

## Minutes of the Meeting of the BASW Renal Special Interest Group

University of London Union, Malet Street

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008

### 1) Present

Ena Isiboge	St Georges Hospital, London
Margaret Mitchell	Churchill Hospital, Oxford
Berni Boruch	Manchester Royal Infirmary
Christine Beaty	Lister Hospital, Stevenage
Brianna Strumm	Evelina Children's Hospital, London
Jenny Latchford	York District Hospital
Ann Lee	Wirral Hospitals
Maria Da Silva Gane	Lister Hospital, Stevenage
Jane Stephenson	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Marion Dawson	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Ann Murdoch	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Rita Taylor	Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading
Antonia Mbele	Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading
Pam Russell	Birmingham Children's Hospital
Chika Unaka	Great Ormond St Hospital, London
Jill Holmes	RHSC, Edinburgh
Janey Atha	James Cook University Hospital
Julie Hallett	Harrogate Hospital
Chris Pritchard (Chair)	Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor
Heidi Steward (Secretary)	City Hospital, Nottingham
Jo Fearn (Treasurer)	University Hospital of Wales

### 2) Apologies

Debbie Shakespeare	RLUH, Liverpool
John Chambers	Cumbria Infirmary, Carlisle
Julie Daniels	Kent & Canterbury Hospital
Suzanne Batte	City Hospital, Nottingham
Cathy Holman	York District Hospital
Ruth Crowther	St James' Hospital, Leeds
Charlotte Goulding	St James' Hospital, Leeds
Karen Bradley	Royal Preston Hospital, Preston
Pauline Ross	Royal Free Hospital, London
Maureen Russell	Monklands Hospital, Airdrie
Lisa Robertson	Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline
Marian Wainwright	Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
Kazia Gamble	St James' Hospital, Leeds
Mark Lee	St James' Hospital, Leeds
Mary Woods	Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle
Irene Marshall	Monklands Hospital, Airdrie

Caron Jones  
Mair Thornton

Wrexham, North Wales  
Wrexham, North Wales

### **3) Minutes of Last Meeting**

The following corrections were noted:

Jo Fearn was present at the last meeting.

Margaret Mitchell attended the whole EDTNA conference, not just the sessions mentioned in the last minutes.

### **4) Matters Arising**

Heidi has spoken to Lisa Robertson about the need to update the Information Pack.

**Heidi to make the necessary alterations to the information pack**

Janey Atha has just received information on the Astellas Foundation. She will pass this on to Heidi.

**Heidi to distribute information on the Astellas Foundation to the group.**

### **5) Correspondence**

Charlotte Goulding from Leeds and Mark Lee from Leeds (Paediatrics) are both leaving renal social work to take up new posts.

### **6) Accounts**

The accounts are still with the auditor and the report should be ready in time for the AGM in June.

The Elizabeth Ward Scholarship Fund stands at £3124. The next payment of £5000 is due in February.

The cheque for the Richard Dingwall award for this year has been received.

The RSIG current account stands at £2868 and the deposit account at £3405.

Following a discussion about feedback on grants awarded from the EW Scholarship Fund, it was decided that a feedback form should be added to the website. The form should specify a date by which it should be returned and that it should be returned to Lisa Robertson. Lisa should also be emailed to let her know when a grant has been agreed, so that she can keep track of grants and knows from whom to expect a feedback report.

A report on grants awarded from the EW Scholarship Fund should be ready for presentation at the AGM. Lisa to give us a list of reports she has had.

**EW Scholarship Fund report to be put on agenda for June**

## 7) **Membership Secretary's Report**

Ruth Crowther sent in a report on current membership which Chris presented. There are currently 44 adult and 5 paediatric renal social work members on the list and all fees are paid up to date. Ruth will be liaising with Lisa Robertson to ensure that new members get the appropriate information about the group.

Chris has received 2 requests from people who want to attend meetings. Paul Bray is a qualified social worker who is not currently working as a social worker. He is also a transplant patient. Chris will reply to Paul to let him know that he is not eligible to join the group, but will invite him to join us as a guest if there is a relevant topic at one of our future meetings.

**Chris to contact Paul Bray**

Vicky Fourie, a social worker in Dublin, has also contacted Chris. Ann Murdoch will contact Vicky and direct her to the Northern Ireland group.

**Ann to contact Vicky Fourie**

Susannah Gibb will contact Ruth Squibbs who attended our last meeting as a guest to clarify whether she is registered as a social worker, although she no longer works in a social work post, and Heidi will check the Constitution, to see if it is specific enough about eligibility for membership, or needs amendment.

**Put on Agenda for June meeting**

## 8) **RSIG Website**

Cathy Holman has sent an email to say that she is prepared to keep an eye on the website as it is currently not very well used and needs some updating. There are no links to the BASW and BRS websites and this needs addressing. The group welcomed Cathy's offer, and Chris encouraged members to make more use of this facility.

Also, Heidi to check with Cathy whether we should be paying for the website manager's input as no invoices have been received from him.

**Action: Heidi**

## 9) **British Renal Society**

There is no report from Julie Daniels, as she had to attend the BRS meeting today. An update will follow.

Maria told the meeting that BRS will provide money for non-scientific research and this may encourage members to do more individual or collaborative research.

