



October 14th 2016

Dear WAIMH Affiliate President,

Welcome to the World Association for Infant Mental Health. You are now part of a worldwide association dedicated to the mental health and care of the world's infants. WAIMH is in essence, an umbrella body for its affiliates. The affiliates are the life blood of WAIMH. WAIMH has recently adopted a set of new bylaws, specifically aimed at strengthening the role and increasing the powers of affiliates by increasing their input to the Board of Directors (BoD) and the Executive Committee (EC) of WAIMH. This is an attempt to formalize what we believe is central to the future success of WAIMH – an increased role and voice for our affiliates.

According to the bylaws we have an organizational body called the Affiliate Council (AC). The Affiliate Council is comprised of the presidents of all WAIMH affiliates. The purpose of the Affiliates Council is to advise and guide the Executive Committee regarding the activities, needs, and opportunities of the regions served by WAIMH and its many affiliate, infant mental health associations. It shall attend to matters of scientific information exchange, education, and training with respect to clinical infant mental health throughout the world and it may suggest initiatives with respect to workshops, regional meetings, and other activities to be facilitated by WAIMH.

The Executive Committee has seven voting members, four of them elected by the members of WAIMH. Two members of the seven will be special representatives of affiliates: the Chair of the Affiliate Council (now Maree Foley from New Zealand) and another Affiliate Representative (now Anna Huber from Australia). This gives the affiliates a strong voice in the Executive Committee (EC).

The EC consists of the President of WAIMH, Kai von Klitzing; President-Elect, Campbell Paul; Secretary-Treasurer, Affiliate Council Representative Anna Huber; At large – members Astrid Berg and Hisako Watanabe, the Affiliate Council Chair; Maree Foley, the ex-officio members of the Executive Committee are Executive Director Palvi Kaukonen and Associate Executive Director Kaija Puura. The EC has the task of running the association and has full legal responsibility for decisions.

The EC is assisted by the Board of Directors (BoD) which is comprised of the members of the EC plus as ex-officio members: the Past-President, Miri Keren, the Executive Director Palvi Kaukonen, the Editor of Perspectives in Infant Mental Health (Formerly the Signal), Deborah Weatherston; the Editor of the Infant Mental Health Journal, Paul Spicer; the Chair of the WAIMH Congress Program Committee, Kaija Puura; and Special Advisor to the Board Hiram Fitzgerald. As is evident, some people have several functions in order to increase the effectiveness of WAIMH without adding additional costs (fewer meetings). The EC meets annually and the BoD biannually during the world congresses, but the EC and the BoD work continuously through email and online.



The affiliate pages of the WAIMH website will be developed into an active forum for affiliates and in time they will provide new possibilities for WAIMH to serve you. Even now you can send information to the WAIMH website about events you are organising. The WAIMH office will send the affiliates information on WAIMH world and regional congresses and, at times, special issues of the Perspectives in Infant Mental Health to be distributed to all your members.

Again, welcome! WAIMH is pleased to work with you and your affiliate members on behalf of the well-being of babies and families all over the world.

Warm regards,

Palvi Kaukonen
Executive Director
WAIMH

Maree Foley
Affiliate Council Chair
WAIMH

Anna Huber
Affiliate Representative
WAIMH