IASP Special Interest Group (SiG) on Suicide Bereavement and Postvention

XXVIIth IASP World Congress, 24-28 September 2013, Oslo-Norway

Minutes of Business Meeting – 26 September 2013 – 8.00am-8.45am

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions – attendees and apologies
2. Short report on activities
3. Letter from John Peters
4. Priorities for next years
5. New Task Forces and Chairpersons of Task Forces
6. Communication/structure within SIG
7. Any other business

1. Welcome and introductions – attendees and apologies

The co-chairs, Sean McCarthy and Karl Andriessen, welcomed the attendees. The attendees briefly introduced themselves. Please find list of attendees and apologies attached.

2. Short report on activities

The report on the activities of the past two years was distributed during the meeting. Please find the report attached. Here below, the headlines are highlighted.

The former Taskforce on Postvention was transformed into the current SiG on Suicide Bereavement and Postvention after the approval from IASP Board on 1 May 2012. The Board had suggested that the SiG should focus on complicated grief associated with suicide clustering and contagion. In addition, the Board had suggested that the SiG should establish links with other SiG’s such as the SiGs on Suicide and Workplace, Culture and Suicidal Behaviour, and Clustering and Contagion.

Progress is reported in four domains: collaboration with other SiG’s, Newsletter, Task Force on Congress participation, and teleconferences/communication.
- Collaboration with other SiG’s: this IASP congress includes a first joint workshop of the SiG Postvention and the SiG on Clustering, as well as a symposium on Suicide Postvention and the Workplace (chaired by Sally Spencer-Thomas).

- Newsletter: the editorial desk has been transferred back from Australia to Ireland. Two newsletter issues have been published in 2013. It is intended to continue to be published quarterly. Preparation/publication of the newsletter requires constant outreach by the editors in order to invite contributions for the newsletter.

It was suggested, and approved, that forthcoming issues of the newsletter could publish the abstracts related to suicide bereavement and postvention from this congress, and the contact details of the presenters. In addition, it was proposed that the presentations might be uploaded in the postvention page of IASP website, thus becoming available for a wider audience. This proposal will be brought to IASP office.

- Task Force on Congress Participation: the task force chaired by John Peters has been very successful in pulling together a wide variety of postvention symposia, parallel sessions and workshops, which, in concertation with the pre-congress workshop and the two plenaries, has resulted in a full “postvention stream” in the congress program. The meeting proposed that the Task Force should continue and prepare for the next IASP Congress.

- Teleconferences/communication: during the past two years a number of tele-, skype-conferences have been held, e.g., to drive forward the newsletter, and the level of participation in the congress. This form of communication is sometimes more feasible than e-mails and it will be continued to be used.

3. Letter from John Peters

John Peters could not attend the congress but he had sent a letter, which was read at the meeting. Please find the letter attached.

In this letter, John expressed his concern regarding a balance between plenary presentations and parallel sessions included in the congress program. In addition he raised his concern regarding membership costs. The letter was discussed, with some participants even expressed their concern that there might have been too many postvention presentations. It was concluded that the postvention community should work to have a sufficient number of postvention presentations at congresses.

The letter will be forwarded to IASP office.

4. Priorities for next years

Following the progress report (see above) it was decided that:
- Collaboration with other SiG’s should be continued.
- In addition to the publication of the newsletter, it was proposed to start an online format of communication, e.g., a blog, which would allow for more rapid communications. In addition, this could include short bio’s (who is doing what).
- The Task Force on the postvention stream in congresses should focus on next IASP Congress, 2015, to be held in Montréal, Canada.

5. Task Forces and Chairpersons

- Task Force on postvention stream in congresses: chair: John Peters.
- Task Force on research priorities: chair: Myf Mapple.
- Task Force on communication (blog) with members: chair Sally Spencer-Thomas.
- Task Force on Training in Postvention: chairs: Alan Staines and Sean McCarthy.

Sean and Karl will contact the chairpersons of the proposed Task Forces in order to go through the official requirements to establish a Task Force within the SiG, and to submit for approval the proposed Task Forces to IASP Board.

6. Communication/structure within SIG

In the past it has shown to be very difficult to compile a list of the SiG members. To be a SiG member, one has to be an IASP member. However some attendees mentioned that they are not aware when membership expires or should be renewed. Would it be possible to receive an automatic notification when membership should be renewed? This question will be brought to IASP office. In addition, Sean and Karl will compile a list based on their records and will compare this with IASP Board/office.

Attendees also ask about the formal structure of the SiG. How are the co-chairs appointed and what is the term of office? According to current practices, co-chairs of SiG’s are appointed by IASP Board, however there is no fixed term of office. This question will be brought to IASP Board.

7. Any other business

The minutes of the meeting will become available for the members in the postvention page of IASP website.
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Attendees of Business Meeting – 26 September 2013 – 8.00am-8.45am

Attendees

Alan Staines   Australia    alanstaines@optusnet.com.au
Dolores-Angela Castelli-Dransart  Switzerland   Angela.Castelli@hef-ts.ch
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Wendy Orchard   IASP Office    admin@iasp.info
Sean McCarthy (Co-chair)   Ireland    Sean.McCarthy@hse.ie
Karl Andriessen (Co-chair)   Belgium    karl.andriessen@pandora.be

Apologies

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