

MINUTES OF THE PRIMARY / SECONDARY WORKING GROUP MEETING

Limassol, Cyprus 11th May 2007

Co-chaired by Adamos Hadjipanayis and Diego Van Esso

The 27 delegates were warmly welcomed to the meeting

Agenda items:

(1) Introductory remarks and summary of work done from Brussels to Cyprus –

Adamos Hadjipanayis highlighted progress since the Brussels meeting, in particular the quality of care work done by Bjorn Wettergren. Diego and Adamos have been asked to be part of the scientific committee of Europaediatrics 2008 and are currently drawing up a list of invited speakers.

(2) Working group on quality indicators

Bjorn Wettergren urged interest in health indicators as there is a strong need for advocacy and it is important to identify priorities, problems and newly emergent issues.

Prior work by Rigby M et al in European J of Public Health – 38 indicators in 4 categories with characteristics of the indicators to be valid, sensitive, defined, reliable and consistent

Child health indicators – mortality, morbidity

Determinants of health including exposure to tobacco smoke

A pilot survey should be possible to test these indicators - infant mortality, breast feeding, fractures of long bones, car-related injuries, mortality from infectious diseases and tobacco exposure

The European index of child well-being had 51 indicators with 8 clusters including health and subjective well-being

There were high scoring and low scoring countries with Cyprus and Sweden in the high scoring group and UK / Ireland in the low scoring group

A final child well-being index was developed with Cyprus and the Netherlands with the highest scores.

Monitoring child health is a challenge and a task for CESP/EAP and there is a need for some support and EU standards might be defined and close networking with others might be achieved.

Maria Solomou asked that we follow the progress over time to assess trends. Breast feeding rates are influenced by many factors whereby, in Sweden, with a very high rate of breast feeding, mothers are entitled to 12 months fully paid maternity leave.

Francis Rubel asked that we consider breast feeding rates at birth, 2 months and 4 months to take account of different regulations re paid maternity leave.

The issue of data collection was raised by Elke Jäger who highlighted difficulties encountered in Germany.

Margareta Seher suggested that asthma admissions may be a good indicator of quality of primary care

Francis Rubel stressed the importance of health indicators.

(3) Presentation of the template to summarize the data of the different countries

Diego Van Esso produced a template to gather together information from various countries so that all country delegates fill in a set proforma with a section for 3 strengths and 3 weaknesses within a particular country.

The template was discussed in detail with the addition of mortality from 0-5 years of age and adjusted neonatal mortality rate to exclude lethal congenital malformations, Diego will send it to all national delegates to achieve a consensus on definitions before 30th June 2007 and then send out the final template to be filled out before November 1st 2007.

(4) IPA congress in Athens:

Armand Biver and Stefano Del Torso

Armand will talk in Athens on the topic of the role of primary care paediatrics in promoting child health and he gave a brief resume of his proposed talk. . Health promotion includes empowerment and education. Health promotion programs may be aimed at the individual, at society in general at a macro-political level. Problems include the lack of evidence as to the effectiveness of health promotion. Armand highlighted school readiness programs and programs to encourage reading in pre-school children. Home visitations are important particularly in families with high levels of deprivation. Breast feeding can be promoted at individual, local and national level.

Stefano Del Torso presented a format of the IPA congress in Athens which will include a session on primary care including Renee Jenkins, incoming President of the AAP.

(5) PSWG and EAP congress Nice 2008

Diego Van Esso highlighted the subjects to be considered by the scientific committee to elaborate the primary care track in this congress and promised to push through as many as possible of the subjects previously raised by the members of the working group.

Minutes authored by Alf Nicholson.