



CHPA

Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance

Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability
Commonwealth Association for Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Commonwealth Dental Association
Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group
Commonwealth Medical Association
Commonwealth Nurses Federation
Commonwealth Pharmacists Association

MINUTES

Meeting 19 May 2012 Geneva

Present: Dr Sundaram Arulraj (CMA) Chairperson; Dr Tony Nelson (CAPGAN); Dr Kathryn Currow (COMHAD); Jill Iliffe (CNF)

Guest: Mr Simon Goodlad (Nexus Partnerships)

Apologies: Ulrike Matthesius (CDA); Mr Anthony Kravitz (CDA)

1. Business arising from minutes of last meeting 14 May 2011

(a) Jill advised that at the last meeting it was decided that CHPA members would pay a subscription of £100 each two years. A bank account was to be established and invoices issued to CHPA members, however this has not happened. Jill advised that the CNF had incurred costs for the development of the CHPA logo and website as outlined below. It was decided that the CNF should issue an invoice to each CHPA member to reimburse the CNF for a one seventh share of these costs (£147.10 each); that a CHPA bank account should be established as a matter of urgency; and that subscriptions should be sent out for the year beginning 1 January 2013.

CHPA domain name 2011 £34.80 and 2012 £34.55	£ 69.35
CHPA web space 2011 £57.50 and 2012 £57.50	£115.00
CHPA logo	£ 92.45
CHPA website	£752.90

(b) Jill advised that the CHPA was still not accredited to the Commonwealth. Advice obtained from the Commonwealth Secretariat last year was that the accreditation criteria were being reviewed and the CHPA should wait until the new criteria were available. Early this year, the Commonwealth Secretariat was contacted and the CHPA advised that the new accreditation criteria were still not finalised. The CHPA were advised to submit an accreditation application based on the old criteria. It was decided that this should be done as a matter of priority to ensure that by the end of 2012 the CHPA was accredited to the Commonwealth. Jill agreed to prepare the accreditation application.

(c) Jill advised that, following the 2011 meeting, a logo for the CHPA had been endorsed by CHPA members and the CHPA website launched.

(d) Jill advised that CHPA had been invited by the Commonwealth Association of Planners to co-facilitate a workshop held at Marlborough House in September 2011 titled: *Health in the City*. The purpose of the workshop was to look at the urban built environment in both developed and developing countries and the effect on the health of communities and what could be done to improve both. The workshop was sponsored by the Commonwealth Foundation. Representatives from the CMA, CPA and CNF attended the workshop. Dr Arulraj presented at the workshop. Betty Falconbridge from CPA helped to organise the workshop. The communiqué from the workshop can be accessed on the CHPA website (<http://www.chpa.co>). Unfortunately, the group established to take forward the recommendations from the workshop have not yet done so.

(e) Jill advised that in January 2012 she had submitted an application for a Responsive Grant to the Commonwealth Foundation to offset some of the costs for the CHPA to host a Partner's Forum in the wings of the 2012 Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting. The application was for £5,400 however Jill had been advised by the Commonwealth Foundation that the grant would only be for £3,500.

2. Address by Simon Goodlad from Nexus Partnerships

Simon explained the role of Nexus Partnerships and the support they provide to the Commonwealth Education Consortium in conducting a Partners' Event in conjunction with the Commonwealth Education Ministers' meetings which occur each three years. Simon expressed an interest on behalf of Nexus Partnerships in working with CHPA to host the annual Partners' Forum at the CHMM. Simon advised that one of the strengths of Nexus Partnerships is being able to attract sponsors and speakers. After discussion it was agreed that Simon would work with Jill and Tony to prepare a proposal for further consideration by CHPA in preparation for the 2013 CHMM. It was suggested that an annual CHPA Partners' Forum could be a full day event to be held on the Saturday prior to the CHMM. Speakers and themes could be linked to both the CHMM agenda and the World Health Assembly agenda.

3. Feedback from CACH meeting

Jill Iliffe attended the CACH meeting on behalf of CHPA. Dr Arulrhaj had intended to attend the meeting however his flight was delayed making it impossible for him to attend. The agenda for CACH was circulated to CHPA members prior to the meeting. The only response from CHPA members to the agenda was from CAPGAN who asked that the issue of vaccines be raised as a possible future topic for CHMM in view of 2011-2020 being the 'Decade of Vaccines'. Jill raised vaccines as a possible future topic with the Health Section of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Chair of CACH prior to the meeting and also raised the topic at the meeting. Jill advised that the main items of interest from CACH were (a) the proposed work plan of the Health Section of the Commonwealth Secretariat (Jill will try to obtain a soft copy of the work plan for circulation to CHPA members) and (b) the theme for CHMM 2013 was confirmed as 'mental health' and the Health Section was requested to prepare a scoping document for a possible 'face to face' meeting of CHPA in November 2012 to refine the focus of the theme. Jill raised inconsistencies in mental health legislation across the Commonwealth and requested it be included in the scoping document however it was obvious from country responses that this was a very sensitive topic and its inclusion would meet with some resistance. The theme for CHMM 2014 was briefly discussed. The Health Section suggested that CHMM should perhaps start to consider what the important health issues were post 2015 and the end of the MDGs and expressed some concern that any future global targets might not include health. It was decided that the theme for 2014 would be discussed more fully at the November meeting. The report from the CACH Chairperson to the CHMM was also discussed and it was decided that the Chairperson would work with the Health Section to finalise the presentation following the meeting.

