

Consortium of United States WAIMH Affiliates
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Submitted to the US WAIMH Affiliate States Representatives
By

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Background: The World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) is undergoing an organizational restructuring with the intention of increasing the role of all Affiliates of the organization. Currently Affiliates represent either entire countries or individual states within countries. The United States (US) currently has approximately 17 state-level Infant Mental Health WAIMH Affiliates.

Proposal: It is proposed that all US WAIMH Affiliate states both maintain their individual state WAIMH Affiliate status and in addition join together to form a *Consortium of US WAIMH Affiliates*. The purpose of the new Consortium is to provide a stronger voice for the US Affiliate states when represented in the WAIMH organization. In consideration of moving toward joining together in such a Consortium, we have proposed potential goals, objectives, rules of agreement, and action steps for consideration by all currently active US WAIMH Affiliates.

Proposal for organizational development:

Suggested name: Consortium of US WAIMH Affiliates (CUSWA)

Proposed Consortium Goals:

- Creation of a united and coordinated voice across US WAIMH Affiliates for decision making and recommendations to the WAIMH parent organization
- Coordination of Infant Mental Health resources among US Affiliates to benefit babies, families and the professionals who work with or in their behalf
- Creation of a more active and healthy Infant Mental Health community within the US
- Provision of consistent communication between the WAIMH parent organization and individual US Affiliates

Proposed Objectives: (reference: WAIMH objectives as stated in *The Signal*, July-September, 2008)

1. To present a united voice for the purpose of influencing and contributing to WAIMH policies and programs as well as those in the United States.
2. To identify issues of importance to the promotion of infant mental health for WAIMH deliberation
3. To develop a role in the governing structure of WAIMH
4. To contribute to WAIMH position statements on public policy issues

5. To collaborate in the development and implementation of a range of competency-based training and intervention approaches that promote infant mental health
6. To assure that research related to infancy and the promotion of infant mental health informs quality practice and that practice informs quality research

Proposed Rules of Agreement:

Representation: Each individual US WAIMH Affiliate will designate one person (from the Affiliate) to represent the respective Affiliate in the Consortium. The representative will have the authority to represent his or her Affiliate organization in Consortium activities.

Decision Making Process: Consortium decisions will be made by majority vote. Any US WAIMH Affiliate representative may present an issue, concern, idea, proposal for consideration and action by the Consortium. Information requiring a decision will be shared in advance in writing by e-mail with the designated representatives from each US WAIMH Affiliate, discussed and voted on to assure that each Affiliate has a voice in the process.

Leadership: The US WAIMH Affiliate representatives will elect a Chairperson at the first annual meeting (or before that if needed). The Chairperson will hold the position for 2 years. Potential responsibilities for the chairperson are to convene annual meetings of the Consortium; establish and enhance communication among Consortium Affiliate representatives; and to represent the US Consortium at the Affiliate Advisory Committee meeting at WAIMH International meetings.

Frequency of meetings: The Consortium will meet annually at either the ZERO TO THREE National Training Institute meeting OR at a meeting hosted by one of the US WAIMH Affiliates before/during/after their conference promoting infant mental health. The Affiliate representatives will make this decision regarding place of the annual meeting. On site or telephone conference call will be acceptable attendance at the meeting.

Fees: There will be no organizational fees for at least the first two years. Reconsideration of a fee assessment will be made in December of 2011.

Next Steps:

In order to accomplish the above goals and objectives, the following action steps are proposed.

1. Identify current contacts for each US state's WAIMH affiliate as possible and share the draft document with all related US Affiliate organizations (done, see below). **Accomplished**
2. Comment on, finalize and approve Consortium name, purpose, goals and rules of agreement by May 1, 2009. **Accomplished**
3. Select designated affiliate representative to WAIMH. **In process.**
4. To support better communication among US WAIMH affiliates, all Affiliate organizations will be asked to consider adding the following information to their websites: a list of and link to all US WAIMH affiliate websites. Information will include

- contact information for affiliate representatives. In process.
5. Request having a US WAIMH affiliate representative on the ZERO to THREE-NTI planning committee. To be accomplished by December 1, 2009.
 6. Schedule the first annual meeting of the Consortium to meet at the ZERO to THREE NTI in December, 2009. To be accomplished by September 1, 2009
 7. Explore strategies to increase WAIMH affiliate perspectives (including the Consortium of US WAIMH Affiliates) in planning WAIMH Congresses. In process.