

# **MEETING SUMMARY**

## **Special Olympics Family Strategy Summit: New Directions for Family Programming**

Vancouver, BC  
Canada

March 5-March 7, 2011

### **Global Family Leader Attendees**

**Africa:** Zipporah Mulinge

**Asia-Pacific:** Kyaw Htut, May Fazura Penigran

**East Asia:** Lee Fu-Shun, Henrietta Siu, Lo Choi Wa,

**Europe-Eurasia:** Ana Petrovska, Pino (Giuseppe) Montemurri

**North America:** Sydney Fox

### **Regional, Program and SOI Staff Attendees**

**Asia-Pacific:** Simon Koh

**East Asia:** Daisy Cao, Tracy Li

**Europe-Eurasia:** Marian Murphy

**Middle East/North Africa:** Nibal Fetouni

**North America:** Christine Hoyles

**SOI:** Dave Lenox, Barbara Warman, Ron Vederman

**Vancouver, British Columbia:** Karley Ferner, Lois McNary

### **Planned Summit Outcome:**

*Participants will work collaboratively to draft 1 Year Regional Action Plans to achieve Strategic Plan goals for families and young athletes. By the end of the Summit, participants will be clear about the actions and outcomes that Global Family Leaders, Programs, Regions and Headquarters will be accountable for in the next three months and by the end of the year.*

## Key Presentations and Discussions:

1. Zipporah Mulinge, Henrietta Siu, Ana Petrovska and Nibal Fetouni (for Amina Msefer, GFL from Morocco) provided the group with information about what Global Family Leaders from the 2009-2011 class have worked on, what outcomes have been achieved, key challenges in their Regions and their recommendations for the next class of Global Family Leaders.
2. SOI staff presented an overview of the final Strategic Plan and SOI proposed actions for consideration and discussion with the group.
3. Throughout the Summit meeting, all attendees contributed to identifying strategies that have worked well to engage families, challenges that must be addressed for the Strategic Plan goals to be achieved and feedback on the SOI proposed actions.
4. Small groups including family members and staff from the same Region worked on drafting Regional Action Plans, including new strategies for expanding families' engagement at home, in Special Olympic Programs and in the community.
5. Each Region represented at the Summit presented their proposed next steps with Athlete Leaders and all participated in follow up discussions with the group.

### Worldwide Challenges to Address

*Stigma prevents families from reaching out for help and communities to proactively address the needs of those with intellectual disabilities (from early intervention throughout their lives).*

*Early intervention is limited due to public policies about assessing, diagnosing and providing services for children. In addition the stigma of having a child with disabilities, family denial and lack of information about red flags in early development prevents families of young children from reaching out for help and/or demanding services.*

*Populations not in school (e.g. young children, children with disabilities not allowed in schools and adults) do not benefit from SO Programs that focus on linkages with schools and we fall short of the goal to serve all individuals with intellectual disabilities.*

*SO is not typically involved in supporting families (parents and siblings) in future planning or advocating for public policies that support aging athletes in being cared for and included in the community (not institutionalized).*

*Budgets and tracking systems do not reflect the value of family programming/engagement as the priority is usually sports.*

*Access and use of electronic communication systems is limited for some families.*

*A paradigm shift within the organization and community is needed to fully engage families (including fathers and siblings) in diverse roles within SO and empower families to be leaders and community builders.*

## **Family Engagement and Young Athletes Program Successes**

### *Outreach*

- Government funding supports GFL work
- Outreach to families unaware of SO through radio, other media, churches
- Exposure to success of participating athletes helps families who are in denial or hiding their children/athlete due to stigma to join
- SO Connect with youth engagement activities
- Medfest

### *Family Support Network*

- Family Forums at Regional meetings and Games address diverse topics (health, diet, financial planning, disability laws, special education systems)
- Electronic networking (some having greater success than others)
- Family newsletters distributed electronically
- Family Support Network run by family leaders (network guides should be simplified to make the process easier)

### *Family Engagement in Programs*

- Recruit volunteers for sports, escorts, planning activities, stress management
- Family recognition and festivities help motivate volunteers
- Sporting Clubs formed through outreach and immediate election of family leaders to run the clubs
- Family contingency at World Games unifies the group
- Government funding

### *Family Leadership*

- Regional and national teams of family leaders exist in some Regions
- Development of Regional Family Advisory Councils/Groups underway in several Regions
- Families mentor ALPs (prefer not to have parent mentor own child)

