



WomenSport
International

**TASK FORCE on DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORT**

Status Report

WSI Executive Board Meeting

13 June 2014

Helsinki, Finland

Update in Brief

- ICSD officially endorsed the work of WSI TF DHH
- Serves as liaison between ICSD and IWG organizing committee
- Actively assists ICSD new CEO, Dmitry Rebrov and President, Dr. Valery Rukheldev in preparations and communications related to IWG partnership, exhibit and Brighton Declaration Endorsement Event at 6th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport in Helsinki, Finland
- Assisted IWG in securing UN Human Rights Prize Award Honoree, Helsinki native, Dr. Liisa Kauppinen for ICSD Brighton Declaration Endorsement Ceremony
- ICSD paid registration fees for 6th IWG WCWS for three Task Force members
- Two presentations scheduled for 6th IWG WCWS (“Breaking Barriers and Opening Doors for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Girls and Women in Sport”)
- Secured 2 sign language interpreters for TF members attending the 6th IWG WCWS
- Survey developed and distributed to 104 National Deaf Sport Federation members of ICSD 5th March 2014 in three different formats in two languages (English/International Signs)
- Preparation of Survey results and Task Force’s final report with recommendations in progress – target date of completion, December 2014
- Ongoing advocacy, support, and networking in raising awareness and promoting inclusion and equality in both mainstream and deaf/disability organizations

International Committee on Sports for the Deaf (ICSD)

Task Force co-chairs Drs. Ammons and Clark have worked closely with IWG and ICSD in the past few months on a regular basis in handling all required and requested administrative tasks related to IWG partnership, exhibit and ongoing communications (written and sign language) in addition to planning for ICSD Brighton Declaration Endorsement Ceremony.

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ICSD continued . . .

IWG announcement of ICSD as partner: <http://www.iwg-gti.org/conference-program/conference-news/icsd-to-serve-as-partner/>

The IWG organizing committee has been outstanding in working with us. We are pleased to announce that IWG scheduled the ICSD Brighton Declaration Endorsement Ceremony during the conference's opening press conference on Thursday, 12 June, 13:00-13:45

ICSD officially endorsed WSI TF DHH and its work. President Rukheldev sent a letter of support of to all 104 national deaf sports federations.

ICSD reports it will create a sub-committee on women and sport.

Survey

A short 11 item demographic survey to assess participation and leadership opportunities for girls and women in national deaf sports federation was developed and distributed by TF members on 5 March in three different formats (Online via Survey Monkey and Email in written English and in International Signs via Video) to 104 member nations of ICSD. As of 5 June, 28 responses were received (27% response rate). WSI TF DHH received official endorsement of this survey from ICSD President, Dr. Valery Rukheldev. The data collected is rather disturbing. A report detailing results is forthcoming.

6th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport

Dr. Clark, Dr. Johanna Mesch and Dawn Jani Birley will represent the WSI TF DHH in Helsinki. Dr. Clark and Ms. Birley will co-present "Breaking barriers and opening doors for deaf and hard of hearing girls and women in sport" in two parallel sessions: "Million Dollar Stories and Practices" on 13 June, 10:30-12:00 and "WSI on Change and Inclusion for Girls and Women in Sport" on 14 June, 11:00-12:30 pm.

IWG conference organizing committee and WSI reported they did not have a budget to provide sign language interpreters. Fortunately for us, Ms. Birley (deaf) resides in Helsinki and put in a request through Finnish government for reasonable accommodations and two Finnish sign language interpreters were secured for the task force members (Ms. Birley and Dr. Mesch are fluent in Finnish Sign Language). They will provide translation in American Sign Language as needed for Dr. Clark.

It is highly recommended that IWG and WSI create a budget (and policy/procedures) for reasonable accommodations/accessibility for participants with disabilities at future conferences.


WSI TF DHH was instrumental in assisting IWG in securing Dr. Liisa Kauppinen, recent UN Human Rights Prize Award Honoree, attendance at the ICSD Brighton Declaration Endorsement Ceremony.

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Summary

WSI TF DHH is on target to achieve all of its goals by end of 2014. Meanwhile, we continue to provide ongoing advocacy, support, and networking in raising awareness and promoting inclusion and equality in both mainstream and deaf/disability organizations. A final report and recommendations will be submitted to the WSI Executive Board by 31 December, 2014.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Clark, PhD, LCSW-R, CCAAB". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Becky Clark, Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donalda Ammons". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Donalda Ammons, Co-Chair