

ISWP Advocacy Working Group

April 30, 2015 Meeting Recap

The ISWP Advocacy Working Group met by conference call on Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time. This provides a recap. Participants' list appears at the end.

Link to Meeting Recording: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/p3xhc0theyf/>.

Next Meeting: June 2015 meeting date to be determined based on majority of WG's availability. Please click here ([link](#)) to participate in poll.

Action Items: (including due dates and responsibility)

1. By Friday, May 8, Working Group members to:

- a. Indicate which of two subgroups you would be interested in participating in and/or chairing: 1) Awareness; or 2) Policy Adoption. Or, nominate an individual.
- b. Provide Michael and Mary names/contact information for individuals in the following areas who could contribute to the subgroups. They do not need to be a Working Group or Advisory Board member:
 - i. Experts on other issues successfully advocated.
 - ii. Individuals from less-resourced countries with more experience in direct advocacy to their governments and who understand awareness needs.
 - iii. Thought leaders in assistive technologies.
 - iv. Faith-based leaders who have shown commitment to wheelchairs (what works for church congregations)

2. By Monday, May 11, Working Group members to respond to poll (link provided above) indicating availability for June WG call.

3. WG members identified these additional subgroup representatives. Person responsible for making contact or providing contact information is in bold/underline:

- a. WHO Essential Medicine: **Michael Allen** to contact Chapal.
- b. Representatives from Global Health Technologies Coalition: **Anthony Duttine** to provide contacts.



- c. AK Dube, CEO of Africa Disability Alliance. **Christine Cornick** to provide contact information and/or make introduction.
 - d. Weh Yeoh, founder, WhyDev. **CJ Stanfill** to provide contact information.
4. **Michael** and **Mary** to add “appropriate” to wheelchair descriptions in goals/objectives document.

Discussion:

1. ***Working Group Goals/Objectives:*** Draft goals/objectives were developed following the March 23, 2015 WG call and conversations with several people in the wheelchair sector. Comments from WG members on call:
 - a. Jon Pearlman: Follow groups such as UCP Wheels in Indonesia and Motivation Romania to learn how they are impacting governmental policy change (related to Goal B).
 - b. Don Schoendorfer: Consider how ISWP will ask people/organizations to help fund programs. Meeting the 20-20-20 goal will be very expensive, so funding will be critical. There typically are four reasons to help: a) diplomatic (governments); b) humanitarian; c) cost savings to society; and d) spiritual, as part of a religious process. To embrace the goal, subgroup should identify hot buttons in each category to encourage donations. Put in terms people hear, understand and want to contribute to financially.

Consider making alliances with other organizations – Goal A, second objective – a goal by itself.
 - c. Anthony Duttine: Define success – what we are aiming for; e.g., to reach this financial goal or deliver this number of wheelchairs. Consider whether wheelchairs should stand alone or be part of a bigger picture; e.g., assistive technology, rehabilitation, global health. Each scenario would require a different message.
 - d. Mary Goldberg: Consider how ISWP fits into disaster relief and how advocacy priorities may need to change when there is a disaster.
 - e. Christine Cornick: Use CRPD to highlight that governments cannot meet the CRPD without addressing appropriate wheelchair provision. ISWP can educate donors and other agencies on APPROPRIATE wheelchairs. WHO Guidelines, which have been a benchmark, give a great framework to explain ISWP’s aims. Could be messaging and global best practices, which are part of Goal A.

2. **Subgroup Responsibilities and Meeting Frequency:** Much of the work moving forward will be completed by two subgroups tied to WG goals: Awareness and Policy Adoption. Each subgroup will include a chair and members – all volunteers. Subgroups would develop a work plan, outcomes, timelines and resources – financial and otherwise – required. ISWP staff will coordinate meetings/calls and prepare recaps. Future Working Group calls will be opportunity to hear reports from subgroups.

ISWP Advisory Board is reviewing a proposal to allocate some year one grant dollars to Working Group initiatives. There is \$200,000 set aside. Some of the four Working Groups may need more than \$50,000 in year one; others, less. ISWP plans to allocate additional funds for year two.

3. **Additional Subgroup Representatives:** Michael welcomes recommendations of additional representatives who could help balance a subgroup. They do not need to be a Working Group or Advisory Board member. Examples:
 - a. Experts on other issues successfully advocated.
 - b. Individuals from less-resourced countries with more experience in direct advocacy to their governments and who understand awareness needs.
 - c. WHO Essential Medicine (Michael to contact Chapal.)
 - d. Thought leaders in assistive technologies
 - e. Representatives from Global Health Technologies Coalition (Anthony to provide contacts.)
 - f. Faith-based leaders who have shown commitment to wheelchairs (what works for church congregations)

Specific contacts identified:

- AK Dube, CEO of Africa Disability Alliance (formerly Africa Decade) who also is a wheelchair user and has extensive experience working with governments. Christine Cornick to provide contact information.
 - Weh Yeoh, Cambodia, who started WhyDev. CJ Stanfill to provide contact information.
 - Shona from South Africa
4. **Nepal Earthquake Response:** ISWP is doing regular social media postings and encouraging donations to HI, which has a presence there. ISWP also will send a special e-mail emphasizing the importance of helping. Having an action plan in place will be a great help the next time a disaster occurs.

Participants (check mark indicates participation on call)

✓	Michael Allen, UCP Wheels, Chair
✓	Christine Cornick, Consultant
✓	Antony Duttine, Handicap International
	Ken Johns, Brunner
	Chris Lewis, American Wheelchair Mission
✓	Hisaichi Ohnabe, Niigata University
✓	Don Schoendorfer, Free Wheelchair Mission
✓	C. J. Stanfill, Handicap International
	Eric Wunderlich, LDS
	Miriam Zisook, Perkins School for the Blind
	Chapal Khasnabis, WHO
✓	Mary Goldberg, University of Pittsburgh
	Yohali Burrola Mendez, University of Pittsburgh
✓	Jon Pearlman, University of Pittsburgh
✓	Anand Mhatre, University of Pittsburgh
✓	Nancy Augustine, University of Pittsburgh

Prepared by:

Michael Allen, Mary Goldberg and Nancy Augustine