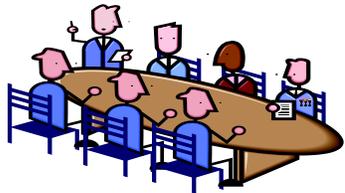


External Affairs & Policy Pillar

Committee & Activity Report June 2013

Committee Reports



External Affairs & Policy (EAP) Committee

Chair: Dr Anne Jeffers.

Objectives:

- improve the understanding of Psychiatry and Mental Health
- collaborate with key players in the mental health field
- advocate for improvements in the quality of mental healthcare throughout all sectors of society
- communicate effectively with members and the public

Next Meeting: September 2013

I. Submissions/Position papers completed or in development:

By the committee –

Submissions:

- General Adult and Social & Rehab submission on ICRUS
- General Adult submission and ECD submission on seclusion & restraint to MCH
- College submission to MHC on strategy

Position papers

Three position papers approved by Council to date:
ECT; Benzodiazepine Use; Relationship with Pharma.

In development or to be drafted:

- **Medical Leadership and Management**
- **Induction pack** for new Faculty & Committee chairs and members.
- **National governance of Counselling/ Psychotherapy**
- **Depression / antidepressants**
- **Cyberbullying TBD**
- **Suicide and self harm**

CPsychI Theme 2013 - Youth Mental Health

> Launched at the College AGM with a two hour academic session, including a talk from a patient's perspective. A document, The International Declaration on Youth Mental Health, was also launched.

> The topic for **Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition 2013** was 'Online or out of touch: mental health services for generation y.'

> **Men's Health Week 10 – 16 June:** 3 Opinion pieces were written by members and issued to national print media, tweeted and put on the College website. They will be emailed to all members and are currently on the website:

- [A little knowledge isn't a dangerous thing!](#) by Dr Mark Beirne
- [Suicide and Young People- the Irish Situation](#) by Dr Gary McDonald
- [Worth getting worked up about? What is happening with young men's mental health?](#) by Dr Paddy Power

A list of activities planned for the remainder of the year is available.

2. Suicide and Psychiatry Group It is proposed that a working group will be set up on this issue and that the aim is to produce a paper of use and possible material for the media and general public education.

Human Rights & Ethics Committee

Chair: Dr Pauline Twomey

Aims:

- To provide support and advice to the College and its members on the ethical dimension of patient care.
- To ensure there is an ethical input into College submissions, policy and position papers.
- To ensure members have an awareness and expertise in Human Rights legislation and its impact on mental health care.

Working on:

1. A paper for CPsychI members on **Confidentiality**
2. Review the **CPsychI charter on Human Rights for Patients** – aim for Council approval in September 2013
3. Proposal to draft Ethical Code for Psychiatrists
4. Involvement with PGT re training in ethics and human rights.

CPsychI / ICGP Forum on Mental Health

Objective: To improve communication and liaison between primary & secondary care in mental health with ultimate goal of improving care & service to service users. **2012 Joint Chair:** Dr Anne Jeffers (CPsychI) & Dr Bríd Hollywood (ICGP).

Next meeting: TBD

Law Committee

Chair: Dr Brendan Kelly

Aims: To provide psychiatric opinion on issues related to mental health and law and to contribute to development of better mental health law.

The main focus currently is on the review of the Mental Health Act but agenda will always include the proposed Capacity legislation and the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act.

Items of discussion for recommendation from the Expert Group reviewing the **Mental Health Act** are brought to the committee by Dr Brendan Kelly and discussed with recommendations brought back to the Expert Group.

The committee held a comprehensive emergency meeting on recent recommendations from the Expert Group specifically the expansion of professional roles in the involuntary detention process and comments were brought to attention of the Executive and the Expert group.

It has been announced that the heads of Bill for Capacity legislation will be published by the Dáil summer recess but doubt exists about that.

The group discussed medical implications in a **CSSO document in PTSD litigation risk report** and recommendation re a therapy not evidenced based. A letter was sent to the CSSO outlining concerns re same and offering assistance from the College.

Next meeting July 2013

REFOCUS CPSYCHI - Recovery Experience Forum of Carers & Users of the services

Aims: To engage actively in genuine partnership with the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland so that training, ongoing competence and day to day practice of Psychiatry, is informed and guided by those who have had experience of mental illness, or who have cared for those with mental illness.

Six successful meetings have taken place to date and two projects have been undertaken:

1. Family Members/ Carers' Involvement paper – Who Cares?

Launched at and presented in a workshop at the Spring Conference in Athlone and released to medical press.

2. **Recovery paper** – The paper is now drafted and being reviewed by faculties and Executive committee with the aim of

presenting a document for Council this month and approved by Council in September for launch at the winter conference.

3. The Forum will receive **presentations** from Dr Brendan Kelly on the Mental Health Act and history of Mental Health Services as well as from Dr Mary Clarke on DETECT and a project they would like input from REFOCUS on. Members will begin involvement with some training courses and faculties and committees.

Next Meeting: July 2013

External Organizations



SeeChange's major 2013 campaign: Green ribbon month, May 2013 - an awareness activity which they hope to repeat annually.

Campaign- Main elements

Mix of social media and other media to target all ages- will depend largely on Social Media platforms to generate awareness - budget is small, but 70 SeeChange partners fan base/ followers = almost 180, 000 people.

> **Use to educate public on Recovery** especially—e.g. on website, “A- Z of Recovery” Section, slogan idea- “Green light for Recovery”.

> **Media engagement / support** - Newstalk was official radio partner.

> **Events/ Activities** - with SeeChange partners from a variety of industries / sectors- E.g. Irish Sports Council, IBEC, Irish Farmers Association.

> **The College team** organized two events to mark Green ribbon month and we hope to members next year.

Mental Health Reform

They will continue their work though new found funding of a challenge grant from the Community Foundation of Ireland which will support continuance of their work until 2016. Funding from the One foundation and from Atlantic Philanthropies ceased in May this year.