



## **Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee**

Held online 12 September 2024, 14.30-16.30

**Present:** Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Rose Gallagher (RCN), Terry Kemple (RCGP), Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych), Sandy Mather (ICS), Elaine Mulcahy (Director, UKHACC), Richard Smith (Chair, UKHACC), Liz Marder (RCPCH), Anandita Pattnaik (UKHACC), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Ludmilla Pillay (medical elective student)

**Apologies for absence:** Eleanor Roaf (FPH), Rane Thakar (RCOG)

### **Summary of actions:**

Carried forward from previous meeting

- Proposal for call out to members to develop a library of webinars/podcasts to be carried forward
- Write to the newly appointed members of the APPG on Climate Change
- Add funders to the risk register > Done
- RS/EM to discuss recruitment of a finance person to be co-opted to the executive committee
- Single transferable vote system to be used in next year's election

This meeting

- TK to ask RCGP about hosting launch of food policy report on 16 October > Done
- Add 'as approved by the trustees' to notes on accounts > Done
- RS/EM to contact successful election candidates and nominators to inform the of the outcome and confirm attendance at the strategy day > Done
- EM to notify unsuccessful election candidates > Done
- RS to email RCP trustee nominator and candidate to inform of vote tie and decision > Done
- EM to draft letter and briefing document for COP29 UK delegation noting points raised > Done
- EM/RS to take forward actions in COP29 planning document > In progress
- EM to analyse endorsement survey results and share responses in council papers for discussion at the council meeting > Done
- RS/EM to discuss how to shape council discussion on commitments > Done
- EM/RS to publish letter of response to/from NICE on our website > Done
- Set up a BlueSky account and shadow Twitter/X account for a while
- Develop a strategy to manage regularity of social media content to support monitoring
- EM to inform Our health, our planet that we will endorse the project > Done
- RS/EM to follow up with Chair of GCHA with revised wording for the NVCD policy > Done
- Continue with a membership drive aiming to get 60 members by the end of next year > Ongoing
- EM to share an absence management process in the event of something happening to her with RS and RG (with separate files for login details and passwords)

- Finding a new chair to be added to the risk register > Done
- An up/down arrow to indicate whether a risk is going up or down to be added to the risk register > Done
- JK to produce a document for the board to approve related to supporting clinical engagement with trusts with questions people could ask, examples from successful campaigns
- Trustees to send suggested questions for exit interview to TK

## **1. Welcome from the Chair**

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ludmilla Pillay, a medical student from Australia, introduced herself as a medical elective student completing a four week elective with UKHACC.

The trustees all introduced themselves.

## **2. Minute from the August meeting**

The minute from the August meeting was accepted.

The following actions were discussed and/or carried forward from the previous meeting

- Follow up on rooms for 2025: RCPsych considering, RCGP not able, RCPCH to follow up, BMJ not able to commit
- At the previous meeting we advised the food policy report would be launched at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital on 16 October. The hospital has now said it can no longer support the launch. AP/EM asked if GCGP might be willing to host as it has recently committed to plant free catering at its conference. TK to ask RCGP about hosting launch of food policy report on 16 October.
- Response from Wes Streeting? we will circulate and need to follow up. 10 year plan and how to get NHS to net zero - forum to establish. Need to point out that net zero aligns with NHS priorities.
- Case study commitments - 4 in total. We've emailed ten.

## **3. August Director's report**

The August Director's report was shared prior to the meeting. Points noted were:

- The 2023 end of year accounts have been submitted to the charity register and can be viewed on their website [here](#)
- Our policy report on a A just transition for the good of health was published and shared widely. We have not yet sent to MPs but plan to do this.
- AP and EM met with coordinators of the UK Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty. They are keen to use the report to inform their conversations. Ken Penton, from FFNPT is also on the committee for the [Labour Environment Campaign](#). He is taking our policy report to the Labour Party Conference and has asked to work with us to deliver an event in the Spring to bring parliamentarians together on health messaging for the just transition. We have arranged a follow up meeting to discuss this in October.
- We have received responses from Louise Haigh (Transport) and a Minister for Health and Social Care to our letters. Need to think about what we do with these.

## **4. Budget update**

The August budget vs income/expenditure overview was shared for review on the spreadsheet of the accounts. There were no issues to report.

Action:

- Add 'as approved by the trustees' to notes on accounts

## 5. Outcome of trustee elections

Following a call for votes from UKHACC members, the results of trustee elections were:

<b>2024 Trustee election results</b>	
Rose Gallagher, Royal College of Nursing	9
Professor Jill Belch, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh	5
Professor Ramesh Arasaradnam, Royal College of Physicians	3
Rodney Morton, Florence Nightingale Foundation	3
Dr Helena Clements, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	2
Munro Stewart, Royal College of General Practitioners	2
Richard Strang, Royal Pharmaceutical Society	2
Suren Kanagasundaram, UK Kidney Association	2
<b>Votes counted</b>	<b>28</b>

Rose Gallagher and Jill Belch secured the highest votes.

