

**Commission on Patient Safety and  
Quality Assurance**

**Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**Summary of Action Points**

|   | <b>Action</b>  | <b>By whom</b>   | <b>Deadline</b> |
|---|--|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Meet with the Mental Health Commission regarding a submission                | Department of Health and Children                            |                 |
| 2 | Subgroup 4 meeting at earlier time to discuss research                       | Chair, Dr. Richard Brennan, Ms Edwina Dunne, Mr Dermot Smyth |                 |
| 3 | Advertisement to be placed inviting submissions                              | Secretariat  |                 |
| 4 | Details to issue regarding 2 day meeting in November                         | Secretariat  |                 |
| 5 | Details to issue regarding stakeholder consultative forum on open disclosure | Dr. Ailis Quinlan  |                 |
| 6 | Subgroup reports to be produced  | Chair (or deputy chair) of each subgroup                     | ASAP            |
|   | Circulate  | Secretariat  |                 |

**Commission Members in attendance:**

Chair: Dr. Deirdre Madden, Senior Lecturer in Law, University College Cork  
 Dr. Richard Brennan, General Practitioner, Kilkenny  
 Ms. Edwina Dunne, Head of Quality & Risk, HSE  
 Dr. Ailis Quinlan, Clinical Indemnity Scheme  
 Ms Margaret Murphy, Patient/Carer representative, Cork City  
 Mr Dermot Smyth, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Children  
 Dr. Eibhlín Connolly, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dept of Health and Children  
 Dr. Tracey Cooper, CEO, Health Information and Quality Authority  
 Dr. Mary Hynes, Director of Quality and Risk, National Hospitals Office, HSE  
 Ms. Mary Duff, Director of Nursing, St. Vincent's Hospital  
 Prof. Muiris FitzGerald, Physician  
 Mr Paul Fox, Process Engineering Manager, Bausch and Lomb, Waterford  
 Mr Tiberius Pereira, Patient/Carer Representative, Dublin  
 Dr. Gabriel Scally, Regional Director of Public Health, NHS  
 Dr. Alf Nicholson, Consultant Paediatrician, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (sub-group morning session)

**Secretariat:**

Mr. Luke Mulligan, Department of Health and Children

Ms Susan Reilly, Department of Health and Children

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**

Mr. Tim Delaney, Head of Pharmacy, AMNCH

**Agenda Item 2 – Minute of previous meeting – matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

**Action points from minutes**

Action Point 1 – The Mental Health Commission are meeting with the Department of Health and Children with a view to providing input into the Commission.

Action Point 2 – a contact person from the HSE has been made available to the Commission to provide input into the research of the sub-group 2.

Action Point 3 – some members of the Commission met at an earlier time to discuss the research on regulatory bodies. It was proposed that this group will meet at 9am on the mornings of future Commission meetings. The Chair asked if any other members would like to join this sub-group.

Action Point 4 – Prof Clifford Hughes met with members of the Commission on 7<sup>th</sup> September. This was a very interesting and informative session.

Action Point 5 – documents on doctors and apology law were circulated.

Action Point 6 – Reports of the subgroup meetings were completed and circulated.

**Agenda Item 3 – Correspondence**

The Chair has received a number of requests from various parties wishing to meet with the Commission to give presentations and/or make submissions to the Commission. Further discussion on this item was deferred to Agenda Item 8, calls for submissions.

## **Agenda Item 4 – Presentation by Dr. Tracey Cooper – Health Information and Quality Authority**

Dr. Cooper gave a presentation outlining the work and functions of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

The main points of the presentation were as follows:

- HIQA's functions including setting standards for health and social care, monitoring quality and safety, the Social Services Inspectorate, Health Technology Assessment, Health information and protected disclosure.
- HIQA are reviewing current accreditation standards with a view to introducing mandatory minimum standards and further stepped standards which will recognise excellence outside of the mandatory standards.
- HIQA are currently developing a governance process in the area of investigations. This process will include both how investigations are undertaken as well as a process to determine whether or not an investigation should be initiated.

The following points were made during the associated discussion:

- Concerns were raised that, at present, it is not mandatory to disclose any serious breach of conduct/events.
- The fact that people will be protected from any action if they disclose a serious issue should encourage more staff to disclose.

## **Agenda Item 5 – Reports from the subgroups**

**Sub-group 1** referred to the very useful brainstorming exercise which members had on 4<sup>th</sup> September. The outcome of this session was the comprehensive document produced by the sub-group's researcher Dr Aidan O'Hora. The chair of the sub-group welcomed Ms Majella Daly, researcher to the sub-group.

The group discussed each topic on Dr. O'Hora's document in great detail. It now remained to put some flesh on the bones, i.e. how the changes recommended would be implemented and who would be responsible for same. Sub-group 1 hope to produce a draft research paper for the next meeting of the Commission on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

The group reverted to an earlier discussion they had on Values and how the delivery of the health services should be value driven. Sub-group 1 believe that there is a need to change the culture of the present system. In order to do so, it will be necessary to draw up an entire new set of values. The Chair queried whether it would be worthwhile to have a discussion on values and what should underpin them at a plenary session of the Commission.

Sub-group 1 also referred to the email which Tim Delaney had circulated to the members of the Commission on 13<sup>th</sup> September, in which he alluded to the Lean and Six Sigma quality methods. It was suggested that the Commission members might like to read the

document which Mr Delaney attached to his email, Lean Thinking for the NHS for research purposes.

**Sub-group 2** outlined their discussions on the research to be undertaken. Ms Coates gave a presentation to the group outlining a proposed approach to the research. This was discussed and agreed by the subgroup. Both researchers in the group will use a similar template when drafting their first report. The subgroup also agreed to issue a structured questionnaire to target groups as it was felt that the latter could add great value to the research. It was suggested that this questionnaire be issued and completed by Commission members also.

It was suggested that some of the research undertaken could include what is happening in other jurisdictions where clinical audit and incident reporting is mandatory.

**Sub-group 3** outlined a presentation given by Dr. Tracey Cooper on standards and licensing and HIQA's role in both. HIQA will be moving away from accreditation standards to using minimum standards and continuous quality improvement.

The subgroup also discussed the research to be carried out focusing on which jurisdictions to research, the specific models already in situ in those countries and how they could work in relation to Ireland. The countries decided on are Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the Netherlands and Malaysia.

**Sub-group 4** met with Dr. Paul Kavanagh to discuss the research into governing bodies. It was decided that the research would concentrate on the currently regulatory bodies, their governance and the gaps and synergy between them.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Mental Health Commission**

The Mental Health Commission will meet with the officials of Department of Health and Children at a later date. The outcome of this meeting will be fed back to Commission members.

#### **Agenda Item 7, 8 and 9 – Researchers/Call for Submissions/Surveys**

The issue of inviting submissions from the public was debated. The feasibility of collating, reading and analysing such submissions was discussed. The practical implications in terms of workload and the importance of submissions adding value to research carried out were considered.

It was decided that the public should be invited to make submissions to the Commission, albeit in a very structured manner. The advertisement seeking submissions would be published in the newspapers within a week with a deadline of six weeks for receipt of same.

#### **Agenda Item 10- Future meetings**

It was proposed that a two day meeting be held in November (15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>) so that the research reports could be discussed more fully and that any gaps in the research would be identified at an early stage.

**Agenda Item 11 – AOB**

Dr. Quinlan stated that the Clinical Indemnity Scheme would be hosting a consultative meeting on Open Disclosure for the various stakeholders on 13<sup>th</sup> December in the RCPI, to which all Commission members will be invited. Details will issue when times, etc for the meeting are finalised.

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October, 2007