



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

eNews Vol.8 Issue 11 November 2015

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

The CNMF President and Board wish all those CNMF members and friends who celebrate Christmas, a happy and peaceful Christmas 2015



## BECOME A CNMF MEMBER

Membership of the CNMF is open to national nursing associations; national midwifery associations; specialist nursing associations (such as mental health, critical care, paediatrics, operating theatre etc); regional and international nursing, midwifery and health associations; regulatory bodies, universities, and individuals. By becoming a member of the CNMF, you can support the work of the CNMF and become involved in that work. Members can promote their own work through the monthly e-News, the CNMF website or the extensive CNMF network. You can join online through the CNMF website: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/membership.html>.

## AFRICAN REGULATORY COLLABORATIVE NEW PROGRAM IN WEST AFRICA

The African Regulatory Collaborative (ARC), a four year partnership between CDC in Atlanta; Emory University; ECSA-HC; and the CNMF, was funded by PEPFAR to provide small funding grants to nursing and midwifery in the east, central and southern Africa region to finance projects to improve nursing and midwifery in the region particularly in the area of HIV prevention, care and treatment. The ARC partnership has now been funded to replicate the initiative with three countries in West Africa: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Cote D'Ivoire. The focus of the funding grants will be specifically to improve paediatric HIV prevention, care and treatment and also to improve the liaison between nurses, midwives and laboratory personnel and increase the involvement of nurses and midwives in laboratory services. The first meeting of the initiative in West Africa was held in Cameroon in July 2015, with the second meeting being held in Cameroon in October 2015. For more information go to: <http://www.africanregulatorycollaborative.com>.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES CONFERENCE

London UK 12-13 March 2016

## CONFERENCE COUNTDOWN

Commonwealth Nurses  
and Midwives Federation

**REGISTRATION  
OPEN**

3rd Commonwealth Nurses  
and Midwives Conference

**Toward 2020:  
Celebrating nursing  
and midwifery leadership**

12-13 March 2016  
London UK

[www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2016/](http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2016/)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference will be held in London UK 12-13 March 2016 at the Royal College of Physicians Regent's Park. The theme of the conference is: *Toward 2020: celebrating nursing and midwifery leadership*. The conference will showcase and celebrate the work of nursing and midwifery leaders who have followed in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, the first nursing theorists, a great nursing leader and a role model for nurses and midwives everywhere.

Presentations will demonstrate leadership in:

- clinical practice;
- research and innovation;
- policies and projects;
- education and training;
- management and administration.

Plenary speakers include Professor Mary Chiarella (University of Sydney); Dr Judith Shamien (ICN); Ms Frances Day-Stirk (ICM); Dr Deva-Marie Beck (NIGH); Dr Linda Lewis (ANCC); and Dr Lynne McDonald (Director, Collected Works of Florence Nightingale). The preliminary program is available at:

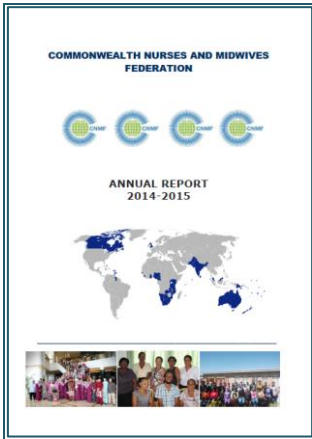
<http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2016>



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## ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015



The CNMF Annual Report for 2014-2015 is available on the CNMF website:

<http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>.

The annual Report highlights the achievements of the CNMF during the 2014-2015 financial year.

## MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATIVE REFORM

The CNMF is conducting a project, funded by a grant from the Commonwealth Foundation, to work with two Commonwealth countries, Seychelles and Botswana, to review their mental health legislation against the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. The researcher is Dr Soumitra Pathare from the Indian Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy

In September as reported in last month's e-News, Dr Pathare visited the Seychelles to deliver his assessment of their mental health and related legislation and in October he visited Botswana to deliver his assessment.

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY October 15

The theme for World Mental Health Day which was celebrated on October 15 was: *Dignity and mental health*. The Preamble of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that: *"...discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person"*. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that: *"All human beings are born equal in dignity and in rights."* All over the world however the dignity of people with mental illness is not respected.

### How can we promote the rights and dignity of people with mental health conditions?

In the health-care system we need to provide better support and care by:

- providing community-based services, encompassing a recovery approach that inspires hope and supports people to achieve their goals and aspirations;
- respecting people's autonomy, including their right to make their own decisions about their treatment and care; and
- ensuring access to good quality care which promotes human rights, is responsive to people's needs, and respects their values, choices and preferences.

In the community we need to:

- support people with mental health conditions to participate in community life, and acknowledge the value of their contribution;
- respect their autonomy to make decisions for themselves, including about their living arrangements and personal and financial matters;
- ensure their access to employment, education, housing, social support and other opportunities; and
- include people in decision-making processes on issues affecting them, including policy, legislation and health service reform relating to mental health.



The Botswana National Mental Health Advisory Committee met with the researcher to hear the results of his assessment. The researcher found that existing mental health and related legislation in Botswana failed to meet the standard of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability in many aspects. He also found that the mental health legislation was written from the perspective of protecting society from persons with a mental disorder rather than protecting the rights of a person with a mental disorder. This made it extremely difficult to amend the legislation.

The NMHAC considered the assessment of the researcher and decided to recommend to the Ministry of Health that a new Bill be drafted.

This recommendation was endorsed at a subsequent stakeholder meeting where the results of the assessment were shared. While in Botswana, the researcher also met with representatives from the Office of the Attorney General to share the results of his assessment and the implications for the existing legislation.

The next steps for the Botswana NMHAC are to prepare a report with recommendations for the Minister for Health through the Permanent Secretary for Cabinet to approve new mental health legislation, and begin preparations for developing drafting instructions for the new mental health Bill.

Further information about the project is available from the project website: <http://www.mentalhealthlawreform.org>.