

Membership comments on Purpose and Goals Statements for Quality Circle

As a result of the work done at our Organizational Retreat in August, a brave committee took on crafting our Purpose and Goal Statements. In mid October, their draft was sent to membership for 2 weeks of comment and we committed to posting those comments on our website. At the following Leadership Circle meeting, those in attendance worked with the original committee draft and the comments and adopted the Quality Circle Purpose and Goal Statements.

October 18, 2006

Original Draft from Committee

PURPOSE: Quality Circle is a professional organization for those who provide technical assistance in early care and education settings. The purpose of Quality Circle is to positively impact the lives of young children by creating and nurturing a diverse community of professionals who empower one another as they seek to educate and advocate for best practice.

GOALS:

1. To educate ourselves and others about our work and the issues of quality improvement
2. To advocate for the needs of young children, teachers and directors and for technical assistant professionals
3. To communicate with and support each other in our common TA efforts
4. To articulate the important issues and create a safe space for dialogue

Comments

1. I am really excited about the work you guys have been doing and am so sorry I haven't been able to be a part. I finally felt I could take a minute to read the Purpose Statement and Goals and wanted to just give you my thoughts. Realizing I haven't heard the conversations that led to these statements, I may be way off base. The first sentence, "Quality Circle is a professional organization for those who provide technical assistance in early care and education settings", was a little bit of a concern. If I were someone who worked at a community college, or four-year college for that matter, in a teaching capacity and didn't know the background of this project, I would think I would not be included in the target population to join this organization since we are not always involved directly with early childhood settings. It would seem that faculty at the community college level would be a group that would need to be a part. Like I said, I may be way off base.

Hi again. I had a thought that perhaps the word "training" could be added to say "..... for those who provide training and technical assistance in early care and education settings."

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2. This looks great! Very exciting... Let me know how I can help & spread the word to Smart Start TA providers...
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3. WOW this is good!!!!!! You must feel like you are birthing a baby.

4. I just wanted you to know that I am most appreciative of the work and thoughtfulness that went into developing this Purpose Statement and the Goals. We started this at the August meeting, and it was a "real work" meeting. There was a lot of discussion and I am delighted to see it come together this way. I really like the Purpose Statement because in two short sentences it states who we are and what we do, not just what we will do. We are professionals and a diverse group of Technical Assistance Providers in early care and education, and that leaves the door open for a variety of players to join, share their talents, information and an opportunity for us to agree upon what we mean when we use the words "quality" and "best practices," and work towards that goal in various ways. So, I too, just want to say thank you to the work groups that finished this up.

5. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I think the committee did a wonderful job of articulating the purpose of the organization as I see it. The result of developing a purpose statement looks so easy, but the work of getting there is so hard, so I especially appreciate the time and energy you put into it.

I appreciate the fact that our role as technical assistance providers was captured as well as our strong need to come together as a diverse community of professionals. I worry that without the distinction of being technical assistance providers our purpose becomes indistinguishable from that of NAEYC.

I deeply appreciate how the term "professionals" vs. "providers" is used throughout this statement. That alone helps to instill confidence in participants. Thanks to the subcommittee for working so diligently on this task!

6. I am so glad we are an organization that can agree to disagree, yet continue to work together with respect and kindness.

7. Hey. I am but one voice but as for the purpose statement I thought we wanted to stay away from "cliché" words. I am in favor of the Purpose Statement that read:

The purpose of Quality Circle is to positively impact the lives of young children by creating and nurturing a diverse community of professionals who empower one another and who speak with a unified voice to educate and advocate for best practice in early care and education settings."

8. Thanks for all of the hard work on these. This looks like a good start for the organization.

9. This looks great. Since I have been at all of the meetings I know what we are doing and these statements depict it all. thanks for all of your work to get this out. See ya on the 18th.

10. It looks okay to me.

11. I think it looks great! Nice work!

12. I would add some additional information on advocacy efforts - not sure exactly what those should be - but maybe more specific strategies like NCPC's Keep the Promise day or things along that nature. I think advocacy is much-overlooked. **Add to Goals**

I love the idea of having tracks at conferences related to TA –

13. I think it looks like a great organization to be a part of. Clear, concise vision and goals.
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14. Congratulations on an INCREDIBLE job! And thank you to all of those that worked so hard to produce this awesome content!

I particularly like the part in the Purpose Statement that says "... creating and nurturing a diverse community of professionals..." because professionals need nurturing too! My only suggestion would be to consider adding "... positively impact the lives of young children and *families* by creating..." Okay... one more bit of wordsmithing then I'll stop :). What's the current buzz on the phrase "best practice"? I personally am fine with it, but I've heard others debate if "*quality* practice or *effective* practice or *recommended* practice" better describes the intent. Just thought I'd toss that in!

The goals are excellent as well... I LOVE the part in goal IV that says "... create a safe space for dialogue" because I see that as a huge need. Piggybacking on my previous comment about adding families... if it is relevant, then in goal II consider adding "and families" after young children. I suppose families are not a primary focus but I do think they will be positively impacted in many indirect ways.

15. Okay... one last thing! If we ever do bumper stickers or t-shirts... here's a start for a slogan... "Quality Circle: Surrounding early childhood professionals with knowledge and support"

Thanks for allowing input. It feels good to be included in the Circle!
I am so proud of this work...

16. OK - here's my two bits.

First, I am very appreciative of everyone's contributions and the committee's challenge in trying to incorporate everyone's input into a brief statement.

I agree with Becky that it's important to identify the group for whom the association serves. We don't have a name that specifies the intended group - like National Education Association or American Dental Association.

While I agree that ultimately the members of QC want to impact the lives of young children positively, I don't think that is the purpose of QC. I think QC is being created to impact the lives of the TA providers! I think the real purpose of the group is to affect the professional community and advance the TA providers in their work as evident by the goals. When I look at the purpose statement of other professional associations (other than NAEYC), their mission/purpose statements reflect their focus on the professionals. For example, ASHA's mission statement reads, "...to promote the interest of and provide the highest quality fo servies for professionals in (speech/language field) and to advocate for people with communciation disabilities." ADA's purpose statement reads, "The ADA is the professional association of dentists committed to the public's oral health, ethics, science, and professional

advancement, leading a unified profession through initiatives in advocacy, education, research, and the development of standards." NEA - "Our mission is to advocate for education professionals and to unite our members..."

I tried to keep the language of the original purpose statement as much as possible. I think the term "settings" is too limiting - Webster's definition for "setting" 5) actual physical surroundings or scenery whether real or, as on a stage, artificial. I chose "environment" - 3) all the conditions, circumstances, and influences surrounding, and affecting the development of an organism or group of organisms.

17. I am concerned that our colleagues who work in public school settings and higher ed will be left out of this definition of our purpose. I think we should leave out the word technical assistance in the purpose statement because it narrows our scope. I also think we have to say "best practices" in what?