

Minutes of the Meeting of the BASW Renal Special Interest Group

University of London Union, Malet Street

Monday 26th January 2009

1) Present

Margaret Mitchell	Churchill Hospital, Oxford
Berni Boruch	Manchester Royal Infirmary
Ann Lee	Wirral Hospitals
Rita Taylor	Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading
Pam Russell	Birmingham Children's Hospital
Jill Holmes	RHSC, Edinburgh
Chris Pritchard (Chair)	Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor
Heidi Steward (Secretary)	City Hospital, Nottingham
Susannah Gibb	Bristol Children's hospital
Caron Jones	Wrexham Hospital
Mair Thornton	Wrexham Hospital
Munira Asaria	Evelina Children's Hospital, London
Jane Gardner	Kings College Hospital, London
Pauline Edwards	Kings College Hospital, London
Lisa Robertson	Queen Margaret hospital, Fife
Janey Atha	James Cook University Hospital
Cathy Holman	York District Hospital
Jenny Latchford	York District Hospital
Julie Hallett	Harrogate
Antonia Mbele	Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading

2) Apologies

John Chambers	Cumbria Infirmary, Carlisle
Jo Fearn	University Hospital of Wales
Julie Daniels	Kent & Canterbury Hospital
Suzanne Batte	City Hospital, Nottingham
Ruth Crowther	St James' Hospital, Leeds
Karen Bradley	Royal Preston Hospital, Preston
Marian Wainwright	Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
Marion Dawson	Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh
Ena Isiboge (leaving)	St Georges Hospital, London
Mary Braybrooke	Churchill Hospital, Oxford
Laura Cowell	Royal Preston Hospital, Lancs
Jane Stephenson	Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh
Maria Da Silva Gane	Lister Hospital, Stevenage
Christine Beaty	Lister Hospital, Stevenage

3) Minutes of Last Meeting

The following corrections were noted:

Mair Thornton is renal social worker at Wrexham hospital, not at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Jill Holmes is at the Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, not at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

In Membership Secretary Report, under Matters Arising on page 2, the first line should read 'Membership requests are being sent to the Membership Secretary without membership forms'.

Item 14 on page 5 should read NKF, not NKPA.

Subject to the above corrections, Janey Atha proposed minutes as an accurate record of the meeting and this was seconded by Margaret Mitchell.

4) Matters Arising

Social Work Audit

The Social Work Audit has been completed and the final version is on the website under research. It now needs to be circulated to the following: BRS, BASW, Donal O'Donahue, the NKF, Scottish and Welsh health departments and the relevant paediatric body. Jenny will request that the audit be put on as an agenda item for the next BRS meeting in March; Heidi will check paediatric distribution and Chris will circulate the audit information to the remaining.

Action: Jenny, Heidi, Chris

Website

There was some discussion about creating a 'visitors' book' as we have had several people from around the world visiting the website. Heidi will ask the website manager, Steve, about this.

Steve has been asked by people who are not part of the group to make additions onto the website. Heidi will check with Steve to ensure that any such requests are agreed first by one of the committee members. She will also check with Steve to see if his contact details should be added to the information on the website.

Action: Heidi

Alternative venue for the October meeting

We are still looking for an alternative to York for the October meeting. Berni agreed to see if there is a suitable meeting room in Manchester and Heidi will ask Ruth Crowther about Leeds. We need to make a decision on this by the end of February. York is still a possibility if the other suggestions fail.

Action: Heidi and Berni

5) Correspondence

Carole Owen, a Renal Social Worker in Tasmania has emailed wanting to link in with the group. Chris will get back to her. Lisa Robertson is visiting Tasmania later in the year and will try and make contact then. Chris to send details to Lisa.

Action: Chris, Lisa

Anne Cook from N. Ireland sent information about the Northern Ireland forum for Renal Social Workers. Anne saw our website and wanted to get in touch. Chris will maintain contact.

Action: Chris

Jo Hall from Sheffield is new in post and wants to link with other renal social workers to exchange ideas and information on transition. Various members have replied to Jo independently.

Rosemary Macri emailed to let us know that she has had a request from Tess Brockbank, a social work manager in Sheffield, asking for money from the EW Scholarship Fund for a speaker from CAB to explain the new benefit which replaces Incapacity Benefit. Chris will contact Tess to explain what the fund is about and how it is managed.

Action: Chris

Tess Harris from the polycystic kidney disease society would like to do a renal social worker's 'day-in-the life of' interview. Chris will send a copy of the article she did recently for the BKPA.

Action: Chris

6) Accounts

Ann gave a summary of the RSIG accounts as follows:

E.W.S.F. £2487.40

BASW RSIG Deposit Account £3481.98

BASW RSIG Current Account £3168.37

7) Membership Secretary's Report

Ruth was unable to attend the meeting and sent her apologies, best wishes to everyone for a happy new year and the following brief report:

The group currently has 38 adult members, 7 paediatric members and 4 associate members. Two members have written to advise of their retirement. Ruth has asked anyone who has any queries about their membership or payment of membership fees to contact her directly. She will be sending the latest membership to Steve for inclusion on the website.

