



ISWP Training Working Group Update – May 2020

Integration Subcommittee

- **Educators Package Development Group nominations:** Paula Rushton, PhD, University of Montreal and Integration Subcommittee chair, is devoting her upcoming sabbatical to the development of an educators' package. The package would be a guide to integrating wheelchair service provision education into professional rehabilitation academic programs and regional training centers. It would be designed for educators with or without experience across all settings. The materials would include an integration model and materials related to 5 states of integration (advocacy, planning, course development, first-time implementation and improvement). The materials will be web-based so that they can be updated easily and evolve over time.

As part of the package development, ISWP and Paula issued a call for nominations for a Development Group, which would be involved in the package creation. ISWP received 70 applications from the request for nominations which was sent on April 22. The Development Group will be comprised of technical experts, end users and experts in assessing evidence, representing a cross-section of professions and settings. Development Group members will be asked to contribute 36 days over 2 years, with more work in the first year than the second. Of the 70 applications, 4 were from low-resourced settings, 18 from upper- middle, 15 from lower-middle and 33 from high-resourced settings. Each applicant was evaluated using a matrix based on criteria including technical expertise, end-user, experience in assessing evidence, profession and setting. The planning meeting with the group is set to take place in the first week of June.

- **Academic Training Partners: Members** to recommend speakers for the next Academic Training Partners call. Individuals who submitted applications for the Educators' Package Development Group will be invited to join the Academic Training Partners. Currently working to schedule a June meeting with Mobility India.

Competency Subcommittee

- Members are reviewing the recommendations for the intermediate skills test takers before they start working on the skills test and also the communication explaining that trainees interested in submitting case studies (part 2 of the ISWP Wheelchair Service Provision Intermediate Test) who do not have access to clients due to the pandemic should hold on submitting case studies until they are working with clients again.



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Others

- **New additional WHO WSTP Online Modules:** With support from Latter-day Saint Charities and American Wheelchair Mission, we developed additional WHO WSTP online content. The new content uses Articulate's Storyline 360 and is hosted in Wheelchair International Network (WIN). ISWP is creating a training manual to accompany the modules. A goal is to conduct a study regarding the modules' effectiveness in increasing wheelchair service knowledge. The new contents are on WHO WSTP Basic Level and WHO WSTP Training of Trainers (Basic, Intermediate Level and Managers and Stakeholders). To gain access to the online modules, we request the following contribution from the partner:
 - Participate in 4 online academic training partners' meeting
 - Present on your academic training program
 - Contribute resources to SMART
 - Complete a snapshot

- **Webinar:** On April 15, ISWP hosted a webinar on 'Teaching Strategies & Available Resources for Wheelchair Service Provision Education' was held with presentations from the following:
 - ISWP Resources (Mary Goldberg)
 - Transitioning from a flipped classroom approach to 100% distance learning (Paula Rushton).
 - Pre-Professional Training Program for Wheelchair Seating (Barbara Crane)

45 attendees from 16 countries participated. A post-event survey along with links to the [Facilitating Online Learning Tips document](#), [recording of the webinar](#) and how to obtain CEU information were shared.

- **Dominican Republic Training Project:** ISWP received approval to start to work with the National Disability Council in the Dominican Republic (CONADIS) on wheelchair service provider training initiatives in the country. The request is a result of the October 2019 National Social Security Council (NSCC) Resolution to include manual wheelchairs, pressure relief cushions and special strollers in the health insurance scheme. The resolution mandates that CONADIS will authorize the wheelchair that will be delivered to the user. Due to the current travel restrictions, ISWP proposed to facilitate: 1) Hybrid WHO WSTP Basic training for 40 individuals; 2) Wheelchair Service Provider Certification for 40 individuals; and 3) Hybrid Training of Trainers at the Basic level for 12 people.
- **ISWP Wheelchair Service Provision Tests Update:** As of May 12, there have been 4,422 Basic test attempts from individuals in 96 countries. The pass rate is 65%. For the Intermediate knowledge test, there have been 589 test attempts from individuals in 23

countries -- 538 English and 51 Spanish test attempts. The pass rate for English test takers for the knowledge test was 56% and 33% for Spanish test takers. For the skills test in English, we received 57 case studies from 50 test takers (30 as a part of the skills test submission; 16 part of the intervention; and 11 part of the mentoring program). We are yet to receive a submission for the Spanish skills test.

- **Professional Standards Board (PSB):** The Professional Standards Board (PSB) met on January 15 and March 25 to discuss certification, recertification and special requests for certification fee waivers. Two vacancies on the Professional Standards Board were filled. Jeff Spohr, Employment Specialist for the Canadian provincial government employment agency, will represent wheelchair users. Sharmini Constantinescu, Executive Director, Diversability Development Organization (DDO), will represent the industry category.
- **Basic Wheelchair Service Provider Certification:** 69 individuals from 21 countries received the certification since the March 2019 launch; you can filter the certified providers through the map here: <https://wheelchairnetwork.org/map/>.

ISWP conducted a review of a **stackable certification**; e.g., creating a certification at the intermediate level to expand the market. Five organizations offer a stackable certification: ISPO, IAAP, RESNA, Ministry of Health (managed by Enable New Zealand) and GAATES. However, because the ISWP certification uptake has been slower than anticipated, Mary Goldberg suggests waiting until the first recertification wave is complete in October 2020, and there are 500 certified wheelchair service professionals.

Wheelchair Education Accreditation: There is a voluntary quality assurance process to assure students are making a solid choice, programs are being held to standards, and end-users are receiving the best service possible. ISWP reviewed ISPO, WCPT, WFOT and other groups which accredit programs in the AT field, as well as CAA-HEP (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs), which accredits three programs in the U.S., then mapped and identified common elements/requirements: Education committee, education standards, self-study requirements and materials; peer review process; site visit; report; result/decision, funding, and reaccreditation criteria.

It often is seen as a conflict of interest for an organization certifying individuals to set standards for training programs. For example, the ISWP certification requires that a trainee comes from a training program aligned with WHO training. Sometimes the conflict is handled by having an association management company handle, or a separate board provides oversight.

Certification Annual Report: The annual report, which covers certification and re-certification, was completed to meet a work plan requirement. The certification growth is slower than anticipated, which is not uncommon with starting a grassroots effort. ISWP is encouraged by opportunities brought to us by partners including the ISWP Forming Committee, University of Montreal, SESOBEL, Loh Medical, University of Manitoba and Mediterranean Seating Symposium. We anticipate the number of certified providers will double in the second year; the recertification process will be enlightening.

21st May 2020