

**Mental Health Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting on 20 May 2016**  
**9:30 – 16:30**  
**Held in Glasson Hotel, Athlone**

**Present:**

| <b>Commission Members</b> | <b>Initials</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Colette Nolan             | CN              |
| Ned Kelly                 | NK              |
| Catherine O'Rorke         | COR             |
| John Saunders             | JS              |
| Yvonne O'Neill            | YON             |
| Michael Byrne             | MB              |
| Maeve Doyle               | MD              |
| Mary O'Hanlon             | MOH             |
| Patricia O'Sullivan Lacy  | POSL            |
| Pauline Gill              | PG              |
| Xavier Flanagan           | XF              |
| Michael Byrne             | MB              |

| <b>Apologies:</b> |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Mary Keys         | MK |

| <b>Absent:</b> |    |
|----------------|----|
| John Redican   | JR |

| <b>Executive in Attendance:</b> |                             |     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Patricia Gilheaney              | Chief Executive             | PCG |
| Ray Mooney                      | Secretary to the Commission | RM  |

| <b>In Attendance:</b>              |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Keith McCarthy Mazars for Item 4.2 | KMcC |

#### **4.2 Organisational Review**

JS opened the meeting and advised Members of the items to be covered on the agenda.

He then welcomed KMcC and invited him to update Members on the review of the organisational structure carried out to date by Mazars and which is due for completion by the June meeting. In his presentation KMcC outlined the approach that Mazars took in gathering the information to inform their report which included individual meetings with staff and external stakeholders and also meeting with Members at a previous Commission meeting. They also took into consideration the structure of similar type organisations.

Preliminary findings were presented. A draft of the findings has been provided to the Executive for factual check and it is intended that the report will be completed and contain recommendations for consideration by the Members at the June meeting.

JS thanked KMcC for his presentation and he left the meeting.

In the discussion which followed the presentation, Members noted a number of factors which they considered impacted on the ability of the Commission to meet its statutory requirements. These included approval for posts and the limitations which exist in relation to the current ICT infrastructure. Members also considered the approach that may need to be introduced by the Inspectorate in the future given the planned development and enhancement of the Judgement Support Framework into community mental health services. It was agreed that this would continue to be based on the Quality Framework.

The need to ensure that feedback from service users was captured was also taken into consideration and a number of suggestions of how this might be done were made. In bringing the debate to a conclusion Members agreed that data usage should be enhanced where practicable. Overall it was noted that the day to day business of the Commission was working well.

#### **2. Chairman's Business**

##### **Members Session General Discussion**

JS opened this part of the meeting by proposing that he would invite the newly appointed Junior Minister for Mental Health, Ms Helen Mc Entee, T.D. to the next Commission meeting in June. Agreed.

JS then went on to highlight what he considered key issues to be dealt with by the Commission before the end of the current term of office in April 2017. These included the implementation of the recommendations in the recent review of the Mental Health Act 2001, continuing the work on regulation and inspections, implementation of the recommendations arising from the organisational review, preparing the Commission for its role in the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015, re-visiting Vision for Change on its tenth anniversary of publication, assisting the Minister in considering

**Action:**

JS

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|---|-------------------|
| <p>appointments to the new Commission in 2017 and developing a research strategy.</p> <p>In the ensuing discussion it was noted that the Commission must adhere to relevant data protection legislation. The process for appointment of Members and the PAS process under StateBoards.ie were discussed and the differences noted. JS outlined the approach he proposed to take in discussions with the Department of Health on this matter given that over three quarters of the membership of the Commission are employees of entities regulated by the Commission. It was also suggested in the discussion that competence in a number of areas such as governance and finance would prove beneficial to board composition in the future. Members were advised that it is planned to meet with the Dept of Health prior to the next Commission meeting.</p> <p><b>Commission Self Evaluation 2016</b></p> <p>JS thanked members for returning their self-evaluation forms. Following discussion it was agreed that the external member of the Governance Committee would be invited to collate the findings and make recommendations, PCG to action.</p> <p>JS wished to express his thanks to PCG, Marina and RM for their organisation of the two-day meeting and to the members of the Senior Management Team for their attendance at the meeting which Members found to be very beneficial. It was agreed that PCG would invite them to attend future meetings as appropriate to agenda items.</p> | <p><b>PCG</b></p> |
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| Item No.            |  | Person Responsible | Timeframe                 |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. Chair's Business | Invitation to issue to Minister of State Helen McEntee to meet with the Commission at their June meeting | JS                 | Following on from meeting |
| 2. Chair's Business | Commission Self Assessment – invite external member of Governance Committee to prepare report            | PCG                | Following on from meeting |

Signed:   
**John Saunders**  
**Chairman**

Date: 17/6/16