### *Young Athletes*

- Healthy Athletes screenings for Young Athletes includes community members, not just registered children
- Mattel grants fund YAP and Mattel corporate volunteers support programs
- Young Athlete Programs are in high demand once families learn about them
- Partnering with special schools to provide YAP for children identified with special needs
- Schools and community settings offer inclusive YAP
- Athletes coach Young Athletes
- Siblings can participate in YAP at home or in community settings
- Young Athletes offered additional sports skill development opportunities in some Regions

### **Summary of Global Family Leaders Recommended Roles**

1. Identify and share “Best Practices” and establish connections by traveling throughout the Region to other Programs.
2. Educate families, the public and policy makers about the importance of early intervention, inclusive opportunities and Young Athlete and SO programs.
3. Participate in Regional meetings and advisory/planning groups including ALPs, Global Family Messengers and SO staff to finalize and implement Regional Action Plans.
4. Participate in planning and implementing Regional Family Forums.
5. Participate in electronic networking with current and past GFL, to begin with an e-mail network (potentially expand to other social media formats).
6. Establish or maintain electronic networking with family leaders in the Region.
7. Assist SOI in the development of family leadership models applicable at the global, regional, program and sub-program levels.
8. Develop strategies for engaging fathers and siblings.
9. Provide family leadership at the World Games.
10. Develop incentives and rewards for family engagement.
11. Provide SOI with feedback on resource development (e.g. Community Builder Toolkit, e-Library resource, family training curriculum).
12. Provide SOI with feedback on the development of global standards for family recruitment, registration and engagement at all levels.
13. Revise Global Family Leaders Declaration to the World.

## Global Action Plan (2011-2015)

**Objective 1:** Recruit and train family members to be engaged in diverse roles as Special Olympics leaders and Community Builders.

**Objective 2:** Expand opportunities for young athletes, their siblings and families to participate in and benefit from Young Athletes Programs.

**Objective 3:** Empower families to be champions for inclusion and equal access throughout their communities, especially with influential leaders and organizations.

**Objective 4:** Motivate family members to champion healthy lifestyle choices and support athletes in achieving improved health and well-being, as well as sports skill development.

<b>Strategy (2011-2015)</b> <b>I. Resource Development</b>	<b>SOI Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>	<b>Region Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>	<b>Global Family Leader Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>
<p><b>User Friendly Toolkits</b> (e.g. checklists of family roles, family training modules, staff orientation to family engagement, simplified and culturally sensitive FSN materials, early intervention tips)</p> <p><b>E-Library</b> (e.g. Best Practices, Research findings, one-page Fact Sheets, links to NGOs, Young Athlete partners)</p> <p><b>Establish Partnerships</b> (e.g. NGOs, government agencies, higher education institutions, family organizations)</p>	<p>Develop “Master” Toolkit and Templates with input and feedback from Regional staff, GFL, programs (1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT Table of Contents**)</p> <p>Develop e-Library format for Best Practices and Research exchange**</p> <p>Facilitate Global Partnerships and Research projects**</p>	<p>Provide input &amp; feedback on tool development**; use and adapt “Master” toolkit</p> <p>Identify “Best Practices” to include in e-Library &amp; share resources**</p> <p>Facilitate Regional and National Partnerships**</p>	<p>Provide input &amp; feedback on tool development**; use and adapt “Master” toolkit</p> <p>Identify/share “Best Practices” in Program visits, Regional meetings, social networking**</p> <p>Coordinate efforts with family organizations**</p>

<b>Strategy (2011-2015)</b> <b>II. Expanded Family Support</b>	<b>SOI Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>	<b>Region Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>	<b>Global Family Leader Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>
<p><b>Online communities</b> for families by role and/or interests</p> <p><b>Support Family role in creating healthy living and home training environments</b></p> <p><b>FSN activities designed for fathers, siblings and other family members,</b> as well as mothers with incentives and rewards for participating</p> <p><b>Expand Young Athletes Programs and link parents</b> to appropriate resources and community programs</p>	<p>Develop Global online community options for families with diverse roles and interests</p> <p>President’s Council on Physical Fitness Tool revised for family engagement**</p> <p>Toolkits target all family members’ involvement and identify effective incentives (1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT**)</p> <p>Develop Young Athlete Expansion Model with global advisory group(1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT **)</p> <p>Provide Mattel Grants to Regions*</p> <p>Global partnerships with early childhood organizations**</p>	<p>Regional Family News distributed electronically &amp; social networking developed*</p> <p>Develop home training programs with health component**</p> <p>Regional FSN Meetings target fathers, siblings and provide recognition**</p> <p>Conduct YAP Demonstrations at Regional meetings**</p> <p>Support Programs with Mattel Grant YAP proposals and implementation*</p> <p>Negotiate for local manufacture of equipment and regional/national partnerships**</p>	<p>Participate/lead GFL and Regional social networking*</p> <p>Provide Regional leadership for Family Health Forums**</p> <p>Provide regional leadership for expansion of FSN activities*</p> <p>Conduct outreach to young families and community using media, speaking opportunities, networking with other family organizations, and FSN volunteers**</p>

