

Standards Work Group Report
NWI Meeting held 7/15 & 16/08
Nashville, Tennessee

The Standards Work Group met as a part of the NWI meeting at the Institutes in Nashville. This report summarizes the discussion and concerns of the group and reports on the actions planned in the coming months as a result of this meeting.

Themes in the conversation:

- While developing standards is viewed as a priority for the group and the field there is significant work yet to be done to be sure we “know” enough to be able to do this well. Concerns include that there is little to no research to define specific standards and standards may negatively impact the creativity and flexibility that have been the hallmark of good wraparound programs. On the other hand without guidance on standards states are moving forward to develop their own and the NWI has much experience which should be used to guide these processes. The work to define the necessary conditions and supports for wraparound and work of a number of communities to develop standards can be used as initial guidelines
- Suggestions for enriching any product that will be developed included:
 - A workbook offering recommendations and guidance for communities to ensure that they have a good process as they make decisions related to Wraparound implementation
 - Assuring that the standards product not only reflect the themes in the CSWI but also demonstrate a tie that is consistent with the “Theory of Change” resources that have recently become available
 - Assuring that developed standards address different geographic and cultural realities found in implementing communities across the country (e.g., urban versus rural)
 - Consideration of the development of a “leveled” standards model to support and reward communities for moving toward (e.g., Bronze, silver, gold, and platinum) full implementation
 - Inclusion of an frequently asked questions section in the final product
 - Identification of ways a research agenda and products can support the develop of clear and effective standards
- There was a focus on completing the “Implementation Guide” that was planned at the Red Rocks meeting last year.
 - This is to be a product that provides the best guidance we can offer to communities around the fundamental requirements and cautions in wraparound development and implementation as we know them today
 - Expected to include lots of examples of effective implementation as well as examples of cautions
 - To be based in the six themes form the CSWI identifying a few fundamental requirements for each theme and listing concerns or cautions learned through experience

- Should function like a travelogue, assisting communities into and through critical decisions and emphasizing “our best guidance” about what it takes to effectively implement Wraparound
- Having explored the above themes in conversation the group refocused on developing a process to move the content that was developed around the six CSWI themes forward. The goal of the current work plan is to further develop the content for the “Fundamental Requirements” and the “Cautions” so that drafting of material can begin at the end of the next six months at the latest.

Standard Work Group Current Action Plan

Action Planned

- 1.) **To take the content developed by the six work groups following the Red Rocks meeting and further develop the content and consensus about the content using a “Delphi” process, similar to the process used to develop the “Phases and Activities” tool.**
 - a. The first step will be to translate the current draft of the fundamental requirement into a Delphi process format and get them out to the standards work group for review and revision
 - b. Subsequent reviews will be used as necessary to establish language and content that has a sufficient consensus quotient to move ahead
 - c. The next step will be to do the same with the current content for the Cautions
 - d. A sub group of the standards group will then recombine the results for distribution and input to the broader adviser group
 - e. The advisor group will contribute through the Delphi process, again, with a commitment to do enough rounds of review and revision that there is significant consensus on the content
 - f. Once this is complete it is expected that the content will be ready to be further developed into a first draft of the Implementation Guide.
 - g. There will need to be additional planning, at that point to identify appropriate examples for both the requirements and the cautions
 - h. A writing plan will need to be developed as well as a plan about how to resource the writing of this product.

By Whom

This work will be lead by the co-chairs, assisted by NWI “staff”, and completed, first by the Standards work group members and later by the entire advisor group.

By When

- The initial Delphi on the fundamental requirements will be submitted to NWI by 7/22 and out to standards members by 7/25
- The initial Delphi surveys will be completed by 8/8
- The revised fundamental requirements will be developed for a second survey by 8/22
- The second survey will be due by 9/12

- The revised fundamental requirements and initial cautions will be placed in a survey by 9/26
- The concerns will be edited into a new survey by 9/26
- The second concerns survey will be due 10/17
- The co-chairs will review the results and develop needed next steps by Halloween

2.) **To develop clarity about what priority add-ons or enhancements to the product will be.**

- a. Sharon Velasco Morrison will put together a list of proposed add-ons identified at this and other meetings
- b. Sharon has offered to lead the process of polling the work group for additional suggestions
- c. Sharon has offered to lead the process of soliciting work group input on prioritizing these so they can be further developed after the completion of the first action described in the action plan

By Whom

Sharon Velasco Morrison with input from the work group

By When

No specific time frame was set, but certainly by the time that the “Delphi process on the fundamental requirements and cautions is completed.

3.) **To assure that all relevant documents form the history of the workgroup are available to all work group members and other advisors**

- a. All previous notes from meetings, the summation done on what standards are in use, where, in the country, that was sorted by theme earlier in the year, and other documents will be organized and made available either by email, through the NWI website, or both

By Whom

Committee co-chairs with the able assistance of NWI resource people .

By When

Within the thirty days

4.) **To assure that all work group members can be in contact with each other**

- a. A contact list was updated at the meeting
- b. This list can be matched and sorted with the existing list to sort out repetition as well as any needed updates for contact information for work group members
- c. This will then be posted as an update to the work group list serve and membership lists on the NWI web site.

By Whom

Jim Rast offered to see if Dee or other VVDB staff could get this done and off to PSU for inclusion on the website

By When

Within 30 – 45 days, and before the Delphi process begins on the content for the themes in the Implementation Guide.