Christine Beaty suggested that Maria may like to do a presentation to the group about basic information on how to do a research project because she has had a lot of experience of this. Social workers are generally still not confident enough to take on any research projects and even though we have had a study day on this topic, the group felt that some input from Maria would be very helpful. This is something we will look at doing at a future meeting.

We need a BRS representative to take over from Julie. Jenny Latchford was nominated for this post by Mary Braybrooke and this was seconded by Ann Murdoch. Jenny will take over from Julie at the AGM in June.

The next BRS conference is in May in Glasgow. Chris has volunteered to look after the stand.

Maria is a member of the Renal Psychology Services Group which has become affiliated to BRS. There is another group of psychologists who are not affiliated and they have asked Maria if they can link in with our group. Maria will put both groups in touch with Chris to discuss.

#### **10) BKPA**

Chris has spoken to Mrs. Ward about the definition of holidays for 'needy couples' and the subject of who should be regarded as a couple, which came up at the last meeting. She has replied that this applies to people who are living in the same household, and sharing expenses.

Several group members gave examples of difficulties they had had with applications.

Mrs. Ward had approached Jo Fearn, and Chris Pritchard, before Christmas, to suggest that renal social workers should be allocated funds from the BKPA to manage grant applications themselves. Chris and Jo discussed the proposition, and decided that it was not viable, as there were far too many difficulties with the idea. Chris wrote to Mrs. Ward to explain the group's position, and received a reply from Mrs. Ward saying that she understood and that, for the foreseeable future, grant applications should remain as they are. A copy of the Chairs letter to Mrs. Ward to be sent out with the minutes for the information of members.

#### **11) Conferences – Feedback/Forthcoming**

The BRS conference will be held this year in Glasgow from 13-16 May.

The paediatric EWOPA conference is at Evelina Children's Hospital in London from 22-24 May. The Paediatric renal social workers are hoping to meet up at this instead of holding their usual annual meeting in Birmingham.

EDTNA this year is in Prague 6-9 September 2008.

The NKF conference is in Kenilworth in October (dates to follow).

#### **12) BASW**

Since taking on the Chair, Chris has received a lot of correspondence from BASW. As we have no active representative at present, we urgently need someone to represent the group.

Please can we again ask for a volunteer at our AGM?

Chris will try to get to a meeting this year, if at all possible, and send a report from the Chair

Mary Braybrooke apologised for not being able to go to any of the meetings.

Chris will contact Sarah Hodgson, chair of the England group to clarify how other groups link in.

**Action: Chris**

### **13) Kidney Research UK**

Wendy Ashton has been accepted on to the patient grants committee. Chris will hand over her role to Wendy in April.

Cathy Holman had sent an email to Chris to say that she had applied to KRUK for help with a patient's utility bill, but had been told that a grant could not be made available until the patient was threatened with being cut off. Chris will look into this. Chris urged group members to keep sending in applications.

### **14) EDTNA/ERCA**

Margaret Mitchell is still expressing her interest in being a rep. She has been asked to referee some abstracts for EDTNA. Margaret is still having difficulty finding out what is going on.

After contact with the executive committee and Chair of the Social Work interest group (Nurith Blumenthal), Chris is still in negotiation as regards our affiliation with EDTNA. Therefore we are still looking how to clarify what our involvement could be.

To be continued.

### **15) Social Work Audit**

Slides from the October talk have not yet been circulated by Julie Daniels. This will be done pending further work. There has been a postponement of publication of the BRS workforce review data. However, the BRS have highlighted our audit as extremely helpful, and are encouraging other professional groups to undertake similar data collection. Chris and Julie have worked on the data and the abstract. Julie has now submitted this to the BRS for the Conference in May.

Chris will ask Julie if the abstract can be circulated to the group.

Chris will meet up with Julie to try to produce a stand alone document concerning the current status of renal social work in the UK.

There were also concerns expressed that referrals had increased across the UK, as a result of the recent GP screening procedures, despite our limited workforce.

**Action: Julie and Chris**

#### **16) Study Day – Feedback 2007/Update 2008**

The feedback from 2007 was very positive. There were some issues about the size and layout of the room, but this is the only room available for the next study day and the consensus is that it will be fine for next time.

The next study day is entitled “Supporting people on home renal replacement therapies.”

The Study Day planning group put out a plea for more volunteers. When this was first set up, the plan was to have a rolling membership. Any interest would be welcomed by the present members.

#### **17) Dates of Future Meetings**

AGM June 15 2008 in Edinburgh

Study Day June 16 2008 in Edinburgh

October meeting in York, date and venue to be confirmed

January 26 2009 ULU, London

#### **18) Any Other Business**

##### **Benefits**

There was some discussion of DLA and whether people on dialysis qualify for this benefit. Group members reported variable success in obtaining this.

The NKF booklet, “Know Your Benefits” is available from the NKF helpline or website.

Some young people on PD receive DLA, whilst others have been turned down.

The DLA unit should be informed as soon as a patient has received a transplant.

The need for storage space needs to be highlighted when applying for the Council Tax reduction.

##### **End of Life Care**

Maria informed the group that the DoH is setting up a steering group for End of Life Care, to forward the recommendations of the Renal NSF, and that she has been asked to be involved.

The group expressed appreciation of Maria's hard work on the important aspect of renal work, and look forward to receiving some feedback.

**Heidi Steward**  
**Secretary**  
**BASW RSIG**  
**10 March 2008**