to their annual conference, highlighting the need to involve families in the ART intervention plan.

In Poland there is a cooperative initiative with the Lower Silasia District court administration to train the PEACE Curriculum to all juvenile justice workers

Kim then began the Committee Reports:

Membership

National organizations: Unfortunately, many of our national groups are struggling for membership and participation. We are able to post information on our website, under their own tab and language, when and if we receive it. We encourage you to do this.

Individual members: We would hope that members would contact prepsec.org to post what they are doing, what they would like to know about, what else we could offer on the site. In Poland we were asked to provide new, more dynamic ways for members to share their experiences and ask questions. We have been trying to find a viable way to do this that is not too time consuming as our pool of volunteers is small...

We are making a change to the Fee Structure, to come into effect in January 2020, where there will now be 2 levels of membership:

- **The first level is free, where members may access the website only, for news from other countries and general information around the organization: Quality Assurance, our programs, our mission, etc.**
- **The second level will have a fee of 10 EUR/ year. Here there will be online access to videos (like all the presentations here today), articles, handouts and resource templates. There will also be discounts offered on future PREPSEC International conferences.**
- **A Review Committee will be created, prior to anything being posted on this part of the site, in order to maintain integrity of the programs.**

Another issue around membership has come forth over the past 18 months regarding protection of identity on the internet: known as the General Data Protection Regulation.

We quickly acted on this, sending out a letter to our individual members asking them to reply if they DID NOT want their name on our list. For national members, we already had left the distribution of information to their secretaries. As we send this annual report out to the general membership in the next few weeks, there will be link where they must reply that they WANT to be kept on the list and all other emails shall be struck within the next month.

Elections

4 positions come up for election in October of this year: those of Kim Parker, Kelli Parcher, Cecylia Biagnowska, and the interim position that Tiina Röning holds. They will each be for a 4 year term and our goal is to have representation from as large a variety of countries as possible. The Election Committee will send out information in early October, in order to receive nominations by the end of October. Voting shall take place online before the end of November, 2019 with a new board struck by the end of 2019. In 2021, the same process will occur for the 3 positions that Johannes Finne, Niels Hjelm Veirup, and Johan Björkehed hold.

For professional and personal reasons, I have decided not to rerun for election. However, I propose to the membership that a new position be made on the Executive Board, that of Past President. This will be a non-voting position and serve more as a role of mentor. This is very much in keeping with the model that our Quality Assurance follows. (not that I would every think that the bard is not qualified!) Knut has unofficially served this role over the past 3 years I have been president, of which I am forever grateful. I do, however, feel that this role should be more “Official”

For this to happen, there needs to be a change in statutes.

Financial:

As we plan for the future of our organization, we must anticipate that the treasurer’s country of residence will change. History has shown us that switching banks from country to country is costly as there are transfer and exchange rate fees. Research was done on the best bank to do this with and the DNB bank in Norway was chosen. Therefore, on November 6, 2017 a resolution was passed:

Resolution 171106-1: Once PREPSEC International receives NGO registration in Norway, The Danish bank accounts shall be transferred to the DNB bank in Norway. The treasurer will have signing and administrative power over this account. Unanimously approved.

This process has not proved as easy as we were originally lead to believe.

In the meantime, our account remains in Denmark under the watchful eye of the account holder and ex-treasurer, Bettina Hedegard Christensen, to whom we are grateful. This Pre Conference day left us without a profit , but also having no need to borrow from the PREPSEC account. We thank all the Board members and presenters at the preconference for financing their own trips, The PREPSEC bank balance as of today is 24,611.71 DKK

After much discussion this week, we would like to have our treasurer, Johannes Finne, open an account in Norway with a single signature, however, also create an Auditing Committee, consisting of the treasurer, and 2 general members from different countries, to oversee our finances.

As this is a financial decision, we are proposing the following resolution for a membership vote:

Proposal to Resolution: That the treasurer Johannes Finne, open an account in Norway with a single signature, however, also create an Auditing Committee, consisting of the treasurer, and 2 general members from different countries, to oversee our finances.

Resolution 20190828-01: Johannes Finne, as treasurer of PREPSEC International, open an account in Norway with a single signature, however, that the board also create an Auditing Committee, consisting of the treasurer, and 2 general members from different countries, to oversee our finances.

Operations:

Statutes: In order for PREPSEC International to register as a Non-Governmental Organization in Norway, the executive board felt that the original statutes should be reviewed and sent to the general membership for approval. This was done online in September 2017, resulting in 100% agreement from those that responded. The revised statutes have been adopted, posted on our website, translated into Norwegian and were deposited with our application.

Proposal to Resolution: That there be an amendment to Article 4.1 to read:

The executive board is the governing body of the PREPSEC International organization and comprises 7 voting members. The eighth position will be held by the past president as a non-voting position in order to provide a mentor for the history, mission and vision of the organisation.

Robert Calame makes motion, Shannon Burns seconds Unanimous

Resolution 20190828-02: Article 4.1 of the statutes has been amended to read: The executive board is the governing body of the PREPSEC International organization and comprises 7 voting members. The eighth position will be held by the past president as a non-voting position in order to provide a mentor for the history, mission and vision of the organisation

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO): As of April 4, 2018, PREPSEC International is registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities in Norway. Johannes Finne is our Norwegian representative. Many of you in Europe will know of this status as a “Legal Entity”, in other parts of the world it may also be called a “not-for-profit” or “Non-Governmental” organization. We hope, in the future, that this recognition will pique the interest of others to broaden PREPARE and PREPSECs expansion of opportunities.

Quality Assurance Committee:

Shannon Burns reports that the Quality Assurance Committee has worked extremely hard of the creation of a Quality Assurance and Implementation document. This document should be used as a tool to plan, implement and evaluate the programs

Communication:

In Poland you asked for:

- Marketing in other countries to promote our programs: many emails were sent out to encourage attendance at our Pre Conference day: new countries reached with one or more attendees: Portugal, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Turkey, Tel Aviv, Lebanon, Croatia, Isreal, Romania, Taiwan, Malta
- Different venues to meet/help/ support each other: a project for the near future:
 - webinars, peer supervision, “PREPARE café” where a Master Trainer/Mentor will be on-line at a planned time to accept questions and discuss.

Further requests/feedback from the members: none

Meeting adjourned: 17:45