**Royal College of Psychiatrists**

**Volunteering & International Psychiatry Special Interest Group (VIPSIG)**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

Monday 6th February 2017

Royal College of Psychiatrists, London

**Present**

Peter Hughes (Chair), Mandip Jheeta (secretary), Meghan Munro, Jane Mounty, Gergana Manolova, Alison Hall, Bradley Hillier, Stephen Attard

**Apologies**

Ruairi Page, Sophie Thomson, Sally Browning

**EXECUTIVE MEETING**

No specific matters arising. Proceed to general meeting.

**GENERAL MEETING**

**Minutes of last meeting (11.11.16)**

Update/ recap from last meeting:

* WHO World Health Day this year is on depression, 7.4.16.

Last time there was a mental health theme was 2001.

* SMMHEP (Scotland & Malawi). Discussed ideas on how to get funding and a potential opportunity section on website for funding options –still to be worked on
  + Somaliland - recent development and funding of new project
  + Sierra Leone – new funding stream now in place
  + BH: other charity involved in did an evening where funders and funding appliers did networking event
    - Could do a volunteering/ networking for people who know with expertise in bids etc
  + Dorothy Ward International Fellowship: medical women’s federation. £1000/yr funding for international fellowship
  + Travelling fellowship available in RCPsych forensic faculty
  + European Psychiatric Association VIPSIG application declined
  + RCPsych Annual Conference 2017: PH, Lynne Jones & Peter Ventivogel and Stania Kamara doing session Edinburgh
  + VIPSIG conference 2017- human rights agenda 29th September
    - If someone who could speak about Gujarat project would be v good
  + Discussed how to use money from adult faculty –need to check on this –Action MJ
  + Appointed new editor for newsletter –Need feedback from editorial team for VIPSIG
  + Possibility of PFA outside London
  + Next mhGAP training TBC

**Matters arising**

* New publications : WHO group interpersonal therapy (IPT for depression), Building Back Together
* Volunteer handbook needs to be revised. PH will send draft out
* Significant interest in forensic/ prison aspects and applications of mhGAP BH

**PH update**

* RCN, RCGP- response on link work from RCN
  + Susan Williams, RCN link
* RCPsych Volunteer Prize- been cancelled
  + We don’t agree as VIPSIG
  + College state not enough interest
  + PH already sent a concern email & will ask to run it again & state VIPSIG will volunteer again

**Newsletter**

* Contributions encouraged
* Interviews would be good
* Picture quiz
* Need close link to VIPSIG

**Conference**

* September 2017 planned for
* Conference: Dr speaker = PH, Oliver Lewis = lawyer, Shami Chakrabati & both not reply. CRPD links could be helpful. Former refugee speaker confirmed

**VIPSIG leads**

* Idea of various leads not sustained itself

**Burma/ Myanmar project**

* Recently Burma/ Myanmar been more open to NGOs & mhGAP training
* Training for GPs mainly
* This time for psychiatrists & sub-specialties
* Psychologist also coming this time
* Burmese neurologist also interest
* This time: mainly TTT
  + Also ongoing memorandum of understanding work between Myanmar gov, medical college & RCPsych
* Data often attracts finance money generally for projects
* Meredith, Burma project, has PhD in social mobilization. Done v good evaluation in Burma
* Burma mhGAP tailored for Burma approach sent to WHO e.g. parenting skills, basic problem solving
  + E.g. hand technique- fingers like social mobilization; lines- 2 things you like to do, like behavioral activation; 2 saying that make you feel better

**Promoting other volunteering**

* We can promote global work by submitting publications
* E.g. RCPsych has good bibliography for mental health
* We could provide support for writing a paper
* Or supporting posters and presentations from VIPSIG
* Barts/ East London Foundation Trust will be doing conference on international psychiatry- free. 6th Dec 2017
* 2nd national Ugandan CAMHS Conference 27 & 28th March 2017, in Uganda
* Interpersonal therapy could be v good training event for VIPSIG

**Diaspora feedback**

* Diaspora feedback @College, no update
* Iraq sub-committee going strong e.g. CBT & MHA & ECT standards going v well

**Website**

* Still needs further updating e.g. opportunities
  + Also publicise for other groups to advertise opportunities as well/ links
    - Butobiko website
    - Lesotho website
* Aim to try to VIPSIG website more interesting/ user friendly etc
* We could do podcasts
* Facebook page going v strong, 500 members, gradually increasing
* Twitter- not going so well
* BH: Instagram could be interesting, to be considered

**New VIPSIG Chair**

* New chair upcoming as term ending, elections going

**Essay prize**

* 3rd year currently
* Judging now occurring
* Aiming for winners announced by start April
* Both prev winners have been about UK-based volunteering
* Prize is trophy and certificate
* Agreed to start giving £100 to winning entries

**Finance**

* Healthy
* PFA/ HIG financially v good. £2500 profit
* Query about incorrect account items, incorrect billing to VIPSIG, to be raised w/ RCPsych Finance Dept
* Most monies for RCPsych volunteer project

**AOB**

* Syrian taskforce
  + E.g. refugees in neighboring countries and also in UK
  + Will be asking for UK congress support & connection etc
  + We could have supportive role
  + Refugees at home- UK based charity
    - They do short-medium term placements for refugees
    - Female psychiatrists could be v helpful
  + AH: Lunar children’s charity- trauma based treatment done a lot of work with Syrian refugees
* MM: Lesotho update
* AH: Uganda some excellent work on service users’ involvement, epilepsy, CAMHS
* SA: prison mhGAP would be v good BH
  + E.g. a HIG version for forensic/ prison, i.e. as an adjunct
* PH: New mhGAP 2nd edition: assessment v good.
* Lynne Jones @WHO discussion
  + People who do lots of volunteering but no link for people without registered bodies for appraisal/ revalidation. Discussed at College- anyone can be an appraiser, but RO is the issue. Maybe can consult w/ private/ independent SIG how they do. Issue is relationship with the designated body
  + PH will raise at IAC
* GH: still doing mhGAP project
* MJ wrote Malawi MMed OSCE scenarios & MCQs, enjoyable
  + VIPSIG could support general role of MCQ writing
* MJ: @consultant interview they were fascinated by Somaliland volunteering, helped to get job

**Actions**

* Advocate for College volunteer prize
* Support newsletter & blog
* Support volunteer programme
* Publications list
* Next mhGAP training, decide date
  + ?Glasgow, NI, Cardiff
  + We could go thru divisions
* How to develop forensic & global MH

**Dates of next committee meetings**

Venue: Royal College of Psychiatrists, London. 1:30pm- executive meeting, 2:00pm- general meeting.

Future dates:

Fri 24th March 2017

Fri 18th Aug 2017

Fri 17th Nov 2017