

MENTAL HEALTH NURSING ACADEMICS (UK)
Notes of meeting held 7th October 2003

(hosted by Nottingham University at Nottingham Forest Football Ground)

Present: L. Bowers - chair (City), M. Watkins (Plymouth), J. Repper (Sheffield), S. Owen (Nottingham), J. Dooher (De Montfort), P. Nolan (Staffordshire), A. Simpson (City), J. Bray (Homerton College), M. Coffey (Swansea), B. Hannigan (Cardiff), N. Wellman (Thames Valley), A. Jackson (RCNI), K. Nichol (), M. Wrigley (UWE), I. Boardman (Bangor), K. Hickling (Huddersfield), C. Lyons (Liverpool John Moores), H. O'Donnell (Queens, Belfast).

Opening Welcome

Sara Owen (from Nottingham University) welcomed members to the meeting and spoke briefly about organisation of the day.

The view from the DoH and progress of NADG (see attachment)

Rachel Munton gave overview of her role, the Nursing Advisory and Development Group and the potential role, contribution and influence of MHNA (UK). Sees her own role as conduit of information to and from key for a within DoH; she can use information/position papers, critiques etc from our group to feed into debates and ask pertinent questions. Suggestions for group included:

- ensure that Nursing Officers for Scotland, Wales and N. I. are kept informed about group activities.
- current areas that we may wish to consider working on as a group include "new roles" in mental health (such as graduate mental health workers, TAPs workers) - and implications for mental health nursing; may wish to take a lead on the NADG position paper on mental health nursing
- it may benefit the group to make itself known to key people by inviting them to speak (eg Roslyn Hope, Sarah Mulally)
- group will be most useful if it maintains a distance from DoH & Rachel Munton, as can be more critical
- group may want to publicise its existence, eg through NIMHE website
- mental health is part of all aspects of work of DoH, so may want to infiltrate broad range of DoH groups.

Questions from the group concerned: succession planning (in view of shortage of mh nursing professors); research vs education – may be incompatible, and choice of one over other has career implications; the position of educationalists in context where research appears to be given priority, and practice is changing rapidly. Sara Owen gave brief summary of recent work done for Trent Workforce Confederation on clinical practice and mh nurse lecturers (free copies of executive summary available from Linda Taylor Linda.Taylor@trentconfed.nhs.uk. Full title:

'The clinical activity of mental; health lecturers in higher education institutions' (2003) by Kath Ferguson, Sara Owen & Ian Baguley.

The NIMH[E] Research Network

Steve Pilling described the development and goals of the NIMHE research network within NIMH[E]. Outlined current shortcomings of research in the mental health area and ways in which research network is providing support, co-ordination and direction to NIMH[E] research. Advises mental health nurses to seek adoption of research that falls within NIMHE programme of work by the network. This may help with finding bids and network could provide linkage with relevant sources of expertise and promotion of the project. Priorities at present are large trials in Early Intervention and Self Help. The Network is also developing structures to ensure that all new programmes are evaluated, and clarifying research governance requirements and their implications.

Progress on terms of reference

Discussion focussed on: title, membership, leadership, next meetings, funding, dissemination of papers, and work programme.

Title - group to be called **Mental Health Nursing (UK)**. Membership from all universities in the four countries invited. Each country to keep their nursing officer informed. For England, this will take place through NADG, which is part of NIMH[E].

Membership - All universities invited to nominate one member and a named second. Data base of all members to be completed as far as possible by 7th November (L. Bowers and J. Repper).

Leadership - election process agreed.

- To be co-ordinated by Mary Watkins and Peter Nolan.
- List of all members to be circulated by 10th November.
- Nominations for chair and vice chair to be submitted to Mary Watkins and/or Peter Nolan by 7th December, with up to 200 words supporting information.
- Mary to circulate nominees by 10th December with election sheet - by email.
- One vote per university.
- All votes to be returned by 9th January.
- MW and PN to count votes and circulate results.

Funding - it was proposed that every university should pay an annual fee for corporate membership of the group, to pay for part-time administrative support for the chair and vice chair of the group. Logistics of this were discussed. There are a number of questions around:

- How much should annual fee be?
- Who will employ administrator?
- Where will they be located (given rotation of chair)?
- How many hours per week will administrator need to work?

LB will find out more about arrangements that Nurse Execs group have made for employing an administrator. If questions still remain, MW to find out about possibility of sharing admin time with Council of Deans.

Next meetings - meetings to take place once per term (ie 3 times per year). One meeting per year will take place outside England. Next four meetings:

- 4th March 2004 - Liverpool
- 9th June 2004 - Staffordshire
- 26th October 2004 - Taunton
- 8th March 2005 - Belfast

Dissemination - brief discussion about target audience for maximum influence. Papers to be sent selectively to following (Joy Bray agreed to co-ordinate development of a database):

- Trust CEOs
- Deans of Schools
- MH Nursing Officers in England, Scotland, NI and Wales
- Strategic Health Authorities, MH leads
- MH Commissioners
- Unison, RCN, CPNA
- RCP, College of Ots, Social Work Group Academics
- NHSU
- Rethink, Mind, MHF,
- Journalists
- Trent WDC
- MPs

Work Programme

A number of research and education priorities were identified at last meeting. Of these, the group decided that the most urgent for consideration in the first paper from the group are:

- Post registration career framework
- Mental health nursing as an all graduate profession
- User and carer involvement in course design and delivery

Ben Hannigan (University of Wales Medical College) and Michael Coffey (Swansea) agreed to co-ordinate a paper on "The post registration career framework in mental health nursing".

Feedback from members

There was little time available for feedback, however members had briefly written about recent research and education developments in their universities on flip charts. It was noted that a number of significant nurse led research bids have been funded. It was agreed that for future meetings, it would be helpful if members could send a brief written summary of developments for circulation with the agenda for each meeting. Questions could then be picked up at the meeting.

Next Meeting

Suggested speakers - Tony Butterworth/Ian Bagguley
Nurse Exec from Liverpool
Speaker from HEFCE to update on Roberts' RAE collation.

Some members will need to stay over night so meeting/meal previous evening may be arranged.

AOB

- Work of the group could be publicised through JPMNH.
- There may be ways of working with the Psychiatric Nursing Research Network
- Group may be promoted at relevant conferences.