

SPECIAL INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

ON

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR, MENTAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

BYLAWS (Adopted February, 2009)

1.0. Statement of Purpose

The Special Interest Research Group on Challenging Behaviour and Mental Health MH/CB SIRG) is duly authorised special interest group within the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities (IASSID). The SIRG/CBMH has as its general purpose the planning, co-ordinating and conducting of activities relevant to all aspects of challenging behaviour, mental health and intellectual disabilities consistent with the purposes and means of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities. It functions within the bylaws of IASSID.

Mental health is 'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity' (World Health Organisation, 2001). Mental ill-health may manifest itself in the form of psychotic, neurotic or organic disorders. Challenging behaviours expose users of services to increased risk of abuse, inappropriate interventions, and exclusion; they include a wide variety of different types of behaviour, with physical aggression, destructiveness and self-injury being the most common. The presence of either condition can also impact negatively on the mental and physical well-being of those who provide care and support to people with intellectual disabilities.

The mission of the SIRG/CBMH is to:

- Provide a focus for the worldwide exchange and dissemination of research and practice, as well as networking, in the field of challenging behaviour and mental health.
- Provide a vehicle for the promotion and development of integrated research and clinical activities that further understanding of the relationship between psychological and behavioural wellbeing in people with intellectual disability.
- Specifically encourage the development of cross-national, multi-disciplinary collaboration in research and practice that integrates biological, sociological, behavioural and psychotherapeutic perspectives.
- Improve the quality of life and services for people with intellectual disabilities and additional behavioural or mental health needs, their carers, and their families. As such, the views and contributions of these groups will be fundamental in contributing to and shaping the activities of the SIRG.
- Provide a supportive organisational framework for promoting the work of its members via journals, conferences and scientific meetings associated with IASSID.

In furtherance of its mission, the SIRG/CBMH will:-

- 1.1 Abide by the intent, spirit, letter, and regulations established by the Council of the IASSID for special interest research groups (SIRGs) as outlined in the Articles of Incorporation of the IASSID.

- 1.2 Serve as a medium for deliberation, for exchange of ideas, knowledge, skills and experiences and for compilation and dissemination of evidence based practice.
- 1.3 Organise international and regional congresses, conferences and seminars.
- 1.4 Encourage research in the field of challenging behaviour and mental health, including causes, prevention, diagnosis, evaluation, intervention, management, advocacy, education and social rehabilitation of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families.
- 1.5 Produce and distribute publications about the scientific study of challenging behaviour and mental health and of the services and supports to such persons with intellectual disabilities and their families.
- 1.6 Foster, encourage and promote membership in the various professional disciplines and national organisations concerned with the scientific study of challenging behaviour and mental health.
- 1.7 Collaborate with national organisations concerned with the scientific study of challenging behaviour and mental health.
- 1.8 Promote co-operation with the other associations or organisations directly or closely related with the scientific study of challenging behaviour and mental health..
- 1.9 Provide information, consultation and advice to international, national, and other governmental and non-governmental bodies related to challenging behaviour and mental health in persons with intellectual disabilities.
- 1.10 Co-ordinate its activities with other SIRGs and bodies of the IASSID as applicable.
- 1.11 Apply for and administer intramural and extramural funds related to its purpose and mission.

2.0. Organisation and Administration

- 2.1 The SIRG/CBMH shall have an Executive Committee as its governance.
- 2.2 SIRG/CBMH members shall elect or designate the Committee so that is representative of the regions of the world and of the professional and lay interests described above.
- 2.3 The Executive Committee is responsible for the administration affairs of the SIRG/CBMH. It is composed of a Chair or Co-Chairs, up to three other designated officers, and up to six members at large who are elected by SIRG/CBMH members with voting rights, the immediate past Chair, and Chairs of committees established by the Executive Committee.
- 2.4 The terms of office and composition of the group shall be set by the Executive Committee. Officers or members may be removed for cause and after a vote of the Executive and Steering Committees.
- 2.5 The Executive Committee may create sub committees, standing committees, ad hoc committees or work groups as it sees fit. Formal designation shall be made by the Chair, or Co-Chairs and SIRG/CBMH members as appropriate.

- 2.6 The SIRG/CBMH shall hold, as a minimum, a meeting at the IASSID Congress (or more often as desired). At least two months advance notice of such a meeting must be given to members of the SIRG/CBMH and the IASSID Council. These notices may be given by letter, facsimile, newsletter, e-mail or may be placed in any IASSID publication.
- 2.7 At least one member of the Executive Committee of the SIRG/CBMH should attend the quadrennial meeting of the IASSID General Assembly.
- 2.8 The SIRG/CBMH Executive Committee shall nominate one member to represent the SIRG/CBMH on the IASSID Council, in accord with by-laws of the IASSID. The nomination will be presented to the members for confirmation or acceptance. The SIRG/CBMH Council representative shall attend all Council meetings during his or her term. The Executive Committee Chair of the SIRG/CBMH may designate an alternative SIRG member to attend Council, if the designated member is unable to do so. At its discretion, the Executive Committee members may designate consumers who are not members of the SIRG/CBMH, or for whom membership requirements (e.g., dues) have been waived, as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.
- 2.9 The SIRG/CBMH is required to maintain a statement of Purpose and Bylaws on file with the IASSID, which should be updated as necessary.

