

**Minutes of section meeting of
WPA Section on ‘Public Policy and Psychiatry’
Madrid, 2014, September, 15**

Participants were:

Vivienne Miller, Jonathan Burns, Elvia Velasquez, Gabriela Cruz, Terry Brugha, Ann Farden, Lottie Labys, Eliot Sorel, Margaret Mungherera, Roy Kallivayalil, Michael Krausz, Michaela Amering

Excused: Annie Lau, Helen Herrman, Levent Kuey, Roberto Mezzina, Wolfgang Rutz, Alan Rosen, Richard Warner, George Szumukler, John Sadler, Saroja Krishnaswami, Taghi Yasami, Rachel Jenkins, Vikram Patel, Michele Tansella

Section activities at the 2014 Vienna congress include a section workshop on **The Reduction of Coercion in Psychiatry** and a section symposium on **Mental health concepts and strategies for social inclusion**.

Eliot Sorel informed on the OECD Health Policy Studies ‘Making Mental Health Count. THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF NEGLECTING MENTAL HEALTH CARE’ by Emily Hewlett and Valerie Moran (which section members have received as an attachment with the agenda for this meeting) as well as on the 2015 International WPA congress in Bucharest – www.wpa2015bucharest.org

After the amendment of the WPA Madrid Declaration with the WPA Recommendations on best practice in working with service users and carers, for which we had conducted a survey of all major advocacy organizations (Wallcraft et al, 2011 in World Psychiatry) we had decided to use these results as well as the experiences of section members to come up with a **‘How to involve users and carers in congresses’**.

Vivienne Miller prepared a paper on key issues from Purpose to Financing, Different Forms of Organizing (local versus international users, imbedded, thematic stream, pre-conference) and current developments such as web conferences and their implications. You will find this valuable resource attached (UI in WPA congresses – working paper Viv Miller).

In order to assist WPA to create sustainable user and carer involvement we will form a **working group** that will seek contact with the WPA leadership and make suggestions for starting a process of gaining experience and expertise on User and Carer Involvement (Helen Herrman, Vivienne Miller, Michaela Amering) and this group will meet later this week. Inputs from the section meeting include strategic advice from Eliot Sorel on the need for ongoing consultation with advocacy groups, from Terry Brugha on how to attract large audiences with symposia with high profile professionals and users in combination and from Margaret Mungherera on how to learn from the HIV example on working and lobbying in partnership.

Alan Rosen has made his paper **A CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL APOLOGY FROM ALL PSYCHIATRIC PROFESSIONS AND SERVICES TO ALL FIRST NATIONS OR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES** more compact. As discussed here before it is a paper of great interest regarding the policies of apology in general and specifically. It was suggested to offer it to Mario Maj, editor of World Psychiatry, for publication and possible debate in the journal. The section supports this submission.

Re our ongoing topics on **human rights and mh law** and George Szukler's work towards fusion law please find news from the Northern Ireland 'fusion' Bill for a new capacity-based law: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/pr-mentalcap270514> and a contribution by George Szukler to a blog on the 'fusion law', with particular reference to the meaning of 'capacity' and 'will and preferences'.

<http://www.mentalcapacitylawandpolicy.org.uk/a-defence-of-fusion-law/>

Roy Kallivayalil suggest the section could hold in supply mh policies re different aspects of mh care. We had this discussion before and found that while it would be a wonderful thing to have a '**library of mh policies**', such an endeavour is difficult to resource and maybe repeating existing efforts.

Eliot Sorel honoured us by bringing Margaret Mungherera, esteemed college from Uganda and president of WMA, to our meeting, she is of course more than welcome at our section!

Also, **new members** Anne Karow from Hamburg, Lottie Labys from SA and NY, and Helen Millar from Scotland, UK, are very welcome.

Re the oncoming **election process for the section board** information was given that after 9 years Michaela Amering, Richard Warner and Wolfgang Rutz will leave the board according to WPA rules. Jonathan Burns, Gabriela Cruz, Viv Miller and Michael Krausz are willing to continue to serve and Ann Farden has offered her engagement for the new term. A slate of officers will be sent out before the end of the year for an electronic vote.

The Intersectional Initiative (ISI) on Addiction and Concurrent Disorders Among Vulnerable Urban Populations will meet immediately after this section meeting.

The **17th WPA World Congress of Psychiatry** "Psychiatry of the 21st Century: Context, Controversies and Commitment" will take place from **October, 8-12, 2017** in Berlin and will host **our next section meeting**.

Information on international and regional WPA meetings can be found on www.wpanet.org > meetings

for the minutes:

Amering

October 2014