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## **Second Meeting of MHFI Men's Health Week 2014 Sub-Group**

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**Date:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
**Time:** 1.30pm - 2.30pm  
**Venue:** Tourism Ireland Boardroom, 5th Floor, Bishop's Square, Redmond's Hill, Dublin 2  
**Present:** Lorcan Brennan, Colin Fowler, Michael McKeon and Finian Murray  
**Apologies:** Michael Lynch and Eamonn O'Reilly  
**Minute Taker:** Colin Fowler

### **Agenda Items**

#### **1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the first meeting of the MHFI Men's Health Week (MHW) 2014 Sub-Group, held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013, were accepted as an accurate reflection of that gathering.

#### **2. Theme of Week**

It was unanimously agreed that the proposed theme for MHW 2014 (i.e. 'Challenges and Choices') is strong. However, it was also acknowledged that this proposal needs to be signed-off at the full meeting of the MHFI Management Committee later today before it can be publicly announced. *[This theme was endorsed by the Management Committee at the subsequent meeting]*

#### **3. Involving Young Men in MHW 2014**

The Deputy President of the Union of Students in Ireland, Denise McCarthy, recently became a Facebook Fan of MHFI. Colin has made contact with her, as this might provide a route to increasing awareness of MHW among young men and encouraging their involvement. Denise is to come back to Colin with a date to meet.

#### **4. Letter to President**

Colin has contacted the President's Office to ask if he might be willing to help to launch the 'Challenges and Choices' mini-manual for men. His staff said that we need to email as much information as possible to them, so that an informed decision can be reached. Colin has re-drafted the letter to include all of the suggestions offered by other members of the Sub-Group. This has been sent to Áras an Uachtaráin. They said to get in contact again if we haven't heard anything back from them within a month.

#### **5. RTE Nationwide**

Colin contacted Eoin Ryan from RTE's Nationwide programme, and he has agreed to run a story on the first day of MHW 2014. He said that he would get back in touch again in the New Year to discuss the 'nuts-and-bolts' of what this might entail. It is likely that they will want to have a 'human face' aspect to the programme i.e. a person or project which shows the need to address men's health issues. Lorcan agreed to accompany Colin to a meeting with Eoin if this is needed. Eoin is based in Cork.

## **6. HSE Communications Department (CRPG)**

Last year, Finian had asked the HSE to post details about MHW onto their website. At that time, he had been asked if he had ever submitted a form to CRPG requesting official support from the HSE. Stephen Mulvanny in the HSE has forwarded a link to the registration form to request support this year. Colin and Finian will ensure that this is submitted by the end of January 2014.

## **7. All-Island MHW 2014 Planning Group**

The first meeting of the all-island MHW 2014 Planning Group will take place in the Diocesan Centre in Dundalk on Wednesday 29th January 2014. This will be held in the downstairs meeting room (as all other rooms are busy that day). Colin will order tea/coffee/scones on arrival and a soup and sandwich lunch. Finian will arrange to bring a laptop and data projector to this meeting.

Colin will issue invitations to everyone from last year's group. Lorcan will send Colin a phone number for Linda Thorpe in Mental Health Ireland (to identify a replacement for Ted Tierney). He will also ask Alan in MDN for a contact in Pieta House. It was suggested that John Delaney might be a useful contact in the FAI (as our previous contact, Liam McGroarty, has now moved on).

## **8. Miscellaneous**

- Michael suggested that everyone should have a look at the online materials by Toronto GP, Dr Mike Evans. These use drawings and voice-overs to highlight health promotion messages.
- It was felt that it would be great if MHFI could produce a short online video which states what MHW is and why it takes place. This could contain most of the information in the MHW 2014 Briefing Paper, and might encourage people with literacy difficulties to find out more about the week.

## **9. Next Sub-Group Meeting**

It was agreed that there is no need for further face-to-face meetings of the Sub-Group, and that all future business can be conducted by email and/or Skype.