

Minutes of the National Meeting of the Doctor Healer Network held in the Connaught Hall, Tavistock Square, London on April 12th, 2008 at 2pm.

Members present:

David Butcher	Graham King	Angie Buxton King
Saima D'Adam	Tammy Marinaro Crook	Stephen Crook
M Montclare	E Long	Joe Delaney
Sharon Cairns	Fiona Balaban	John Phelps
Eva Skin	Deborah Sanders	Vicky Lewis
Francine Benjamin	Michael Dibdin	Kathryn Siorza
Jean Galbraith	Katrina Brook	G Thomas
Doreen Ruthie	Louise Wilde	Sue Routner
Steve Sharpe	Michelle Langdon	Gillian Goffredson
Melinda Lamminsalo	Chris Harbon	

Non-member present:

Nicole Bradley

Apologies for absence:

Jennifer Harper Deacon	Michael Noel	Dianne Brannan
Sir Tom Lucas	Allan Sweeney	Dr Ronan Basu
Dawn Redwood	Dr Dan Benor	Rosemary Pharo
Ko Chohan	Liz Weir	Dr Theo Pereus
Janice Kew	Carolyn Goodman	Rachel young
Dr Alan Young	Saima D'Adam	Brenda Peace
Chandrika Vaghela		

Introduction

Michael Dibdin introduced himself as the National DHN Chair and welcomed those present. He explained that the Constitution which had been presented for consideration in advance of the meeting, had been based on a currently working constitution. Some minor amendments had been suggested by members through letter and e mail on such technical matters as size of quorums. Amended copies were distributed during the meeting for inspection.

There was some clarification offered concerning the current situation re VSR. Since April 1st 2008, the main body moving forward in this area is now the Natural Healthcare Council (NHC). UK Healers were in communication with NHC with the hope of agreeing terms on which they might register. An independent chair would be a requirement. It was confirmed that once an individual therapy had registered with CMHC then individual practitioners within that therapy would be free to join if they wished at the current subscription rate of £45. This was considered to be something which would give added credibility to those wanting to work in statutory settings. Any present relationship with one's own organisation would not change.

Anyone seeking further information was advised to consult the FIH website at FIH.org.uk.

Members present voted unanimously to accept the Constitution as presented. John Phelps would produce an A5 version for all DHN members. It was agreed the elected committee would consider further the wording on page 1, section 1d concerning Voluntary Self Regulation. Consideration would also be given to the possibility of holding future meetings in other parts of the country.

Election of the National Committee

It was confirmed that 6 members were to be appointed, with a further option at a later date of 4 co-opted members.

Those interested in standing gave a brief history of their work and mentioned any committee post for which they would be prepared to be considered.

- Angie Buxton King (Herts)

manages a complementary health care team at UCL Hospital London / is co-director of The Sam Buxton Sunflower Healing Trust (SBSHT), a charity which fund healers within the NHS / is co-director of The Guild of Professional Healers (GPH) created to represent healers who wish to work professionally / lectures on her work internationally / willing to stand as Chair

- Graham King (Herts)

works at UCLH London in healing / NFSH and Reiki trained / teaches Reiki / interested in ways of supporting volunteers in statutory settings / co director of SBSHT and GPH / lectures / experience in membership administration / willing to stand as Membership Secretary.

- Francine Benjamin (London)

actively involved as Committee Secretary for the Jewish Association of Spiritual Healers (JASH)/ founded and promotes own spiritual healing centre

- Steve Sharpe (London)

healing for 20 years / chair of JASH / chair of NFSH London Region / always seeks to promote healing / interested in any committee post other than secretary

- Sue Routner (London)

Qualified in several therapies / currently setting up contact with local doctors' surgeries / wishes to act as a mouthpiece for those who have concerns about over regulation

- Fiona Balaban (Sheffield)

Reiki and NFSH work for 20 years / NFSH Region 9 Committee member / Interested in developing further links with Sheffield Hospitals (currently a volunteer) / has offered to present talks for nurses and doctors

- Michelle Langdon

GP for 25 years / integrated healing into practice / on the committee of the BSIM / involved with FIH / now working as an integrated physician

- Tim Ridge (Middlesex)

GP. Integrating energy awareness into his practice / founded a local charity in Enfield to promote integration / personal experience supporting wife through acute psycho-spiritual health crisis / has worked with FIH / with notice prepared to travel to promote DHN ideals

