**Royal College of Psychiatrists**

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

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

Friday 13th May 2016

RCPsych, Prescott Street, London

**Present**

Peter Hughes (Chair), Sophie Thomson, Ruairi Page (Secretary), Mandip Jheeta (Finance Officer), Shaheen, Ashok Singh, Aoeife Singh. Jane Mounty

**Apologies**

Gabriel Kogo, Aisha Ahmed, Raman Ashwany, Lucienne Aguirre

**EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**Minutes of last meeting accepted**

**Matters arising**

* PH due to attend leadership training and further mhGAP training in Cairo
* College have advertised 6 month post- Sierra Leone- August. Awaiting applications before interviewing.
* PH: Discussed potential for project in Tanzania . Duration: 3 months.
* PH: Discussed further potential projects in Tanzania and Pakistan
* PH: Discussed changes in Somaliland programme . This will likely result in decrease in frequency of trips. Leading to more emphasis on online teaching and need for more volunteers.
* PH: CNWL Global Network, Multi-disciplinary- mainly medics, nurses, multi-specialty, London focused volunteering scheme. Chairman: John Lowe.
* Malawi Group- Looking for 6month volunteer
* Discussed requirement for development of smaller term projects
* Members not receiving VIPSIG circulation emails
* Dr Arayambath discussed mhat-UK
* Essay prize- 18 essays- Very high standard, Peter McGovern runner up, Shaheen winner, very enjoyable piece. Shaheen’s essay was on UK volunteering. Awaiting essay prize winners entries to go onto the website.
* Finance update: No concerns. Fundraising options discussed. mhGAP fundraising: Funds to be split between VIPSIG, Sierra Leone Nurse who is requiring operation, “Where there is no Pscyhiatrist”, Funds: Approximately 6000 available. Discussed fundraising proposal to print more mhGAP manuals locally to training locations.
* mHGAP- Discussed large number >120 applicants, opens possibility to hold further meetings at other uK locations
* mhat-UK project “Spring@ discussed by Dr Arayambath. Mental Health Action Trust- UK. Awaiting registration as charity. Supportive, self-support, patient-centred organization. E.g. running café in Boston, UK, for service users to work in. In London, similar idea is CRISIS-Café. Draws on the strengths from patients. JA would look to seek volunteers from the VIPSIG.
* PH advised JA to write article for VIPSIG newsletter about mhat-UK
* Shaheen has been involved with projects in schools
* JM: Discussed “Doctors of the World” project. PH also attended this conference. Organisation of volunteer led clinics for refugees. “Medical Justice”- Asylum seekers in detention- medical students involved as “befrienders”. The group are interested in GPs and Senior trainees.
* Require opportunities page on website to further adverts
* Helen Bamber Foundation Programme- Looks after victims of trauma, trafficking victims.
* mhGAP- 120 names- primarily medics- more demand- most came from London deanery emails
* Trainees- Peter is in ongoing contact with PTC and London Deanery. Discussed need for increasing trainee involvement. Need to contact deanery chairs, TPDs
* Discussed increased awareness required for SAS Doctors
* Retirees: No further updates. Retirement conference is taking place this month, PH: To send to the organisers of Retirement Conferences to highlights the availability of Global opportunities as well as UK.
* Developing internet based work
* Events: mhGAP 9/10th July. Amazing interest. Same format as last year. Capped attendees of 80. Discussed re: future mhGAP event this year. 18 October: PFA and HIG Humanitatrian Intervention Guidance. Capped at 40 attendees. Further event discussed- Introduction to Volunteering Event, ? Link with CNWL
* PH: Would like more GP attendees at mhGAP
* Conferences: Discussed financial implications. Prioritisation: Interest is mainly for mhGAP. Previous conference- Spirituality and Volunteering- successes and challenges discussed. Future Conference 2017 ideas: Human rights and Global Volunteering. JA, SB and JM offered support for this. Price: 100- Discussed good value. Potential Date- October 2016.
* EPA symposium request submitted
* Fundraising: Bought mhGAPs from mhGAP 2016 weekend fundraising.
* Research: Trainee opportunities. PH Discussed his Masters in Mental Health/Volunteering. Pre-Post training mHGAP research project discussed. Distinct difference between evaluation of mhGAP training and clinical practice impact. Qualitiative research opportunities available from field trips. Future research: mhGAP and patient impact
* Academic: Overseas Mental Health Institute. Alistair Campbell- Guest speakers. Indian medical conference- PH cannot attend
* Website- Link organisations and activities- JA went for global mental health lightning presentation, medical geographists/historians in attendance. Gave feedback from meeting. Felt VIPSIG should offer input into such meetings. Highlights lots of scope for joint working, e.g. anthropology in mental health.
* PH has been asked to prepare introductory module for mhGAP
* Newsletter: Looking for new editor
* Podcasts, Filming, mhGAP discussed
* Link with Australia, senior trainee contacted stating he would like to discuss the successes of VIPSIG at their Trainee conference this week in Bangkok. Possible links with Canada discussed.
* Location of meetings discussed- Discussed that previously poor attendance at previous meetings. Decision made to continue to hold meetings in London for the forseeable future .This will be reviewed.
* Syria- Continuing development of Syria Taskforce. No further update available.

**mHGAP Orientation Weekend**

* 9/10th July
* High level of interest

**Future events**

* PFA training
* mHGAP Training

**Feedback from VIPSIG leads**

* As above

**AOB**

**Dates of next committee meetings**

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

* Friday 19th August 2016
* Friday 11th November 2016
* Please join us. All disciplines, students, trainees and non-psychiatrists very welcome.
* (Please contact beforehand to inform of your attendance as per building security policy)