

Mental Health Commission
Minutes of Meeting on 22 July 2016
11:30 – 16:00
Held in St Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin

Present:

Commission Members	Initials
Ned Kelly	NK
Catherine O'Rorke	COR
Michael Byrne	MB
Mary Keys	MK
Patricia O'Sullivan Lacy	POSL
Xavier Flanagan	XF (apologies for the afternoon)
Maeve Doyle	MD
Pauline Gill	PG

Apologies:	
Colette Nolan	CN
John Saunders	JS
Yvonne O'Neill	YON
Mary O'Hanlon	MOH

Absent:	
John Redican	JR

Executive in Attendance:	
Rosemary Smyth A/Chief Executive	RS
Ray Mooney Secretary to the Commission	RM

In Attendance	
Deirdre Hyland for Items 4.1 and 2.1	DH
Susan Finnerty for Item 2.1	SF

Following discussion and in accordance with Section 3.5.2 of the Commission Corporate Governance Manual it was agreed that PG would chair the meeting in the absence of JS. PG opened the meeting and welcomed Members

Action:

1. Minutes of Commission meeting held on 17 June 2016

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2016 were approved following a proposal from PoSL which was seconded by NK.

a) Matters Arising

None

2 Chairman's Business and matters for mention

2.1 Inspection reports

Deferred to the afternoon to facilitate the attendance of the Inspector of Mental Health Services.

2.4 Review of Mental Health Policy

RS advised that it had been brought to the Commission's attention by a staff member that the Department of Health had issued a request for tender for submissions in relation to a review of mental health policy. It was confirmed that the closing date for tenders was July 15th 2016.

3 Chief Executive's Report

Part 1

RS updated Members on a number of matters reported on in Part 1 of her report. This included the following:

1.1 Registration of Approved Centres

Correspondence has been exchanged with the Alzheimer's Unit, St John's Hospital, Sligo which included a request from the Commission for a profile of residents in and a site visit to this unit to establish its status.

RS also advised that in relation to the application for registration of a new facility the Commission is planning a site visit to the Department of Psychiatry in Drogheda prior to the proposed opening date of the unit.

1.5 Open Enforcement Actions

RS provided Members with an update regarding the notification of a serious reportable event, which occurred in Bloomfield Hospital in June 2016 and of which they were informed at the July meeting. The Commission was notified promptly and immediately took action. RS outlined the actions taken by the hospital management and the Commission. A full inspection of the centre was undertaken this week. There are a number of investigations ongoing, including a Garda investigation.

The Members suggested that an external independent advocate be made available to

the person concerned.

In relation to consent RS advised that the Commission issued guidance to all services on Part 4 of the Mental Health Act 2001 (as amended by the Mental Health (Amendment Act 2015), in particular the procedures for obtaining consent to treatment.

1.8 Update on MHC/HIQA Joint Standards for management of patient safety incidents

RS advised that the DOH has written to the Commission and HIQA advising that the DOH intends to replace the standards based approach on Open Disclosure with regulations. It is now intended to progress the Standards for the conduct of review of adverse incidents, with a consultation planned for September.

1.9 Mental Health Tribunal Activities and Legal Matters Update

Members were advised that the case referred to in 1.9.2 was before the court today for hearing and that the case referred to in 1.9.3 was due to be heard on 28th July 2016.

Members requested that the numbers of Circuit Court Appeals be included in the Mental Health Tribunal Activity Data table. An update of circuit court appeals heard and their outcome was also requested.

RS

1.10 Mental Health Tribunal (MHT) Panels Recruitment 2016 Update

RS advised the meeting that the Commission had received a number of queries arising from the on-line assessment element of the recruitment process for Lay panel members Following discussion with the recruitment agency who are managing the process, it was agreed that the on line assessment would not form part of the selection criteria for panel members. All candidates who met the shortlisting criteria will now be offered an interview.

1.13 Decision Support Service

RS updated Members on the meeting with the Departments of Health and Justice and Equality which took place on 20 July 2016 advising that the assistant principal who is seconded from the Department of Justice and Equality would be commencing in the Commission on 25th July. RS also advised that the Commission's request for funding to engage a project manager with the specific skillset to scope the commencement of the Act had been discussed at the meeting. The Department of Justice and Equality are to revert in relation to this prior to the next meeting which is planned for August.

