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Report from the Chairperson

Hearing Voices Training

Based on the success of previous hearing voices workshops a further workshop was facilitated by **Jacqui Dillon**, and took place on 16th, 17th and 18th December 2013 in NUIG, Galway.

In addition, the IIMHN in conjunction with the HSE Nursing and Midwifery Practice Development Unit organised two workshops focusing on working with young people with voice hearing experiences. The workshops were facilitated by **Rachel Waddingham** from Voice Collective. They took place in April 2014 in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin (7-9 April) and in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC, Cork (14-16 April). Feedback from all events was overwhelmingly positive. Evaluation report was sent to HSE Nursing and Midwifery Practice Development Unit.

The IIMHN are currently organising a two-day programme entitled “Making Sense of Voices: A 2-day Training Course in using the Maastricht Interview with a person who hears voices” facilitated by **Peter Bullimore**. The workshop is designed for service providers in all settings and will be provided free of charge to all participants. Three courses will be provided nationally. These will take place on the 8th & 9th September 2014, in TCD, 8th and 9th December NUI Galway, and 15th and 16th December UCC. All programmes are being evaluated and feedback will be sent to the NMPDU.

As an outcome of these workshops it is estimated that between 10-15 hearing voices groups have been formed around the country. In addition a network to support practising facilitators and take the work forward has been formed. Although the group has members of the IIMHN involved it is independent of the IIMHN, and is made up of service users, family members and practitioners.

Funding was received from the NMPDU to host these events, which included an event to support the formation of an Irish HV network.

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I would like to thank all members of the executive who helped in the organisation of the events.

Public Lectures

This year the IIMHN organised and hosted three public lectures. All lectures were very well attended and feedback on all three was very positive. The lectures were hosted in partnership with the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery UCC and TCD.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC hosted a public talk on voice hearing in children which was delivered by Rachel Waddingham of Camden's Voice Collective. A streamed version of the talk is available on the website. In addition they hosted a lecture by Dr Alastair Morgan entitled: Recovery: The 'sacred cow' of modern mental health care. Alastair Morgan is a Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, England, author of Adorno's Concept of Life (2007, London and New York: Continuum) and the editor of Being Human: Reflections on Mental Distress in Society (2008, PCCS Books).

On the 17th June the School of Nursing and Midwifery, TCD hosted a lecture titled "Being Human: Creativity in mental health care", which was delivered by Professor Theo Stickley, Associate Professor in Mental Health at the University of Nottingham. Theo currently leads the Arts, Health & Wellbeing seminar series in the UK, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. He is Editor of the book: "Qualitative research in arts and mental health"

Representation on committees/conference

Moira O Donovan represented the Institute on the Children's Mental Health Coalition group convened by Mental Health Reform and they are currently preparing a paper on this issue.

The chairperson of the IIMHN gave the opening address at the National Recovery Conference organised by Eithne Cusack in NMPDU in November.

Annual symposium

The fifth Symposium of the Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing took place on Thursday 10th April 2014 in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin

The theme for the symposium was 'Recovery and clinical risk management: An oxymoron'. The Symposium featured a debate on the motion that *'the house believes that recovery and clinical risk management are irreconcilable'* The morning session opened with a welcome address from Prof Agnes Higgins and was followed by a keynote addresses from Ms. Rachel Waddingham (Mind in Camden/Voice Collective Youth): who spoke to the title *'On The Edge? Supporting young people who hear 'violent voices'*. The annual debate discussed the motion: *'Recovery and clinical risk management are irreconcilable'* and was chaired by Dr Harry Gijbels. Speaking for the motion was Dr Liam Mac Gabhann, and Mr Paddy

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McGowan and speaking against the motion was Dr Maria Romanos and Dr Michael Nash. Ms. Eithne Cusack made a presentation on *'Implementing Nursing Metrics to Assist Recovery and Reduce Risk'*. This year the programme also featured interactive workshops in the afternoon. Workshop 1: *Therapeutic risk and recovery oriented practice* was facilitated by Dr. Harry Gijbels and Mr Rory Doody and Workshop 2: *Opening recovery oriented dialogues with families* was facilitated by Dr. Liam Mac Gabhann and Mrs Bernie Bushe. The day was closed by the award of poster prizes and a summing up and reflections on the day by the afternoon chair Padraig McBennett.

Webpage

Thanks to Mark Monaghan did considerable work to design a system to accommodate membership applications and payment on line, as well as populating the new website.

Membership

Membership now stands at 327 members, and increase from 278 members from last year. This is made up of 238 ordinary members, 10 executive members, 60 students and 4 associate members. I would like to thank Padraig McBennett who took over the role of membership secretary.

Acknowledgements

Over the year we have received support from many organisations and people. On behalf of the Executive I would like to say a sincere thanks to all of them. Firstly the Nursing Practice Development Units for support the workshops. The PNA who willingly sponsored the prizes for the poster competition at the annual symposium. The various Universities (UCC, UCG and TCD) who hosted various events.

I would personally like to extend my thanks to the members of the executive who assisted me throughout the year.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to Mick O Hehir who is resigning from the committee. Mick has made an enormous contribution since joining.

Thank you

Prof. Agnes Higgins
Chairperson
Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing

