

Special General Meeting of the South African Society for Mental Health and Deafness held on Friday, 11 May 2007 at 10:00 at Tygerberg Hospital, Parow

1. Attendance:

See attendance register

Apologies : Dr Frans Krige, Dr Erna Mostert, Handrie from the Department of Health Boland / Overberg ,

2. Opening and Welcome

The chairperson constitutes the meeting in terms of the relevant clauses of the constitution. One of the main aims of this special general meeting is to implement the constitution adopted on 27 October 2005.

He welcomes all present and expresses his appreciation for all people present, special welcome to affiliates from DEAFSA, SAFMH. Deafblind SA, and representatives from Lesotho and Swaziland.

3. Progress report by interim chairperson

The Interim Chairperson of the Governing body which included the financial report was presented to the meeting by the chairperson. (see Addendum A)

Discussion and resolutions:

3.1 The Africa Contact Group for Mental Health and Deafness (ACGMHD) Southern Region representatives at the meeting suggests the establishment of societies similar to the SASMHD in African countries on the African continent. The SASMHD supports the ACGMHD in this respect.

3.2 The meeting recommends the amendment of constitution point 4.1: In the second sentence (a) replace "those persons" with "cultural Deaf persons" (b) delete "including" (c) delete "(deafened) who align and identify themselves with Deaf culture and Sign Language."
(Motivation: To specify beneficiaries clearer and to emphasise inclusiveness with regard to people with hearing loss)

3.3 The NCPPDSA represented by Mr Fanie du Toit expressed its desire to be an affiliated member of the SASMHD. The chairperson welcomes it and points out that membership can be obtained under clause 8.6 of the constitution.

4. Election of the chairperson, vice chairperson, office bearers and members of the governing body

Mr Solly Mokgata (South African Federation for Mental Health) and Ms Franci Prinsloo (Director of Development DeafSA) is appointed election committee.

The governing body is elected as follows:

Chairperson: Dr Francois Pretorius

Vice-chairperson: Dr Funeka Sokudela

Secretary: Rev Attie Smit

Treasurer : Sr Hanlie Visser

Additional members: Dr Paul de Wet, Mr Ernest Kleinschmidt, Ms Elizabeth Ramohkele

Co-opted expert member : Ms Therina Wentzel

Representatives:

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DeafSA: Ms Franci Prinsloo, South African Federation for Mental Health: Mr Solly Mokgata, DeafBlind SA: Mr Andre van Deventer

The outgoing chairperson congratulates the new chairperson and governing body and express the wish that the society will go from strength to strength to promote accessible and appropriate mental health services for Deaf people, Hard of Hearing people, Deafblind people and people who experience hearing loss later in life.

The incoming chairperson expresses his appreciation for the trust put in him and thanks the outgoing committee for the work they have done to establish the society and for their involvement with the organising of the Africa Workshop on Mental Health and Deafness in 2004 and the 3rd Mental Health and Deafness World Congress in 2005.

5. Conclusion

The outgoing chairperson thanks everybody and invites all present to have lunch together. He also invites all present to attend and participate in the forum discussion that follows after lunch.

The meeting adjourns at 13:00

.....
Chairperson

.....
Secretary

.....
Date

Lunch

14:30: Forum

Welcome and opening

Mr Ernest Kleinschmidt opens the forum and welcomes all present. He expresses the wish that everybody will find the programme informative and a learning experience

Update on Mental Health and Deafness

Dr Sokudela gives an update on the Mental Health and Deafness field since the last workshop and the inception of the Society

Mr Bruno Druchen share his experience on mental health in the Deaf community

SASMHD and website, DeafNET Centre of Knowledge and the current status

Rev Smit gives further information on the Society and its website and introduces the newly established DeafNET Centre of Knowledge at the Institute for the Deaf.

Tea break

Case Studies

Dr Pretorius, Funeka and De Wet present various case studies to be discussed in a panel with the forum.

Conclusion

The outgoing chairperson, Rev Smit, concludes the forum and the day. He expresses his appreciation for the in depth case studies which were informative, giving knowledge and insight in the unique communication needs of Deaf in treating mental health problems. He suggests that the meeting should start with the forum discussion to emphasise the core business and concern of the society.

The forum adjourns at 17:30

Minutes and report compiled by
A L Smit

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Addendum A
Attendance list

Attendance Register

Name	Organization	
1. S Beepat	DeafNET - NID	africa@deafcare
2. E Ramokhele	Lewensruimte for the Deaf	--
3. M Leaea	DaefNET - NID	Link.deafnet@deafcare.co.za
4. Evelyn M Phae	Lesotho	phaem@education.gov.ls
5. Franci Prinsloo	DeafSA	belroxy@mweb.co.za
6. Solly Mokgata	SAFMH	solly@safmh.org
7. E W Kleinschmidt	Dowe Sake DaefNET - NID	kleinschmidts@caperocktours.com
8. SP du Toit	NCPDSA	Fanie.dt@mweb.co.za
9. Tim Stones	DeafNET	Research.deafnet@deafcare.co.za
10. Jeanne van Eyssen	NID	jdeafcare@mweb.co.za
11. Andre van Deventer	Deafblind SA	natdir@deafblindsa.co.za
12. Anna-Marie Loftus	De la Bat School	Psychology.school@deafcare.co.za
13. Petra Smit	De la Bat School	clinic@deafcare.co.za
14. Dr Bennie Steyn	Lentegeur hospitaal	basteyn@pgwc.gov.za
15. Bruno Druchen	DeafSA	nationaldirector@deafsa.co.za
16. Jabaar Mohamed	UWC	--
17. Therina Wentzel	NCPDSA	therina.wentzel@ncppdsa.org.za
18. Dr Paul de Wet	Weskoppies hospital	phdewet@iafrica.com
19. Dr Funeka Sokudela	Weskoppies hospital	funeka@yahoo.com
20. Dr F Pretorius	Eben Donges Hospital	frpretor@pgwc.gov.za
21. Dr Judy Bently	Lentegeur hospitaal	--
22. Mr M Makhubu	Swaziland	makhosinip@hotmail.com
23. Ds Jan Oberholzer	DCMA	jano@deafcare.co.za
24. Hanlie Visser	DeafNET - NID	Socomo.deafnet@deafcare.co.za
25. Michelle Lombaard	SASLINC	--
26. Ds AL Smit	DeafNET - NID	alsmit@mweb.com