Ramesh Arasaradnam and Rodney Morton were tied in third place. According to UKHACC regulations, in the event of a tie, the Chair of the AGM has the deciding vote. The chair asked the trustees to consider the candidate statements of both tied candidates.

Points noted were:

- RM is based in NI and leads a nursing team in sustainability. There is a close relationship between FNF and NHS England
- RCP could have significant influence, RA has been a valued supporter
- It would be good to have greater inclusion of devolved nations
- Diversity in the board in terms of area of specialty would be beneficial. We are currently very doctor dominated.

After considering the points noted, the chair voted in favour of Rodney Morton from Florence Nightingale Foundation.

The outcome of the vote and decision will be formalised at the AGM in September.

Actions:

- RS/EM to contact successful election candidates and nominators to inform the of the outcome and confirm attendance at the strategy day
- EM to notify unsuccessful election candidates
- RS to email RCP trustee nominator and candidate to inform of vote tie and decision

## 6. Remit of funding committee

Following a discussion at the previous meeting, RS and EM have drafted a revised remit of the fundraising committee which was shared prior to the meeting and discussed. Trustees approved the content.

Points noted were:

- Sources of funding should include NHS/government
- Point on accepting funding from companies committed to disinvesting by 2040 may be criticised as we don't ask the same of our members

The first meeting of the fundraising committee will take place on Tuesday 17 September.

## **7. Strategic planning agenda**

A revised agenda has been produced. An aim of the workshops will be to develop a theory of change for UKHACC. Trustees were happy with the agenda.

## **8. COP29 planning**

EM presented an overview of plans for engaging with the government and others ahead of COP29. Five core actions are planned:

1. Participate in the development of global policy recommendations and messaging with the Global Climate and Health Alliance and ensure consistency with our own messaging
2. Input to the WHO COP29 on climate change and health
3. A letter to Ed Miliband with the signatures of senior leaders from UKHACC membership organisations with key messages outlined above and sharing of our Energy Transition Policy Report and the GCHA policy recommendations
4. A briefing for MPs
5. An editorial published in The Lancet and BMJ published ahead of COP29

Points noted were:

- This plan has been shared with comms/policy group and widely supported
- The editorial is not going to be published in multiple journals this year, limited to Lancet and BMJ
- AP will be attending the FPH SIG for COP29
- Our asks of government should include content on adaptation
- We should also mention NHS and decarbonising healthcare

### Actions:

- EM to draft letter and briefing document for COP29 UK delegation noting points raised
- EM/AP to take forward actions in COP29 planning document

## **9. Commitments endorsement and feedback**

The deadline for members to indicate endorsement of the commitments is Friday 13 September. At this stage, 19 organisations have completed the survey. 17 have endorsed the commitments, two have not. Some organisations have also been in touch to say they are discussing internally and may not be able to make the deadline, or will not be able to endorse for various reasons.

EM will collate all of the responses and feedback received to send out with the council papers next week to help with discussions at the council meeting. It was agreed that we should have

some specific questions to guide discussion at the council meeting, for example moving to a traffic light system to monitor progress, or using the scorecard.

Actions:

- EM to analyse endorsement survey results and share responses in council papers for discussion at the council meeting
- RS/EM to discuss how to shape discuss (e.g. buddy organisations to support each other, Colleges speaking from their own experience)

## **10. Response to NICE**

In July, we wrote to NICE asking them to increase their contribution to helping the NHS reach its net zero targets, with an offer to meet. On 15 August, we received a response from NICE which failed to address many of the issues we had raised.

A follow up response to NICE has been produced and was discussed by the trustees.

NICE has invited RS and Fiona Adshead to speak at a meeting

Actions:

- EM/RS to publish letter of response to/from NICE on our website

## **11. Should we leave Twitter/X?**

August was the first month there was a downturn in followers on our Twitter/X.

Over the last number of months, a number of individuals and organisations have started to leave Twitter/X due to an increase in hateful content and extreme right wing views. A number of accounts previously banned by Twitter due to hateful content and misinformation have been reinstated. Trustees were asked to consider if UKHACC should consider leaving Twitter/X and moved to a new platform.

Points noted were:

- JD advised the BMJ marketing team is having a discussion about this. She noted an interesting article in LSE blog looking at research organisations leaving X and other platforms they are on, and the difficulties around it in terms of reach. It reinforces the importance of diversity on social media platforms, but this can be very resource intensive. BMJ is going to trial BlueSky.
- RG has moved to BlueSky and has noticed lots more people moving over and has asked RCN to shadow a Bluesky/Twitter account as they transition over.
- ERad suggested we write a piece on Twitter and pin it saying we are staying because we don't want the naysayers to win, but at the same time set up BlueSky
- Posting more on LinkedIn might be a way to increase followers. And most followers on Twitter/X are also on LinkedIn so it might be a better option.
- Could take a holiday from Twitter/X for a while. Try shadowing on BlueSky for a while.
- ICS keeping a watching brief on Twitter/X and not doing any paid-for advertising, but still on there as people as people are still on there and using it.

