

ICF Global Board Meeting Update

The ICF Global Board of Directors met in Lexington, Kentucky, USA, from October 20–22, 2016. On the evening of October 20, the Board hosted a dinner and short program for the members of ICF Ohio Valley Chapter and ICF staff.

During the course of the meetings, the Board was joined by ICF legal counsel, Bob Weil; ICF investment manager, Jeff Schriefer; and various ICF staff. The Board also enjoyed a presentation from Scott Shapiro, chief innovation officer for the City of Lexington.

Strategic Discussions

- **Credentialing** - The Board discussed various options regarding the enhancement of the credentialing program. With a focus on potential changes to the MCC assessment process as well as renewal requirements for all credentials. The Board will continue these discussions at its December meeting.
- **Governance of ICF Credentialing and Accreditation Programs** - After careful research and analysis regarding accepted best practices of credentialing and accreditation bodies, the Board approved creation of governing councils for both programs. This action is important to ensure that both programs are operating in alignment with globally accepted standards for policy development, decision making and operations. Decisions made by these councils will benefit individuals seeking a credential as well as training providers seeking accreditation by adopting well-researched policies that are robust and credible and will raise standards for the profession. Subject-matter experts who demonstrate a set of identified competencies will be invited to serve on these councils. Plans are in place to have these councils begin operations in the first quarter of 2017.
- **ICF Foundation** – The Board reviewed the desired governance structure and relationship between the ICF Board of Directors and the ICF Foundation Board of Trustees. The Board determined that the current relationship between ICF and the Foundation (as a supporting organization of ICF) provides the necessary partnership and systems to ensure alignment and mutual support. The Board committed to financial support of the Foundation and its continued efforts to ignite social progress and fulfill Goal #5 of the ICF Strategic Plan.
- **Training for Volunteers** – Volunteer leaders are the lifeblood of ICF. It has become increasingly important to prepare them for their roles so they can perform their actions with greater knowledge and efficiency. The Board has adopted a plan to provide complimentary training to ICF volunteers who are willing to share their talent and time at the local, regional and global levels. This training will help ensure that volunteers are equipped with the tools and knowledge to meet leadership challenges in a fast-growing and evolving organization. Training will be delivered via ICF’s learning management system prior to leaders assuming their new roles.

Initially, the opportunity will be made available to Chapter Leaders, committee members and other volunteer leaders.

- **ICF Operational Structure** – The Board reviewed options for a revised operating framework that better serves our strategic initiatives and stakeholders. As ICF and the profession have grown and evolved, it has become necessary for ICF to adapt to ensure continued relevance and operational focus.

One example is the creation and funding of the Thought Leadership Institute, which will evaluate critical issues that may shape the future of coaching. Another example may be the expanded role of the ICF Foundation in achieving the vision of coaching becoming an integral part of thriving society by applying coaching to ignite social change.

The Board also discussed new ideas regarding outreach to businesses and organizations to help them build strong coaching cultures.

- **Data Protection and Privacy** - The Board was presented with information regarding the new European Union General Data Protection Regulation which is set to go into effect in 2018. This regulation will impact the way that ICF collects, stores and uses personal data. Of particular importance is the utilization of coaches' and clients' personal data in the credentialing process. New policies will be outlined in the coming months to ensure compliance with this initiative.
- **Strategic Plan Update Q2** – The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan Update from the second quarter of 2016. This update is available [here](#).