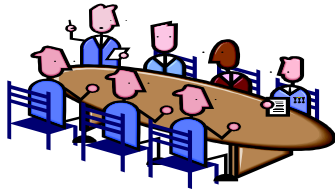


External Affairs & Policy Pillar

Committee & Activity Reports for Executive
11th August 2011

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.

Four meetings have taken place to date which have been well attended.

PEC (Public Education Committee) has been subsumed into EAP with 5 members of the former PEC now on EAP. The regular and current PEC projects will continue through the EAP.

1. **Debunking the myths about Psychiatry:** Phase 4: Survey (for medical professionals). Now ready for Executive review and then Council.
2. **World Mental Health Day:** Monday 10th October 2011: Alcohol and Mental Illness – series of lectures by members in Dublin and regionally. Possibility of collaborating with the ICGP and Alcohol Action Ireland.
3. **Four position papers** are in development – *ECT* (ready for Executive & Council approval), *Benzodiazepine Use*, *Depression / antidepressants* and *Relationship with Pharma*.

Next Meeting: 2.30 Thursday 9th September 2011

Clinical Advisory Group

Chair: Dr Anthony McCarthy. Membership is Faculty Chairs, ECD & CD chairs, External Affairs Director and Clinical lead for Mental Health.

Objective: To collaborate with and guide the Clinical Lead for Mental Health & corroborate with the HSE on this joint initiative to develop clinical guidelines over the next 5 years.

Two meetings have taken place to date both discussing details to be finalised in terms of funding, responsibilities, aims of the programmes and so on. Dr Ian Daly has provided a report on the overall aims of the programmes and on the work of three working groups developing programmes for Eating Disorders, Psychosis and Suicide.

Next Meeting: September 2011 (date TBD)

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. **Joint Chair:** Dr Vincent Russell (CPsychI) & Dr Martina Kelly (ICGP). 12 members – 6 from each College.

Three sub groups and joint further projects:-

1. **Depression subgroup** – 2 page document on Depression & Care is complete. Needs launching to both CPsychI & ICGP membership.
2. **Mental Health Act subgroup** – completed 2 page document on form filling. Hoping to meet Minister Lynch in September and put the amendments discussion on the agenda.
3. **Physical Health Group** – research project ongoing. Will focus on weight gain and smoking cessation products as next Forum project.
4. **Antidepressant (over) prescribing** - document and other initiatives to tackle the issue being discussed & developed.
5. **OTC medication:** Protocol on OTC medication. Further discussion and first draft of paper to take place.
6. **Joint ICGP / CPsychI conference 2012.** Agreed to jointly run an educational event for GPs and Psychiatrists in February 2012. Venue likely to be in Athlone. Further discussion on content, programme duration, timing, date, pricing etc.

Next Meeting: 1.30, Tuesday 28th September (TBC)

Human Rights, Ethics & Law Committee

Objective: to update the College and its members of developments in human rights, ethics and legal matters & initiate workgroups as and when necessary to work on submission papers or appropriate action needed from the College.

Members: Prof Harry Kennedy (Chair), Dr John Tobin, Dr Pauline Twomey and Dr Keith Holmes.

Current items:

1. **Mental Health Act 2001 Amendments:**

Minister of State, Kathleen Lynch TD has started the process for review of the Act.

A steering group has been established (DoH, MHC & HSE) and a presentation on the legal and societal implications of the Act was given by Minister Lynch, Dr. Mary Donnelly, University College Cork, as well as service user advocates from the Irish Advocacy Network (IAN) on 20th July to the Oireachtas Cross Party Group on Mental Health. Dr H Kennedy & A. Ryder attended the briefing.

The Minister also plans to hold a public consultation process in September. Prior to that event the College (and other organisations) have been invited from by the DoH to submit views on the nature and type of questions to be asked as part of the public consultation process by **12th August**. Dr A Jeffers and Prof H Kennedy have begun preparing for this.

Submissions will also be invited from organisations and stake holders after the public consultation process.

College sub work groups assessing each part of the Act are in place. Drafts on suggestions are due or have been submitted. Plan to hold a discussion group while drafting a full submission – now pending Minister Lynch's process.

2. **Proposed Capacity & Guardianship legislation**

The College received an invitation from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice Defence and Equality to submit written suggestions on the content of the legislation by **19th August 2011**. The previous College preliminary submission needs to be reviewed by the sub group who drafted it and drafted in the format requested with this invitation.

Other Activity



Electronic Newsletter for Members

The open rate continues to be above average (great 60%) except for the July edition on the NCHD crisis (47%). The lower figure for July is due to the holiday period and it had not been resent to those who had not opened it on the first emailing. See below:

	2011 Emails Delivered	April	May	June	NCHD Crisis July
		circa 740	circa 740	circa 740	circa 740
Bounced		13 (1.16%)	10 (0.86%)	10 (0.88%)	4 (0.53%)
		463	444	457	346
Who Opened		(63.34%)	(60.16%)	(61.76%)	(46.57%)
Who Clicked an article		315 (43.09%)	303 (41.06%)	283 (38.24%)	28 (3.77%)

Top 20 articles by content popularity (articles clicked) since April 2011

	Total Who Clicked
1. Message from the President - May 2011 Issue 2	167
2. PCS Updates & Reminders - June 2011 Issue 3	113
3. CPsychI Meeting with MHC - April 2011 First ebulletin	110
4. Dr A McCarthy NCHD Recruitment ebulletin May 2011.pdf - May 2011 Issue 2	109
5. Professional Competence Scheme - FAQs - April 2011 First ebulletin	106
6. Clinical Care Programmes - June 2011 Issue 3	103
7. Updates for Members - June 2011 Issue 3	100
8. Message from the President - April 2011 First ebulletin	99
9. Other PGT Updates - April 2011 First ebulletin	81
10. Dermot Walsh Prize - April 2011 First ebulletin	79
11. Dr Brian O'Shea introduces his Textbook of Psychological Medicine - June 2011 Issue 3	76
12. Blueprint BST Manual - April 2011 First ebulletin	70
13. Medical Council Approves CPsychI for Professional Competence Scheme - April 2011 First ebulletin	69
14. Members News - May 2011 Issue 2	64
15. Clinical Audit Competition 2010/2011 - May 2011 Issue 2	62
16. http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie/news_activities/recent_events/11-04-21/Spring_Conference_2011_-_Kildare.aspx - May 2011 Issue 2	62
17. Professional Competence Scheme - May 2011 Issue 2	60
18. Spring Conference 2011 - April 2011 First ebulletin	59
19. Cover Page - April 2011 First ebulletin	57
20. Blueprint for Training - May 2011 Issue 2	52

Next bulletin will be issued in August 2011