4. CHMM

Jill advised that she had undertaken some intensive lobbying of the Secretary General and the Health Section of the Commonwealth Secretariat for civil society to have an opportunity to address the Commonwealth Health Ministers as part of the formal agenda. This came about as a result of statements made by the Secretary General at the CNF Conference in London in March 2012 (which the Secretary General opened) and statements made at a Commonwealth Secretariat consultation with civil society in April 2012. Subsequently Jill was advised that it had been agreed for civil society to be given 10 minutes to address Commonwealth Health Ministers. Jill prepared a presentation addressing the theme of the CHMM which it was proposed Dr Arulrhaj as Chairperson of CHPA would present. It was agreed that the CHPA presentation would be uploaded to the CHPA website.

5. CHMM Partners' Forum

Jill advised that, despite frequent communication with the Commonwealth Secretariat regarding a Partners' Forum in conjunction with the 2012 CHMM during the second half of 2011 and the first half of 2012, no decision was taken until April 2012 when the Commonwealth Secretariat decided not to be involved. This was largely the result of difficulties within the section with the Director of the Social Transformation Programmes Division on 'extended leave'; the Head of the Health Section being new; and Peggy Vidot as the only Health Advisor having had extended sick leave.

The Commonwealth Secretariat did put Jill in contact with McKinsey and Company who were interested in funding a 'working lunch'. Protracted negotiations with McKinsey and Company resulted in agreement that they would fund a 'sit down' lunch which would be open to delegates attending the CHMM and which would be followed by a Partners' Forum. Jill agreed to organise

speakers and was successful in obtaining a commitment from Dr Collins Airhuhenuwa from Pennsylvania University and Dr Christoph Benn from the Global Fund to speak at the Forum. Two young people from the African Young Positives Forum also committed to attend however despite letters of support from CHPA were unable to obtain visas.

Jill worked with McKinsey and Company to develop a flyer and this was then sent to Commonwealth Health Ministers and Permanent Secretaries as well as to CHPA members for them to circulate to their own membership. The flyer was also circulated through the Commonwealth Foundation networks. The CHPA took responsibility for printing flyers for distribution at the CHMM.

The Commonwealth Foundation was very supportive of the Partners' Forum and the new Director, Vijay Krishnarayan, agreed to attend and speak at the Forum.

6. Future action

- (a) Jill suggested that an area that CHPA could add value for the next CHMM was commissioning some research on mental health legislation across the Commonwealth and presenting the results of the research with recommendations at the 2013 CHMM and Partners' Forum. The research could also form the basis of a printed paper available for distribution at the CHMM and ideally published in a credible peer reviewed academic journal. Dr Nelson suggested that the research should be commissioned through a university to ensure its credibility. This suggestion was strongly supported. Other suggestions were that the research should not specifically identify countries; should highlight best practice (the negatives and positives) and include recommendations. Jill agreed to circulate CHPA members to identify possible researchers and to explore how the research would be funded (possibly Commonwealth Secretariat or Commonwealth Foundation). It was further suggested that speakers for the 2013 Partners' Forum should be identified and contacted as soon as possible.
- (b) The CHPA would work toward holding a Partners' Forum on the Saturday before CHMM with a special emphasis on the theme for the CHMM. An advantage of holding the Partners' Forum on Saturday is that Ministers will be able to attend which will create opportunities for health professionals to interact with Health Ministers.
- (c) Jill was asked to work with Nexus Partnerships, McKinsey and Company, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Secretariat to develop a proposal for the Partners' Forum, including possible speakers and sponsorship, for CHPA members to consider.
- (d) Jill was asked to prepare an application for accreditation to the Commonwealth as a matter of urgency and submit to the next Commonwealth Accreditation Committee meeting.
- (e) Jill was asked to follow up with the CHPA Treasurer to ensure that a CHPA bank account was established and subscription invoices sent to CHPA members at the beginning of 2013.

There being no other business the Chairperson closed the meeting.