3.0 Members

- 3.1 All members of IASSID are eligible to join the SIRG/CBMH. Individuals may elect to become members of the SIRG on joining or renewing their membership of IASSID by completing the relevant section on the membership form.
- 3.2 Members are eligible to be officers or members of the Executive Committee, and have full voting rights.
- 3.3 The SIRG/CBMH will maintain and regularly update membership registers, noting the name and mailing address of members. A copy of the register will be filed with the Secretary of the IASSID annually (on 1st March of each year). The Chair of the Membership Committee will be responsible to maintain the membership register.
- 3.4 Only those persons whose memberships have been officially recorded prior to the date of an SIRG/CBMH meeting (defined as the time the meeting was called to order) will be entitled to vote on matters relating to the SIRG/CBMH at that meeting. The SIRG/CBMH may admit visitors or guests to its meetings and may charge whatever fee appropriate for such admission.
- 3.5 Only members of IASSID shall be eligible to hold elected or designated office, be members of the Executive Committee or otherwise participate in the governing structure of the SIRG/CBMH. The SIRG/CBMH Executive Committee, in consultation with the Steering Committee and the members, may designate non-members of the IASSID as ad hoc committee or workgroup chairs or members.
- 3.6 The Chair of the Membership Committee of the SIRG/CBMH will notify the Secretary of IASSID of the names of all its members.

4.0 Responsibilities

- 4.1 The SIRG/CBMH shall plan and conduct activities appropriate to its mission. These activities might include, but not be limited to the preparation of scientific papers and books, conferences, roundtables, workshops and dissemination of newsletters.
- 4.2 The SIRG/CBMH may conduct its official business, including issues that need approval by vote, by electronic mail. An issue shall pass if voted on by at least 20% of the voting members.
- 4.3 The SIRG/CBMH shall provide the IASSID Council with an annual report of activities. This report must be submitted no later than 1st March of each year.
- 4.4 At its Annual General Meeting, the SIRG/CBMH Executive Committee, in consultation with the members, will nominate one of its members as its representative to the Assembly of IASSID.
- 4.5 At its Annual General Meeting, the SIRG/CBMH Executive Committee will nominate one of the its members SIRG/CBMH representative to the Council of IASSID.
- 4.6 The Executive Committee Chair, or Co-Chairs, of the SIRG/CBMH shall be responsible for co-ordinating SIRG activities with Council and the officers of the IASSID. A member of the Executive Committee shall assume these responsibilities in the absence of a Chair or Co-Chair. The Chair or Co-Chairs shall Chair Executive Committee meetings.
- 4.7 The Chair of the Membership Committee of the SIRG/CBMH shall maintain the records of the SIRG/CBMH, maintain the membership register, and file reports to the IASSID Secretary as required.
- 4.8 A member of the Executive Committee will be elected as Treasurer. The Treasurer of the SIRG/CBMH shall maintain all currency accounts of the SIRG/CBMH, file annual (and requested) financial statements with the SIRG/CBMH and the Treasurer of the IASSID, and maintain responsibility for the accounting and accuracy of all funds held by and for the SIRG/CBMH. The Treasurer shall prepare and ensure delivery of financial statements for the annual meeting.
- 4.9 The SIRG/CBMH designated Council member shall represent the SIRG/CBMH at all Council meetings and, in consultation with the Executive Committee, vote on matters of importance of the SIRG/CBMH at Council.
- 4.10 The SIRG/CBMH designated Assembly member shall represent the SIRG/CBMH at all Assembly meetings and, in consultation with the Executive, vote on matters of importance to the SIRG/CBMH at meetings of the General Assembly.

5.0 Fiscal and Legal Status

- 5.1 The SIRG/CBMH is responsible for any financial arrangements or debts incurred by the SIRG/CBMH.
- 5.2 The SIRG/CBMH may, in consultation with the IASSID Treasurer, open a currency account to administer funds procured through fees, donations or extramural grants. When such an account is held, it shall be administered by the Treasurer. All payments or disbursements from the SIRG/CBMH account (or accounts) shall be authorised by the Chair and Vice Chair and cheques are issued by the

SIRG/CBMH Treasurer. The SIRG/CBMH Treasurer shall submit a statement of accounts annually to the IASSID Treasurer.

- 5.3 The SIRG/CBMH may pay honoraria, fees, and/or travel expenses associated with obtaining the service of lectures or presenters at its meetings, special events, conferences, or the IASSID quadrennial congress. Such remuneration can be provided to SIRG/CBMH members when appropriate and approved by the Executive Committee.
- 5.4 The SIRG/CBMH may authorise reimbursement of full or partial expenses associated with the maintenance of each office or with official travel to meetings of the SIRG/CBMH for officers or other members designated and authorised to represent the SIRG/CBMH as prescribed by the rules of the SIRG/CBMH.
- 5.5 The SIRG/CBMH may request funds from the IASSID when the request is consistent with IASSID rules and operating procedures.
- 5.6 The SIRG/CBMH may be dissolved only by a vote of the membership or by the IASSID Council for cause. All assets of the SIRG/CBMH, on dissolution, shall become the property of the IASSID. The IASSID shall not be responsible for the payments of any debt incurred by a dissolved group in excess of the assets remaining.

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