<b>Strategy (2011-2015)</b> <b>III. Leadership Development</b>	<b>SOI Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>	<b>Region Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>	<b>Global Family Leader Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>
<p><b>Family Leadership training</b> for key SO roles (e.g. Board member, Input Council Member, SO Spokesperson) targeting family leaders and SO staff</p> <p><b>Family leadership networks</b> at all levels (global, regional, national, local)</p> <p><b>Learning/networking opportunities</b> for family leaders</p> <p><b>Call to Action</b> for Family Engagement</p>	<p>Incorporate training modules in Toolkits and provide TOTS to Regions</p> <p>Develop templates for all networks and pathway for advancement**</p> <p>Provide Webinars and Family Leadership Summits (World Games Summit *)</p> <p>Develop campaign to engage families at all levels and Kick-off event at World Games 2011*</p>	<p>Participate in field testing &amp; ongoing training of Program staff and families</p> <p>Develop Regional family leadership networks*</p> <p>Regional Meetings &amp; Games include family leadership development **</p> <p>Publicize campaign and recruit family engagement**</p>	<p>Provide input &amp; feedback on tool development*</p> <p>Actively engage in Global Family Network and Regional Family Networks*</p> <p>Provide feedback and input &amp; participate in leadership development*</p> <p>Act as spokespersons for the Campaign and help lead Kick-off event at the World Games*</p>

<b>Strategy (2011-2015)</b> <b>IV. Global Standards</b>	<b>SOI Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>	<b>Region Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>	<b>Global Family Leader Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b> <i>* by June 2011</i> <i>**by December 2011</i>
<p><b>Movement-wide principles</b> of family engagement</p> <p><b>Program standards and procedures</b> promote full family engagement (at home, in SO programs, in community)</p> <p><b>Budget and staffing</b> to support plan outcomes</p> <p><b>Tracking systems</b> to support quality programming and accountability</p>	<p>Develop new principles</p> <p>Develop new global standards with community input in process</p> <p>Assign staff to lead and manage Families programming and develop family budget (Barbara Warman hired 2/14/11)*</p> <p>Develop new systems for documenting and tracking family engagement</p>	<p>Provide input and feedback on the development of new principles **</p> <p>Provide input and feedback on the development of program standards**</p> <p>Assign one staff member in each Region to lead and manage Families programs and develop family budget*</p> <p>Provide training and guidance to Programs to ensure consistency</p>	<p>Review and revise GFL Declaration to the World**</p> <p>Provide input and feedback on the development of new principles and global standards**</p> <p>Collaborate with assigned staff and provide input and feedback on family program budgets.</p>



## **Meeting Conclusion**

At the end of the meeting, participants were asked to evaluate the meeting. Overall the feedback was very positive. Participants indicated the majority of meeting objectives were met, including learning about the Global Family Leaders experience; sharing regional successes and challenges; and identifying next steps to achieving family programming outcomes outlined in the Strategic Plan. Participants indicated that presentations by the Global Family Leaders were especially helpful, as was the opportunity to have Global Family Leaders, Regional Staff and SOI staff meet and plan together. Participants noted they made progress on the Regional DRAFT plans, but more work was needed to finalize all plan components.

Regional Staff were asked to discuss the DRAFT plans with their Managing Directors and then submit their plans to SOI. Global Family Leaders were briefed on the schedule of the Global Family Leader Summit at the World Games in Athens to be held June 25-July 4 and asked to come prepared to work on the action plan for the period 2012-2015.

All those present agreed to maintain contact through electronic means. Barbara Warman is responsible for providing a summary of the meeting, the Global Action Plan and details of the Global Family Leader Summit at the World Games.