

Minutes of the 315th Meeting of the Board of Directors

At:	RNIB Offices, Bristol
On:	25 th June 2018 11.30am - 4.00pm
Present:	Sue Crump (SC), Maggie Dixon (MD), Judith Kiely (JK) Chair,
	Richard O'Quinn (RO), Francis Treuherz (FT), Linda Wicks (LW), Alex Winkler (AW)
In attendance:	Julie Rowland (JR), Pamela Stevens (PS), Emma Hayes (EH), Mark Taylor (MT), Clare

Foley (CF) minutes

Minute		Action
23/18	Apologies for absence	
	Apologies were received from Suse Moebius	
	Robert Pitts was present by Skype for part of the meeting.	
24/18	Conflict of Interest	
	No new conflicts were declared.	
25/18	CEO Report	
	MT went through key points of the CEO's report:	
	Increasing the number of members was a priority and, while the promotion of	
	subscribers was not, this did need to be reviewed.	
	Student Clinical fees were to be reduced to £50 to match the free Student	
	membership.	
	E-learning would be reviewed at the end of 2018. SC asked about the process to	
	be used for this review: MT replied that this had not yet been decided.	
	The wider newsletter to be called 'Remedies' would be published in the first week	
	in every month beginning in July. To avoid confusion with the newsletter, it	
	would not be circulated to members. The initial circulation would be more than	
	5000. It was AGREED that Board members should be added to the mailing list.	
	My Voice	
	New resources were being added to this area of the members' website, with the	
	most recent -'Homeopathy around the World' - being launched in June.	
	Community Clinics	
	All funds for the new Community Clinics had been allocated and, with a total of six	
	clinics awarded funds, some were now up and running. MT would be meeting	

with C	ristal Sumner to explore how to help prolong the life of the clinics.	Ν
Profes	sional Standards	
SC rem	narked that there had been a long delay with the last PSA re-accreditation,	
	ked when the next application would be due. MT confirmed that the	
	ne for the next PSA application would be February 2019.	
SC ask	ed whether there would be a point when it was not feasible for the Society	
to con	tinue with the re-accreditation process. The feedback currently from	
	ers was generally positive and members did value the Society being	
	ited by the PSA.	
Furthe	r discussion took place about the advantages and disadvantages and the	
organi	sational structure of the PSA.	
MT pro	oposed that it would be sensible to analyse and reassess the whole	
accred	itation process at some point. This would be something to consider	-
inserti	ng into the Strategic Plan.	Γ
MT sai	d that one of the conditions of the PSA re-accreditation was for the Society	
to mak	e a statement publicly about CEASE. The statement had now been	
upload	led onto the website, under the page 'Position Statements'. MT also said	
that th	e Society had made contact with all its members who practise CEASE. On	
the wh	ole, this process had not created too much negativity.	
LW add	ded that Homeopathy Facebook pages had been positive towards the	
Society	y in relation to the CEASE statement. MT said that staff would continue to	
keep ir	n contact with all members who practise CEASE.	
Profes	sional Conduct	
The re	cent professional conduct case was now closed, with the appeal being	
dismis	sed. The solicitors had written to say that no further action would be taken.	
In rela	tion to 7.4, SC asked when the Code of Ethics would be updated. EH	
confirr	ned that it would be ready for the Autumn term.	
<u>Public</u>	Affairs	
Judicia	I review - Overall, it was felt that the review had been worthwhile although	
the ou note.	tcome ruled against homeopathy. It was hoped that the NHS would take	
MT sai	d the review was only against prescribing remedies but there was a concern	
	reptics and others would consider this ruling as being against homeopathy	
itself.	septies and others would consider this running as being against homeopathy	
113011.		

	MT asked if there were any further questions about his report.	
	JK asked why three student clinicals had gone back to student status. JR said those members had secured cheaper insurance elsewhere. This would not be an issue going forward as the student clinical fees were to be reduced.	
	FT asked if the Forum was working. PS said that the Society had been waiting for technical issues to be addressed by the web agency. This had meant a delay with some of the outstanding issues and those had been completed. User names had also been updated, so members were now able to tag others in messages.	
	PS had also asked the web agency if we could increase the size available for attachments and this should be completed shortly.	PS
	LW asked if members could be notified if the Forum could be used on phones as well.	PS
	The Board NOTED the report and thanked MT.	
26/18	Strategic Plan MT said that the purpose of the report was to agree the main 'themes' for the 2019-21 Strategic Plan. The outline of the Plan would be submitted to the next Board meeting in September.	
	The 4 themes of the previous Plan were: Professional Standards, Marketing of Homeopathy, Services to members and Sustaining the Society. The Board had discussed various broad themes at the May Residential, and had put together seven in order of priority.	
	Discussion took place about possible themes and the four main ones suggested were:	
	1. Helping members be more successful	
	2. Greater engagement with members	
	 Sustaining the Society Building professional confidence 	
	4. Building professional confidence	
	Further discussion took place and it was agreed that Board members would look at the list of ideas listed in 4.2 and report back on which ones would be included in the larger themes identified above.	ALL

