

ISWP Hybrid Course Subcommittee

August 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The ISWP Testing Subcommittee met by conference call on Tuesday, August 5, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time.

Link to Meeting Recording: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/p61c88ia11b/>

1. Attendance

Lee Kirby, Dalhousie University
Dave Calver, UCP Wheels
Eliana Ferretti, Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP)
Eric Wunderlich, LDS
Rob Mattingly, Motivation UK
Mary Goldberg, University of Pittsburgh
Rachel Gartz, University of Pittsburgh

2. Regrets

Tchai Xavier, Consultant
Xavier Lemire, HI
Yohali Burrola Mendez, University of Pittsburgh
Tamsin Langford, Motivation UK

3. Approval of Agenda: Done.

4. Approval of Minutes from July 7, 2015 Meeting: Done.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) Subcommittee membership: Yohali was welcomed to the Subcommittee in addition to her role as ISWP support. Mary Goldberg provided a description of her background and current activities.
- b) Committee name: On the basis of feedback from the Training Working Group, the Subcommittee name will remain as the “Hybrid Course” Subcommittee.
- c) Terms of Reference: On the basis of feedback from the Training Working Group, the Subcommittee’s “remit” is to focus on hybrid course development.

6. ISWP Update

Mary Goldberg gave an update on the ISWP’s progress and activities, including information from some of the other subcommittees of the Training Working Group.

- a) Hybrid Course: Regarding the draft Hybrid Course being developed in Pittsburgh, no progress has been made beyond the prototype of the first module. Activities are “on hold” pending the

Hybrid Course Subcommittee's feedback about direction and format. Preliminary feedback was provided (see item 7 below).

- b) Funding proposal: The Training Working Group has submitted a funding proposal to the Advisory Board for an in-person meeting in Budapest on September 8-9, 2015. Mary is currently adding to the proposal to identify deliverables for the meeting, since Tamsin is on vacation. Currently, it appears the Hybrid Course and Integration Subcommittees will be able to have break-out sessions although a time has yet to be set by ISWP staff.
- c) Integration Subcommittee: This Subcommittee sent out a survey this week to discover (1) where WSTP courses have been implemented in formal and informal settings, with a focus on the formal institutions; (2) the frequency with which these courses are offered; and (3) the quantity of the material (i.e. stand-alone course or part of another course).
- d) Testing Subcommittee: This Subcommittee is in the process of reviewing a draft rubric for an Intermediate Skills Assessment. The rubric was drafted after discussions in Washington, D.C. on July 1, 2015.

7. Feedback on Module #1 Prototype of the Pittsburgh Hybrid Course

- a) Lee and Rob both felt that the module was well-done and true to the WHO WSTP content. Both, however, voiced concerns about the bandwidth capabilities and other technical issues in less-resourced environments.
- b) Rob mentioned that some parts of the training materials would lend themselves better to this format than others that would need to remain in the in-person training. He specifically felt that wheelchair skills should be taught in-person.
- c) Rob asked if a cost-benefit analysis had been done of developing a hybrid course in comparison with persisting with the 5-day WHO model. Mary reported that a preliminary cost-benefit estimate has been completed and the results were positive for a hybrid course option to be available. It was clarified that the potential benefits were not only for the course participants but also for trainers (who are in short supply).
- d) Mary reported that the ISWP has looked into bandwidth capabilities of various regions and understands where an on-line course will and will not work. She also stated that any Hybrid Course knowledge materials could be distributed on a flash drive or other medium. Dave asked if internet connection consistency and reliability had been considered. Mary stated that this has not currently been considered, but will be marked for research by the ISWP.
- e) Eric asked if the Hybrid Course would only contain core knowledge content. He stated that it would be helpful to have some of the wheelchair service steps in the hybrid materials, as well. Lee and Mary were both open to the inclusion of other content, depending upon the circumstances. See also item 8d below.

8. Questions for Discussion

The Co-Chairs had agreed prior to this meeting that it might be helpful to pose some of the issues we have been discussing in the form of questions. These follow.

- a) Is there a need for a Hybrid Course (part self-study of knowledge content, part face-to-face practical training)? 100% of the group (6 people) agreed that any hybrid course would be a useful option to have available.
- b) Should there be a single standardized Hybrid Course developed by the Hybrid Course Subcommittee or might there be multiple versions? 100% of the group (6 people) agreed that any hybrid course should be modular rather than standardized. However, it was noted by Rob and Lee that a modular approach might have difficulties because the training would need to have consistent aspects since trainees are expected to pass the same test. Dave proposed that all WSTP materials be modular because each setting has unique needs. Mary proposed a possible survey at some time in the future to ask the community what additional materials they would want to have in a hybrid course. She also suggested a table of contents for trainers to easily direct participants to specific materials. The related question of whether a hybrid course developed by a third party (e.g. a university or NGO) would be an equally acceptable means of preparing to undergo the ISWP Tests was mentioned but a consensus was not reached.
- c) Who would be the target population of any course developed by the Hybrid Course Subcommittee? 100% of the group (6 people) agreed that the Hybrid Course Subcommittee should consider as its target audience both high- and low-resourced settings. In discussion, this was considered to include both professionals (e.g. therapists) and non-professionals (e.g. working for NGOs).
- d) Should the content of any course developed by the Hybrid Course Subcommittee stick strictly to the WHO WSTP material or should we begin to experiment with revised material and/or the balance of material? The group discussed including new information and changing the balance of the material, in response to emerging scientific evidence and experience in providing such courses. However, Rob warned against straying too far away from the WSTP materials if the training was to be considered based on the WHO materials. Eric suggested starting with the WHO materials and only revising the content as the group finds it relevant or helpful. Mary noted that the draft module is on an Adobe Captivate platform, and the source file is a PowerPoint (versus a pdf file) which can be edited easily. 100% of the group (5 people) agreed that it would be acceptable to cautiously experiment with revisions to WHO materials and to provide feedback to WHO to assist in the revision of the WHO materials.
- e) For the knowledge-content component of any course developed by the Hybrid Course Subcommittee, need it be on-line? This was addressed earlier in the meeting. There appeared to be a consensus that a variety of media (e.g. print, flash drive, DVD, on-line) might be appropriate depending upon the circumstances of the learners.
- f) For the self-study component, should it be high-tech or low-tech? As for section 8e above.

- g) What would the face-to-face practical skills-training component of any course developed by the Hybrid Course Subcommittee consist of? Although not one of the questions pre-distributed as part of the agenda, Lee asked that this question be added to ensure we include it in our future discussions. There was insufficient time to discuss this question.

Lee noted that the polls taken during the discussion and recorded above would be considered non-binding and only for the purposes of guiding future discussions.

9. Other Business

- a) Tchai and Yohali are sampling participants informally about the concept of a hybrid course at a WHO WSTP-Intermediate Course they are currently conducting in the Philippines. The participants are OTs and PTs.
- b) Lee asked that Subcommittee members reflect on the questions discussed at this meeting and be prepared to revisit them in the meetings to follow.
- c) Lee asked that Subcommittee members who had not already done so look at the outline and module 1 draft developed in Pittsburgh, and provide feedback to Mary.

10. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be in-person in Budapest, September 8-9, 2015. Eric, Rob and Eliana cannot attend in person. It is hoped that that meeting will be possible to attend remotely.

R. Lee Kirby, Co-Chair

Prepared by: Rachel Gartz, University of Pittsburgh