PART TWO

2.1 A Clinical Trial of Supported Employment (IPS) and the Workplace Fundamentals Module with People Attending an Irish Early Intervention for Psychosis Service

Members discussed the report provided in the meeting papers and noted the positive outcomes with regard to supported employment and the effect that individual placement support had on people staying with their employer for longer periods which were evidenced in the report.

2.2 Management Accounts for May 2016

RM presented the Management Accounts for May 2016 and responded to Members questions in relation to same. It was agreed that greater detail would be provided on the costs relating to Circuit Court appeals in future reports. The accounts were adopted following a proposal from PoSL which was seconded by CoR.

RM

5. Reports of Committees

5.1 Legislation Committee

MK updated members regarding progress on completing the submission to the Department of Health regarding the Report of the Expert Group on the Review of the Mental Health Act 2001 since the last meeting. Members discussed the recommendation that approved centres should be referred to in another way such as mental health care centres or some other term rather than approved centres. It was noted that different pieces of legislation had used similar descriptions and that it would not be possible at this stage to agree an alternative descriptor. It was agreed that MK would revise the recommendation and circulate to members of the committee for their views. Once agreed the submission would be sent to the Department of Health.

MK

4.1 The Administration of Electroconvulsive Therapy in Approved Centres Activity Report 2014 / 2015

DH joined the meeting and presented details of the ECT Activity Report. In the discussion which followed Members asked if any consideration had been given to obtain feedback from service users who had received ECT. DH advised that this had been considered previously but had not been pursued for a number of reasons one of which was the need for safeguards to ensure the validity of the data collected. DH indicated that staff are looking to introduce some more depth to the data which is already collected on ECT. In approving the publication of the report Members congratulated the team in the Commission who had produced the document.

SF joined the meeting and presented the inspection reports on:

Elm Mount, St Vincent's Hospital

SF drew Members attention to a number of issues including staffing, privacy for patients, risk management procedures, admission of children and physical restraint.

St Aloysius Ward, Mater Hospital

SF advised that at the time of the inspection the unit was undergoing general refurbishment. Residents informed the inspection team that there was very little access to occupational therapy or any other activities. The inspection showed that the staffing levels for occupational therapy and social workers were not at the required level. It was noted that there was a large variance in the provision of individual care plans many of which did not have an MDT or patient input. The level of medication record keeping was also noted to be poor. In the discussion which followed Members expressed the view that there appeared to be a marked dis-improvement in the level of care provision on this unit. DH advised that CAPAs

have been requested.

Department of Psychiatry Waterford

SF gave details of the findings from a recent focussed inspection in this approved centre. It was noted that there was no improvement in either therapeutic or recreational services and one group of patients had no individual care plan.

The actions indicated in the CAPAs from the service which followed an earlier inspection had not yet commenced and there was no communal space available for residents. The inspectors were aware of plans to enlarge the unit and increase bed capacity by carrying out minor refurbishment works. However these works would not address the lack of communal space within the existing facility.

DH advised that on receipt of the draft report the Commission had issued an Immediate Action Notice drawing attention to the lack of therapeutic and recreational facilities and the proposal to enlarge the unit when there was no dining room in the unit.

Department of Psychiatry Portlaoise

SF advised the meeting that the Inspectorate had carried out a focussed inspection on this service in June arising from the findings of the earlier inspection. Non-compliance was identified in respect of individual care plans, admission of children, documentation and the sporadic use of Medical Council numbers. Members noted that this unit continues to give rise for concern and will be discussed further on receipt of the inspection report.

6. A.O.B.

Members requested 'Research' to be placed on the agenda for discussion at their next meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission will take place on 23 September 2016.

Signed: 
Chairman

Date: 27/9/16

Item No.		Person Responsible	Timeframe
1.9 CE Report	Numbers of Circuit Court Appeals to be included in MHT Activity data	RS	September 2016
2.2 CE Report item	Greater detail to be provided on Circuit Court appeals	RS	September 2016
5.1 Reports of Committees	Submission to Department of Health to be revised and circulated to Members and subsequently submitted to the Department of Health	MK RS	August 2016