- Jean Galbraith (Herts)

GP for 35 years / employed 4 healers in practice / currently Chair of London DHN / organised October conference / seeks to promote the work of younger members

- Katrina Brook (Herts)

NFSH Trustee / NFSH tutor / helps develop healer training / currently working on NFSH CPD programme / has writing skills / willing to stand as Minute Secretary

- John Phelps

NFSH member for 35 years / runs NFSH healing centre in York / works in hospitals / currently DHN Treasurer and Membership Secretary / willing to continue as Treasurer

Prospective candidates for election who later withdrew:

- Gareth Thomas (Wales)

dentist / stress therapist / teaches spiritual healing / teaches in hospitals / interested in working with victims of drug abuse, spiritual development for doctors / would like to see the DHN develop workshop ideas

- Melinda Lamminsalo (Finland)

physiotherapist / came to healing via her own cancer and scepticism / masters degree in health promotion / involved in research projects /wants to write more in English / interested in developing DHN in Norway

Votes were cast by secret ballot and counted by non members attending. The following were elected to the Committee:

- John Phelps

- Jean Galbraith
- Tim Ridge
- Angie Buxton King
- Katrina Brook
- Graham King

Jean Galbraith offered thanks to Michael Dibdin for his many years as Chairman, often during difficult times. She reminded the meeting of MD's awareness of legal issues, as well as the contribution of Dan Benor, the DHN founder had made to collating information on research. As a result, the meeting unanimously supported JG's suggestion that DB be elected Honorary President and that MD be elected Honorary Vice President. It was agreed that the question of Fellowship status for long service would be discussed by the Committee.

Finance Report

Treasurer John Phelps reported the balance for this year as follows:

Income	£4,208.89
Expenditure	£3,633.87

Total	£575.02

Brought forward	£13,784.13

Balance	£14,359.15

The balance of the DHN Research Fund was as follows:

Donations	£680 .00
Interest	£27.70

Total	£707.70

Brought Forward	£360.24

Balance	£1,067.94

It was indicated that of the £680.00 in donations, £500 .00 had come from the profits from the October conference.

A recent request for funds had been turned down due to lack of funds. Jean Galbraith, as Chair of Research, also pointed out the project was not quite ready to be initiated.

Membership

Current membership was reported as 179

Website Report

Louise Wilde reported that members would soon be in receipt of an e mail about the DHN websites, the public site being www.doctorhealer.org and the members website being www.doctorhealer.net. It was suggested that profiles of individuals on the members' site would be very informative for the membership. Members were reminded about the importance of changing their password when they logged onto the site (currently this is the individual's surname spelt backwards)

Talks on working within statutory settings

Saima D'Adam talked about her experiences as a healer at UCH London. Flexibility in working practice is a key feature of hospital work, where the healer is part of a large team, and works around many hospital procedures and much equipment on wards. One has to "sell" one's therapy in a way which is unfamiliar to those working in private practice, but the rewards are many in terms of the emotional and spiritual support, pain relief, as well as improved sleep patterns, for those patients who accept healing as part of their treatment regime. Sessions offered to ward staff was also a key feature of the healing profile. An RCT trial was currently being undertaken to measure the efficacy of Reiki in raising white blood cell count.

Michelle Langdon spoke of her experiences as a GP who had used a number of complementary practices including healing. She explained how this lowered prescription costs and referral rates, as well as breaking down cultural barriers. Healing was especially useful for emotional problems, ME, muscular skeletal and immune system problems. There were sudden and dramatic disappearances of tumours such as fibroids. Some patients went on to have life changing experiences. Michelle did not use consent forms at that time and strongly recommends this to anyone working in this area, as well as giving patients and clients an information sheet on what to expect.

There followed some discussion on the issues associated with healing those with mental health problems. Jean Galbraith urged members to avoid contact healing with those suffering with schizophrenia for example, as this can produce severe contra-indications. She reported that talking to sufferers could be helpful and that, with some, asking forgiveness for forgotten mistakes could produce dramatic changes for some people. This had been particularly evident with work among the homeless.

The next London meeting

This would be on June 22nd at Connaught Hall, when Bob Woodward would be talking about his work healing children with autism, special needs and learning difficulties.

Tim Ridge reminded the meeting that he would be hosting Stand 34 at the Olympia Mystics Fair on May 10th and 11th.

The meeting closed at 5pm