

Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance

Minutes of 13th meeting

15th February 2008

Summary of Action Points

	Action	By whom	Deadline
1	Final decision to be made in relation to writing the report	Drafting Group	Meeting of 21 st February
2	Programme for two-day meeting 13/14 March to be finalised and circulated	Secretariat	ASAP
3	Contact the Mental Health Commission	Chair	After March meeting
4	Subgroup reports to be produced	Chair of each subgroup	ASAP
	Circulate	Secretariat	

Commission Members in attendance:

Chair: Dr. Deirdre Madden, Senior Lecturer in Law, University College Cork
Dr. Eibhlín Connolly, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dept of Health and Children
Ms. Mary Duff, Director of Nursing, St. Vincent's Hospital
Prof. Muiris X. FitzGerald, Physician
Mr Paul Fox, Process Engineering Manager, Bausch and Lomb, Waterford
Dr. Mary Hynes, Director of Quality and Risk, National Hospitals Office, HSE
Ms Margaret Murphy, Patient/Carer representative, Cork
Dr. Alf Nicholson, Consultant Paediatrician, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital
Mr Tiberius Pereira, Patient/Carer Representative, Dublin
Dr. Ailis Quinlan, Clinical Indemnity Scheme
Mr Dermot Smyth, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Children

Secretariat:

Ms. Elaine Tallon, Department of Health and Children
Ms. Ailish Corr, Department of Health and Children

Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance.

Agenda Item 1 – Apologies

Dr. Richard Brennan, General Practitioner, Kilkenny
Dr. Tracey Cooper, CEO, Health Information and Quality Authority
Ms. Edwina Dunne, Head of Quality & Risk, HSE
Dr. Gabriel Scally, Regional Director of Public Health, NHS

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting / matters arising

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The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Action points from minutes

Action Point 1 –All correspondence was acknowledged by the Chair

Action Point 2 – Document from JCI to be reviewed. Mr. Delaney was not present at this meeting.

Action Point 3 – Discussion paper to be prepared on possible Licensing Authority – This will be circulated to subgroup 3 for discussion at their next meeting on 21st February.

Action Point 4 – Subgroup reports circulated.

Agenda Item 3 – Correspondence

None.

Agenda Item 4 – Presentation by Dr. Philip Crowley, DoHC and Margaret Murphy, PFPS¹ WHO on Service User Involvement as Driver of Safety and Quality.

The main tenet of this joint presentation was that it was incumbent on healthcare providers to facilitate the involvement of service users in all aspects of the planning, development, evaluation and delivery of healthcare services in Ireland. The importance and value of users and their families becoming equal partners in the process of recovery and treatment was stressed.

Involvement is defined as: A process by which people are enabled to become actively and genuinely involved in defining the issues of concern to them, in making decisions about factors that affect their lives, in formulating and implementing policies, in planning, developing and delivering services and in taking action to achieve change.

The main points from this presentation were:

- The involvement of patient, their families and health consumers is central to the patient safety work of WHO;
- Informed/included patients are key guarantors of safety and quality e.g. medication safety;
- There needs to be a willingness and acceptance from professionals that service users have a right to be involved in their own care i.e. care plans;
- Carers are key stakeholders in the delivery of services, both at individual and strategic levels. Family, friends, colleague, neighbours and community members are important sources of support for many people experiencing health difficulties;
- Service users/carers need to be supported through the provision of accurate information and training ;

¹ World Alliance of Patients for Patient Safety

- Professionals need to be educated in service user perspectives and involvement processes e.g. patient involvement in professional education.

Agenda Item 5 - Reports from subgroups.

Sub-group 1

Dr. Connolly gave a summary of the areas covered by sub-group1 during the morning session and the issues that arose. Dr. Kavanagh provided a presentation on Health Information and enabling technologies and evidence-based practice to support patient safety. Dr. Mulholland provided an interim discussion paper on Governance of Healthcare. As this research is ongoing, it is not possible to make any clear recommendations at the moment. Some emerging questions in relation to Governance include:

- How does governance in health structures in Ireland need to be developed? Is there a requirement for a review of the governance structures in place?
- Are the governance structures in Ireland robust?
- Are the accountability pathways clear and robust i.e. does each person in the health services know who they are responsible for and to whom they answer?
- Should Ireland develop and implement mandatory standards on governance?
- Should these standards be required for licensing/regulation of health care organisations?
- Should there be legislation in Ireland to place a statutory duty on healthcare organisations to put in place arrangement for monitoring and improving quality of healthcare?

Subgroup 2 met informally on this occasion and discussed the arrangements for the drafting of the Report. Sub-group 2 expressed their preference for commissioning a professional writer to bring the Report to publication. This would allow for consistency of style, language etc. It was agreed that a decision would be made at the next meeting of the drafting group which is scheduled for 21st February.

Sub-group 3 did not meet on this occasion. A discussion paper is to be prepared on licensing and will be circulated to subgroup 3 for discussion at their next meeting on 21st February.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Commission will be a two-day meeting. It was agreed that Thursday 13th March will be set-aside for subgroup meetings. It is the responsibility of the Chair of each sub-group to decide the agenda and work structure for this day.

Friday 14th March for plenary meeting

Venue: Conrad Hotel, Dublin 2

Signed _____

Date _____

Dr Deirdre Madden

Chairperson

Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance