Minutes of the BASW Renal Special Interest Group Meeting
Friends Meeting House York
Monday 6th October 2008

1. Present

Wendy Ashton	CIC Carlisle
Mary Woods	RVI Newcastle
Marian Wainwright	Freeman Newcastle
John Chambers	CIC Carlisle
Ann Lee	Wirral Hospital
Ruth Crowther	St. James Hospital Leeds
Gill Butterfield	St. James Hospital Leeds
Mary Braybrooke	Churchill Hospital Oxford
Berni Boruch	MRI Manchester
Sheelagh McGough	MRI Manchester
Rita Taylor	Royal Berkshire Hospital
Caron Jones	Wrexham Hospital
Antonia Mbele	Royal Berkshire Hospital
Mair Thornton	Royal Berkshire Hospital
Laura Cowell	Preston hospital
Karen Bradley	Royal Preston Hospital
Jane Gardner	Kings College Hospital London
Cathy Holman	York Hospital
Janey Atha	James Cook University Hospital
Margaret Mitchell	Oxford Churchill Hospital
Jenny Latchford	York Hospital
Julie Hallett	Harrogate
Jackie Wilson	Sheffield
Pam Russell	Birmingham Children's Hospital
Jane Stephenson	Royal Infirmary Edinburgh
Alison Milne	Royal Infirmary Edinburgh
Jill Holmes	Royal Infirmary Edinburgh

2. Apologies

Christine Beaty
Julie Daniels
Maria da Silva Gone
Suzanne Batte
Jo Fearn
Lisa Robertson
Dick Williams
Roseanne Allison

Irene Marshall
Helen Cook
Helen Alton
Anne Murdoch
Susannah Gibb
Maureen Russell (retired)
Heidi Steward
Marion Dawson

3. Minutes of last meeting

Were proposed and seconded as a true and accurate account

4. Matters Arising

Treasurer's report and election of officials
Anne Lee is now the Treasurer, since 19.8.08, and is in the process of changing signatures on the accounts. It was thought wise to include added signatories, so this may delay the transfer a little. Once this is assured then cheques can be signed and monies paid.

Membership Secretary Report.
Membership requests are being sent to the Treasurer without membership forms. This makes it difficult to track. It was requested that all applicants are to make sure that membership forms are sent with cheques to the membership secretary. Ruth has sent out the second reminders. List will be updated on the website.

5. AGM

It had been decided to keep in touch with Elizabeth Ward, who retired form the BKPA earlier this year. The Chair has sent a letter expressing thanks in line with action outlined in AGM Minutes (15 June 2008). To date no response has been received.

6. Social Work Audit

Following Julie Daniels presentation of the Audit at the BRS conference in May, it was agreed that Chris Pritchard will produce a draft written document, and send it out to the whole group for feedback, with a time limit set, so that the document can be further amended, and eventually and placed on the web site, and used to further our cause. The main focus relates to renal social work posts, and availability, as there appears to be a dip in numbers against an overall increase in renal patients. Concern was expressed about the increasing emphasis away from specialism, to care management only. On the positive side it was recognized that where there are established posts, these appear to be more secure. Also issues highlighted by the National Workforce Planning Group 2002, appear to be filtering through at last.

7. RSIG Website

The balance of the website has been improved by the addition of the research category. So far the pictures taken at the last AGM have not been located, so no photographic section yet! The bulletin board still appears underused. A general appeal was made to increase use of this amongst members.

8. Kidney Research UK

Feedback from Wendy Ashton highlighted the importance of including comprehensive financial information with grant applications. Particularly identifying extra outgoings, as this made it easier to assess accurately. It was important in safeguarding the resources to ensure that grants are appropriate, and meeting greatest need. Increased amounts of information entered on the forms provided will help in this process. Chris Pritchard has developed a diagram/ pathway, aimed at helping to identify sources of funding, for the, KRUK website. This might also be of use to group members, and possibly other charities.

9. EDTNA

Cathy Holman fed back about the conference in Prague which she felt was very good. The social work special interest group had been dissolved, and it was not clear why. It was thought that a post of Social work Consultant was being developed, but communication has been unclear and ambiguous. Cathy had emailed about a link between BASWRSIG and European counterparts, but had received no reply to date. Cathy attended excellent workshops on bereavement, and also received a good response to her presentation on Carers. Next years EDTNA will take place in Germany.

10. Correspondence

Victoria Lush has been in contact, as she has been asked to revamp the BKPA Silver Lining annual magazine, and wanted an article on renal social work.

Chris Pritchard will respond to Andrew Lambs re Kiwi membership. The response will invite use of website, but at present there are no mechanisms to allow for international membership.

Maureen Russell has now retired, Chris will send a card from the group wishing her well for the future.

Action: Chris

Lisa Roberts has now successfully completed her Msc in Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care, and achieved a distinction. She will be presenting her work at the Scottish Renal Association meeting, and at next years EDTNA. Lisa originally supported by an Elizabeth Ward Scholarship Fund grant. The group will send its congratulations to her, and possibly invite Lisa to present her work to the group.

Action: Heidi

11. Group Accounts

Last year was the first year that we came close for the first time to using the full amount of £11,000 grants. It was noted that feedback from conference attendence had not gone back to Lisa Robertson, for collation and for the purpose of an annual report back to the BKPA. Those wishing to seek finance for attending group meetings, should be directed to the Treasurer, after checking out initial sources of funding through their line managers/Renal Units. Grants for other matters require an application made to Chair, and decisions would be made in consultation with the Secretary and/or Treasurer. Decisions will be made as quickly as possible, the applicant notified, and details sent to Lisa Robertson, who should then receive some report about how the funded event had gone, within 28 days of the event. If 2 or more people attend, a joint report will be fine.

Heidi will send out a memo on grant forms and process.

Action: Heidi

12. BRS

Jenny Latchford gave feedback about the Council meeting. In planning for the next conference a request was made for social work input around psycho-social interventions, possibly to run alongside medical sessions on Haemodialysis. Cathy suggested the facilitator, who had organized the sessions on bereavement at EDTA. Jenny stressed the importance of raising the profile of social work at the conference, which is to be held in Birmingham this year. World Kidney Day is to be held on March 12th 2009. In terms of Workforce Planning, members were divided into groups. Jenny looked at the future of the service, and how to reorganize for a future facing a decline in workforce numbers. The issues about social work were still concentrated on increasing numbers in renal units. It was noted that the research done about national numbers of renal social workers had been useful. There was no social worker on the 18 week pathway group. It was agreed that Cathy Holman would enquire into this, although we may have missed the boat as far as any consultation is concerned.

Action: Cathy Holman

13. BASW

Mary Braybrook had attended the last meeting, and reported that the chair of BASW would like to attend the BASWRSIG. There has been a large agenda and a wide discussion of issues around dementia and reforms of Adult Social Care. There was some discussion about the increasing use of unqualified workers taking on aspects of the social work role, particularly around the personalization agenda. A request was made for attendance at the meeting on 12th Jan 09, when the main topic would be the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Mary will not able to attend and encouraged any one interested to volunteer on behalf of the group.

14. NKPA

The conference at Kenilworth was not as well attended as previous conferences. This was possibly due to geographical difficulties, and problems in accessing transport. The conference was predominantly medically oriented, although one of the highlights was the debate about opt in for Transplantation. The BASWRSIG stand was well attended, and it was felt that the profile had been raised. It was thought possible that information about psycho-social interventions, and information about renal social work, could be fedback through National Kidney Federation newsletters. A small group was organized to put together information about renal social work services, and psycho- social interventions in the form of a resource pack.

15. Manchester Symposium.

This was based around the development of Home Therapies and quality of life issues. It was noted that Sheffield had been promoting PD, and that this was now finding favour once more. It was thought that home-based therapies were enjoying resurgence, after being eclipsed by centre- based therapies. It was recognized that the social impacts of moving away from medical centres needed to be addressed. Housing in particular was a strong issue. There were good workshops around transplants, return to work, psycho- social interventions and medication.

16. Study day

Feedback had been good and provided opportunities for development. It was particularly welcome to see patients and relatives in attendance, although there had been some difficulties in hearing the presentations at times. The group also looked at issues around the number of speakers in terms of cost, and time implications. Future ideas were highlighted around carers, multi-disciplinary work, diabetes and renal failure. It was also thought useful in future to look at innovations in renal social work and working with depression, particularly when patients had unplanned dialysis. Social workers were asked to fill in feedback sheets over lunch and the study group will be continuing to work on the 2009 study day plan.

17. AOB

Vacant renal social work post (health funded) was identified in Leeds. There were also vacancies in Rhyl and Doncaster. All members were asked to make sure their details were correct and up to date on the membership list.

18. Future dates

BRS is in Birmingham June 2009
EDTA is in Hamburg next year, and will be held 5/8th. September 09. Abstracts must be in by 15th. Feb 2009. Next BASWRSIG meeting will be held at London University on 26th Jan 09
AGM and study day will take place in Edinburgh on 21st and 22nd. June 09

The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to Cathy and Jenny for providing the venue and excellent catering.

The group then looked at the possibility of moving to Manchester for the next meeting in October 09. Catering and possible venue would need to be investigated. Also a temporary arrangement Leeds was considered as a possibility and it was though that a meeting held in Leeds could attract more (or different) social workers. It was agreed to explore the possibility of both Leeds and Manchester as venues, and a decision would be made at the January meeting. In the meantime a provisional date was booked at York for 5th. October 2009.

Thanks were also expressed to both speakers for the afternoon, Rosemary Macri (BKPA), who spoke about the updating of the organization, and Wendy Ashton, group member, who shared her presentation on the development of a support group for transplant patients.