8) British Renal Society

The next BRS meeting is on the 23rd of March and another meeting of the workforce planning group will take place at the same time. Jenny will attend as our representative.

A workshop session on end of life care is being planned for the next BRS conference. Jenny is looking for a facilitator for this. Some suggestions were put forward. If anyone has any other ideas, please contact Jenny.

9) BKPA

Rosemary Macri sent a letter to Heidi thanking the group for asking her to attend the last meeting at York.

Rosemary has also sent an email asking if any member of our group would be interested in joining the Board of Trustees of the BKPA. Chris will seek clarification from Rosemary e.g. does she want the person appointed to be a representative of the RSIG or to act as an individual, tenure of the post, legal implications, level of commitment etc. In the meantime, could group members give some thought to whether they might be interested in doing this?

Action: All group members

10) Conferences – Feedback/Forthcoming

The next BRS conference is in Birmingham and starts on the 2nd of June. Lisa Robertson has submitted an abstract and Julie Hallett has submitted a poster. Julie and Lisa have offered to man our stand if their submissions are accepted and Jenny will help out.

The next paediatric EWOPA conference is in Leuven Belgium from the 4th to the 6th of June.

Any group member attending a conference is asked to let us know by email.

Members are reminded that money is available from the Richard Dingwall memorial fund for attendance at EDTNA. Anyone thinking of applying should contact Chris.

11) EDTNA/ERCA

Cathy has had an email from Nurith Blumenthal, the EDTNA Social Work Consultant, saying that the Social Work group has been disbanded. As it is not at all clear what is happening, Chris will contact Nurith for more information.

Action: Chris

12) Study Day – Update 2009

The study day planning group are working hard to prepare for this year's training day which will be in Edinburgh again in June. The theme for the day will be around psychosocial care within the multidisciplinary team and will look at, amongst other themes, the effects of stress on ourselves as workers. A Psychologist from Manchester has been approached to help facilitate the day which, it is planned, will be more interactive than last year.

Ann Murdoch has agreed to do the bookings as before.

13) Dates of Future Meetings

AGM and Study Day June 21st-22nd, Edinburgh.

October 5th 2009, details of venue to be confirmed.

January 25th 2010, University of London Union, London

14) Any Other Business

The following points were raised under any other business:

KRUK will no longer help with fuel bills. However, Cathy Holman did succeed in getting such a grant by arguing that fuel costs are an essential item. Chris will draft a letter for our KRUK representative, Wendy Ashton, to take to the next meeting.

Action: Chris

Susannah Gibb mentioned that some energy companies have Trusts that help out with arrears. She will see about putting this information on the website.

Action: Susannah Gibb

For information, the Family Fund has increased the eligibility age from 16 to 18.

Cathy Holman told the meeting that draft leaflets on individualised renal care plans have been produced by the DoH. These have been shown to patients who were very critical as they can't even get the basic services they need such as home haemodialysis. Cathy would like comments so that she can feed these back to the working group. The leaflets will be piloted in 6 areas.

Action: Members to send comments on the leaflets to Cathy

Susannah Gibb is involved in the national audit on renal transport which is being done by the DoH. She will feed back any information that comes from this to the group.

Action: Susannah Gibb

A discussion followed about transport costs for people coming to hospital for haemodialysis. The Birmingham unit has managed to secure reimbursement for patients' travelling costs. Cathy asked if any stats are available to make a case for this.

Following on from this, concern was expressed about the lack of equity in reimbursement of LRD expenses from PCTs. Chris will write to Donal O'Donahue about this.

Action: Chris

Janey Atha agreed to man the stand at the NKF conference in Blackpool next October. Chris would also like to attend and help out with the stand.

A group photograph was taken at the close of the meeting. Permission was given by those photographed for the photo to be used in publications, but not to be put on the website.

Cathy Holman has written an article published in Nephrology News on 'The Renal Social Worker- essential to good renal care?' The RSIG would like to extend its thanks to Cathy for her excellent and heart-felt contribution, and for keeping the need for service improvement highlighted.

Following the business part of the meeting, Lisa Robertson gave a presentation on her MSc dissertation entitled 'Carers' Experience of the Renal Multi-Disciplinary Team in Relation to caring for Someone with End-Stage Renal Failure and Who is Haemodialysis dependent' which was very well received by those present.

Lisa's presentation was followed by a discussion on the KRUK grant applications pathway produced by Chris Pritchard.

Our thanks to Lisa and Chris for their contributions to the afternoon session.

**Heidi Steward
Secretary
BASW RSIG**

2 February 2009