



**Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing
Annual General Meeting
9 September 2013**

Report from the Chairperson

3-Day Hearing Voices Group Facilitation

Funding was received from the NMPDU to host two hearing voices workshops facilitated by Jacqui Dillon. The workshops took place in Dublin and Galway during the year and were a great success. Feedback from participants was very positive and to date 2 groups have been set up within the Dublin region. As an outcome of this success and the report submitted to Nursing and Midwifery Planning Development Unit, Health Service Executive – Dublin North a second amount of funding (**€16,000**) was received to facilitate workshops in Dublin, Galway, Sligo and Cork.

I would like to thank Liam MacGabhann and Siobhan Smith for agreeing to organise these events.

Representation on committees/conference

Moira O Donovan UCC has agreed to represent the Institute on the Children's Mental Health Coalition group convened by Mental Health Reform.

A number of members of the executive also invited to be involved in the National Recovery Conference being organised by Eithne Cusack in NMPDU in November.

Sponsorship policy

A policy on sponsorship was developed and agreed by the executive for the IIMHN

Annual symposium

The fourth Annual Symposium was held at the School of Nursing, Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) on 6 June. This year's theme was *"Mental Health Recovery in Ireland: The state of play"*. The morning session opened with a welcome address from Prof. Ciarán O'Cáthain (President of AIT) and was followed by a keynote addresses from Dr Mike Watts, who spoke on *Breathing life into recovery a fresh look at re-enchantment*.

The annual debate discussed the motion: *"Personal recovery should override clinical recovery"*, and was chaired by Dr Liam MacGabhann. Speaking in favour of the motion were Mr Rory Doody and Dr Harry Gijbels; speaking against the motion were Dr Mary Clarke and Dr Adam Kavanagh. The motion was carried by the House.

The remainder of the day featured a number of people from around the country who are at the forefront of recovery oriented practices speaking on their work. These included Dr Anne Sheridan who spoke on *Enabling recovery a report of a randomized*

control trial; Joan Hamilton who spoke on *Recovery principles and values within community living*; Catherine O'Grady who spoke on *The creative well programme* and Michael Ryan who gave a presentation on *Peer Led Recovery Education*. The afternoon was chaired by Siobhan Smith.

The day was closed by the award of poster prizes and a summing up and reflections on the day by Prof. Agnes Higgins.

Throughout the day there was an opportunity to view some excellent posters presentations with prizes sponsored by the PNA.

Category 1 approval was received from ABA.

I would like to say a sincere thanks to Mick O'Hehir for being such an excellent host and organiser. I would also like to thank Aisling Culhane, Siobhan Smyth, Elaine Collins, and Pdraig McBennett, Anne Sheridan for helping to make the day a success.

Website

This year we embarked on a new design for the Website to give it a more contemporary look and improve people's ability to navigate and become members. Laoise Renwick has championed this initiative. On behalf of the executive and the wider Institute membership, I would like thank her for the work on the development of the new website.

Membership

Membership now stands at 278 members, and increase from 254 members from last year. I would like to thank Pdraig McBennett who took over the role of membership secretary late in this year.

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: the NMPDUs for funding the Hearing Voices Group Facilitation workshops, the PNA for sponsoring the prizes for the poster competition at the annual symposium, the AIT for hosting the symposium. Also thanks to Trinity College Dublin for their generosity in offering venues for our meetings and events since our inception.

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 Tim Frawley and Laoise Renwick, who have resigned from the Executive Committee, for their contributions over the last year

Thank you

Prof. Agnes Higgins
Chairperson
Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing