



Association of Nurses in Substance Abuse

Extraordinary General Meeting

**Riverside Medical Centre
Hobart House
St George Wharf
Wandsworth Road
Vauxhall
London
SW8 2JB**

**8 September 2011
13.00-15.00**

PRESENT

Jim Jones (Chair)
Raj Boyjoonauth
Malcolm Carr
Carmel Clancy
Simon Greasley
Jane Haywood
Clare Meachin
Sue Piddington
Rosemary McMahon

MINUTES

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies for absence were received from Jan Annan, Adrian Brown, Peter Kelly, Tim McGregor and Sandy McManus.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 14 July 2011

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2011 were approved as true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 14 July 2011

- 3.1. With reference to minute 4.1., Clare reported that all outstanding invoices had been paid.

- 3.2. With reference to minute 4.2., Rosemary reported that the Publishers Licensing Society had confirmed ANSA's registration to join the collective licensing scheme, which would entitle it to any future royalties which may accrue from its publications.
- 3.3. With reference to minute 6.3., Jim reported that Kerry Webb had confirmed his intention to resign with effect from 9 September 2011 together with all other NEC members.

4. Officers' Reports

- 4.1. Malcolm circulated a breakdown of statistics regarding traffic through the website. It was noted that interest remained at a relatively high level considering the minimal input of new information from members. The website cost £425.00 per year to maintain, including Twitter and LinkedIn options.
- 4.2. Sue reported that the current membership list totalled 62, paying by both cheque and standing order. A letter sent to past members whose subscriptions were not paid by standing order inviting them to renew their membership had resulted in a small number of renewals. It was noted that current contact details were not available for a significant number of members who paid by standing order as they had not forwarded membership renewal forms in recent years.
- 4.3. Clare reported that the balance in the current account was £8279.70. Jim agreed to contact Jim Carroll to establish whether he was personally paying back the short-term loan of £1800.00 that the NEC had authorised to ANSA Scotland to enable them to pay the balance of the venue charge for their 2008 conference, whilst awaiting receipt of outstanding registration fees. Jim would also clarify the current status of ANSA Scotland.

5. Response from Members to Notice of NEC Resignations

- 5.1. Jim reported that a number of responses from organisations and individual members had been received to the notice of NEC resignations, including the following:
 - Carmel Clancy, Patrick Coyne, Raj Boyjoonauth and Tanya Paxton had submitted a proposal to establish an interim holding Executive Board with membership drawn from past NEC members, in addition to new members, and current NEC members who would be willing to continue in an advisory capacity. During this period the NEC would fully investigate all possible options for ANSA's long-term future.
 - Steve Taylor from the NTA had contacted Jim to confirm that the organisation wished to re-engage with nurses in substance abuse.
 - Carole Sharma from FDAP had indicated interest in collaborating with ANSA in the future.
 - Nursing Standard, Nursing Times and Drink and Drugs News had all carried items about the resignation of the NEC and the difficulties ANSA faced in continuing to function in the light of the pressure on members' time, the lack of funding to attend meetings and events and the continuing dilution of the profession.
 - Kate Hall, Professional Lead for Nursing at Greater Manchester West Mental Health Trust representing 100 nurses had expressed interest in joining as a corporate members and engaging with ANSA around involvement in their future nursing forums.

6. Future of ANSA

6.1. Carmel outlined her proposals for ANSA to continue for a further 12 months whilst investigating possible options for its long-term future (copy attached). Three possible courses of action were considered:

- ANSA continues as an independent organisation and investigates possible options for changing its constitution such as registering as a charity
- ANSA becomes a specialist group of the RCN or a similar body
- ANSA becomes a chapter of INTSA

Carmel confirmed that the four signatories to the paper, herself, Patrick Coyne, Raj Boyjoonauth and Tanya Paxton would be prepared to stand for election to the NEC and guaranteed that they were all in a position in their current work roles to commit time to promoting ANSA and re-engaging with the membership. Carmel expressed the hope that in these circumstances the current NEC members might be prepared to stand for re-election to the NEC for a limited period whilst consideration as given as to how ANSA might continue to function and develop in the future.

Jim proposed that the collective resignation of the current NEC should stand and that the Extraordinary General Meeting should close. This meeting should be followed by the first meeting of the new NEC, at which nominations for election would be considered.