Establishing a CAM Forum	
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Weddine).	
The Board AGREED MT should explore the possibility of creating a new Forum	МТ
with the five organisations, as discussed.	
Publication of Board Minutes	
MT explained the new process of the publication of minutes, which was to have	
three versions: one each for the Board, Members and the Public.	
MT asked whether the Board would be happy to confirm the Board version then	
he would then redact the other two versions.	
SC said that she would like to see all versions before they were published. It was	
AGREED that the members' and public versions would also be circulated and, if	
Society Management Accounts	
JR explained that membership fees were currently below budget and it was hoped	
that next half of the year would see the actual figures more in line with the	
budgeted ones.	
MT noted that the recent annual conference was a success in financial terms,	
making a profit of £6K. Other sources of income were in line with expectations at	
this stage.	
AW asked what were the determining factors for the success of the conference.	
MT added that having the Magic Pills premiere on the Friday night worked well.	
All agreed that having the event start on the Eriday night brought a good feel to	
event as a whole.	
Margue Christe has agreed to be the Conference Dreamanne Consultant for the	
2019 Comerence to be neid in Oxford.	
	MT explained the purpose of the report; to establish whether it would be useful to explore a CAM Forum and bring together the five disciplines which had previously constituted the CCAM (Council for Complementary and Alternative Medicine). The Board AGREED MT should explore the possibility of creating a new Forum with the five organisations, as discussed. Publication of Board Minutes MT explained the new process of the publication of minutes, which was to have three versions: one each for the Board, Members and the Public. MT asked whether the Board would be happy to confirm the Board version then he would then redact the other two versions. SC said that she would like to see all versions before they were published. It was AGREED that the members' and public versions would also be circulated and, if Board members hadn't commented by a specified deadline, they would then be published. Society Management Accounts JR explained that membership fees were currently below budget and it was hoped that next half of the year would see the actual figures more in line with the budgeted ones. MT noted that the recent annual conference was a success in financial terms, making a profit of £6K. Other sources of income were in line with expectations at this stage. AW asked what were the determining factors for the success of the conference. PS thought that the 40 th anniversary was a major factor for its success, bringing together members who hadn't attended Society's conferences for a while. Being located in London and the programme content were thought to be other factors. MT added that having the event start on the Friday night worked well. All agreed that having the event start on the Friday night brought a good feel to

30/18	Risk Management	
	MT explained that the SMT had been looking at section 6 covering PSA	
	accreditation.	
	RO commented that the process of looking at certain sections one at a time was	
	working well.	
	The Board AGREED to add an action to the Risk Matrix under the heading of PSA,	
	as follows:	
	'Continue to foster strong communications with the PSA through regular	
	communication, and the provision of updates as to planned process changes.'	
31/18	Minutes of the 314th meeting held on the 11 th May 2018	
51/10		
	The minutes were AGREED with no matters arising.	
32/18	Minutes of the 58 th PSC meeting held on the 26 th April 2018	
	SC asked in reference to 4/18 if this had been actioned. EH confirmed that the	
	SoH Education Team had actioned a procedure for following up on previous	
	recommendations.	
	6/18 FT asked if members were aware of safeguarding issues. EH responded that	
	this didn't fall under the scope of PSC to action but was something that would be	MT/PS
	beneficial for members to know about. MT and PS would discuss how best to	
	ensure members were aware of safeguarding issues and policies.	
	Further discussion took place about safeguarding. MD said that this should be a	
	priority. LW said that safeguarding should be incorporated into the Strategic Plan	МТ
	under Building Professional Confidence.	
	EH mentioned that Liz Wootliff would be having safeguarding training soon.	
	It was suggested that it would be beneficial to have a database of members'	
	expertise and involvement in particular projects. PS said this could be	PS
	incorporated in the next Membership Survey.	гJ
33/18	Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee held on 19 th March and 4 th June 2018	
	SC explained that the main emphasis of the meeting concentrated on the mental	
	health campaign and the planned activities for this were on track.	
	- The date and venue (London, 17 th November) had been confirmed for the	
	symposium, with all but one speaker confirmed.	
	- More materials had been uploaded to the members' area and a new leaflet	

	was currently being written by Julia Lockwood.
	- The committee had put together ideas for the next Strategic Plan.
	All agreed that the committee's activities were encouraging.
	FT asked how useful the monitoring folder had been. MT proposed assessing its value at the end of the year.
	Both sets of minutes were noted.
34/8	AOB
	MT explained that there were currently two committee vacancies; one on PAC
	and one on PSC. Six applicants had applied for the vacancies. Candidates would
	be interviewed by phone and recommendations made to the Board.
	Dates for 2019:
	Annual Conference and AGM – 22-24 March 2019
	Residential meeting – 11 and 12 April 2019
	Dates for 2018 Meetings
	17 September – Northampton, SoH Office
	3 December – London
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