



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT 22nd CNMF BIENNIAL MEETING

Jill ILIFFE



Ms Iliffe briefly highlighted with a power point presentation the key activities of the CNMF over the past two years under the headings: governance, administration, finances, communication, liaison, membership and programs.

GOVERNANCE: Ms Iliffe advised that elections had been held for CNMF Board Member for the Pacific Region and the Europe Region. Ms Annie Butler from Australia was elected to the CNMF Pacific Region and Mr George Saliba from Malta was elected to the CNMF Europe Region.



Ms Annie Butler



Mr George Saliba

ADMINISTRATION: Ms Iliffe said that all administrative processes for the CNMF were running smoothly including the records system and the data base. Ms Iliffe said the CNMF Board had discussed a project to digitise all paper based CNMF files and this would be a priority over the next two years.

FINANCES: Ms Iliffe reported that the CNMF was in a stable financial position. Revenue was derived from membership fees, project grants, and consultancy work. Revenue from the consultancy work for the African Regulatory Collaborative was an important source of revenue for the CNMF allowing further project work, support for Board members, and accumulation of reserves which has not been possible in the past. Ms Iliffe reminded members that in November 2013, the CNMF was registered as a limited private company with Companies House in the UK. Registration was essential for the CNMF to be able to apply for grants. Ms Iliffe also reported that the CNMF Board had considered the establishment of a Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Foundation to be able to accumulate funds specifically for project work.

COMMUNICATION: Ms Iliffe reported that the three main mediums for communication were the monthly e-News, the bi-annual journal, The Commonwealth Nurse, and the CNMF website.



<http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>

The e-News was sponsored by the RCN Publishing Company and had a distribution of 1,600.

The CNMF journal, The Commonwealth Nurse, now has its own website and is produced digitally to reduce printing and postage charges which were very high. Ms Iliffe reported that some of the past issues of The Commonwealth Nurse had become corrupted and are in the process of being re-keyed. Ms Iliffe encouraged members to contribute articles to The Commonwealth Nurse.

The CNMF website, is managed in-house to reduce costs and is regularly updated and redesigned to keep it fresh and interesting. A redesign was done when the CNMF became the CNMF and a new logo developed.

LIAISON: The CNMF keeps in regular contact with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation; the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance; the Royal Commonwealth Society; C3 Collaborating for Health; The Burdett Trust; ICN and ICM; Health Information for All; and various other international organisations.

The CNMF also liaises with the South Pacific Nurses Forum, the Caribbean Nurses Organisation, ECSACON (the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing) and the West Africa College of Nursing.

Mental health legislation reform project

MEMBERSHIP: Ms Iliffe reported that membership is stable however there are some Commonwealth countries who are still not members of the CNMF, particularly midwifery associations. Countries are often slow to renew their membership and require continual follow-up. Ms Iliffe reported that the new membership categories for the CNMF have been slow to grow but an increase in membership is necessary to achieve the objective of the Board, that membership fees are sufficient to pay the salary of the Executive Secretary so that the organisation is self-sufficient.

PROGRAMS: Ms Iliffe outlined the projects the CNMF has been involved in over the past two years including the mental health legislation reform project; the involvement in ARC meetings and provision of technical assistance; development of a task sharing policy; and the maternal health education program.

African Regulatory Collaborative

The African Health Professions Regulatory Collaborative (ARC), is a four year innovative to engage and build on the capacity of Africa's health professional leadership for nursing and midwifery. The partners are the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Emory University's Lillian Carter Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility; the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), and the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation. The initiative is funded by the United States *President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief* (PEPFAR). The aim of the collaborative is to improve health professional standards and practice in the region, particularly in relation to HIV prevention, care and treatment, using local solutions and peer-based learning.

The CNMF supports the partnership by assisting with administrative arrangements for the meetings; writing the reports of the meetings; providing technical assistance to countries with their projects; and maintaining the ARC website. This generates income for the CNMF.

- (a) Meetings: Namibia February 2015; Johannesburg July 2015; Zimbabwe November 2015; Johannesburg February 2016.
- (b) Technical assistance: Uganda for scopes of practice for nurses and midwives; Botswana for scopes of practice for nurses and midwives; Seychelles for scopes of practice for generalist and specialist nurses working in the area of HIV; and development of a national continuing professional development program; Zambia for development of a national continuing professional development program; Namibia for evaluation of their national continuing professional development program.

The CNMF was successful in a funding application to the Commonwealth Foundation for a Participatory Governance Grant to work with two Commonwealth countries to assess their mental health legislation against the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, recommend areas where reform is indicated, and if recommended, develop drafting instructions for a new mental health Bill. The two countries participating are Botswana and Seychelles. The National Mental Health Advisory Committee (NMHAC) in Seychelles met in November 2014, and April, September and October 2015, and February 2016 and in Botswana, the NMHAC met in February, May, August and November 2015. Both countries concluded that a new mental health Act was required and it is anticipated drafting instructions will be completed by June 2016.

Maternal health education program

Two maternal health education programs were conducted in Zimbabwe funded by The Beit Trust. Two programs were conducted in Lesotho funded by The Burdett Trust. A further two programs have been funded by The Burdett Trust in Tanzania and another two in Malawi. These are scheduled for 2016. The program is run over four days and is designed to be an opportunity for midwives to reflect on and refresh their midwifery skills from antenatal to postnatal care and also to be introduced to current maternity teaching resources. The programs are evaluated highly by participants.

Task sharing policy project

The CNMF was engaged by the Public Health Informatics Institute in Atlanta to work with the Botswana nursing and midwifery leadership to develop a task sharing policy for nurses and midwives. The program of work included a comprehensive survey of nurses and midwives about their perception of and experience with task sharing. The policy is scheduled to be submitted to the Botswana Ministry of Health in June 2016.

Seychelles capacity building

The CNMF was asked by the Seychelles Ministry of Health to provide capacity building training for nurse managers. Two programs have been conducted to date, one on leadership and the other on infection prevention and control. Three programs were also provided in partnership with the national nursing association on documentation, legal and ethical issues and women's health.

In concluding her report, Ms Iliffe paid tribute to the support, commitment and contribution of the CNMF President, Vice President, Board Members and Honorary Treasurer.



ARC Summative Congress Johannesburg South Africa



ARC West Learning Session Doula Cameroon



Inaugural LARC Meeting Johannesburg South Africa



National Mental Health Advisory Committee Seychelles



National Mental Health Advisory Committee Botswana



Capacity Building for Nurse Managers Seychelles



Botswana Task Sharing Policy Project Advisory Committee



Maternal Health Education Program Lesotho



Continuous Professional Development PAC Seychelles



Leadership training Brunei Darussalam