Actions:

- Set up a BlueSky account and shadow Twitter/X account for a while

- Develop a strategy to manage regularity of social media content to support monitoring

## **12. Our health, our planet endorsement request**

We have been asked to endorse a website aimed at health professionals and the public which provides information on high impact actions that people can take, and targeted information for different areas of clinical practice. The site is being developed by volunteers, led by Doctors Association UK. They plan to launch on 17 September. The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare is supporting. The request is for our logo to be on the site to indicate our support for the project.

Points noted were:

- Broad support for the website and its content
- Important for UKHACC to review in future to ensure content is still relevant
- RS looked and is supportive
- It is a helpful site but the challenge will be to keep it up to date and be aware of this.
- Layout worked well. How will they know what impact it has?

Trustees agreed UKHACC should support this project.

### Actions:

- EM to inform Our health, our planet that we will endorse the project

## **13. Everyone's Environment**

We have been asked to become a partner of Everyone's Environment, which is convened by NCP - A thinktank and consultancy agency for the social sector. A document summarising the request was shared prior to the meeting. Everyone's Environment programme is a collaboration of over 80 social and environmental charities to accelerate action on the social impacts of the environmental crises.

### Actions:

- RS/EM arrange to meet to find out more

## **14. GCHA update**

EM gave an update on the GCHA board meeting which took place the evening before. Key points noted were:

1. Over the last year, GCHA has been establishing its governance structure. As part of this two founding board members will be asked to retire from the board over the next three years to allow them to bring new people on board. There will be a lottery system to establish who leaves first.
2. Sue Atkinson is the current chair, Courtenay Howard is Vice-Chair and will take over the role of chair early in 2025 when Sue steps down. They are beginning the process of identifying a new vice-chair
3. The first AGM of GCHA will take place in February 2025, and planning for this is underway
4. They have received funding from KR Foundation to develop a campaign on challenging fossil fuel industry influence. Shweta Narayan has been recruited to lead

this work. Jo Vipond from CAPE presented on a successful campaign in Canada that resulted in misleading energy company advertising being removed.

5. Following requests from staff, GCHA is developing a policy on their position regarding non violent civil disobedience. There is strong consensus across the board for this. Following feedback from UKHACC, revised wording was shared after the meeting last night for UKHACC to consider approving.

Points noted related to the NVCD policy were:

- GCHA would welcome proposals for improved wording
- These sorts of things can really make a difference. In favour of supporting with rewording.
- Were GCHA board members drawing on experience. As a charity do you want to be endorsing criminal activity or right to a fair trial.
- Wording is contradictory and needs to be clearer what GCHA's position is
- We can inform - these are reasons people feel they might protest, criminal will be different in different countries

It was agreed that we should go back to RS with revised wording.

Actions:

- RS/EM to follow up with Chair of GCHA with revised wording for the NVCD policy

## **15. Celebrity endorsement**

Trustees were asked to consider if we should identify and approach celebrities to endorse specific campaigns, for example our hospital food work.

Points noted were:

- Would it be more appropriate to stick to health professional celebrities?
- Chris Van Tuliken might be a good person for the food policy report
- People who have had positive experiences of healthcare/disaster response who can be influential. For example there is a very famous Indian cricketer who went plant based and is a strong advocate of it now.
- Could cast net wider than healthcare if we found the right person and look at this on a case by case basis

Actions:

- Be opportunistic about seeking celebrity endorsement for specific projects

## **16. Potential members**

- We have had positive responses from Royal College of Midwifery and British Cardiovascular Society.
- Shireen Kassam has become the new sustainability lead for RCPATH and is going to speak to them about joining
- Jackie Gordon has reached out to RCOH
- AP suggested Royal Society of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine might be worth approaching
- Nuffield Council on Bioethics and Health may also be an option

Actions:

- Continue with a membership drive aiming to get 60 members by the end of next year

## **17. Risk register**

The risk register was shared prior to the meeting.

### Actions:

- EM to share an absence management process in the event of something happening to her with RS and RG (with separate files for login details and passwords)
- Finding a new chair to be added to the risk register
- An up/down arrow to indicate whether a risk is going up or down to be added to the risk register

## **18. Any other business**

### Supporting clinical engagement with trusts (JK)

JK has trialed in his local trust, the development of templates for clinicians to write to their local board asking specific questions for them to answer. It looks to get more directly to individual clinicians and make change at their organisational level.

JK shared three documents:

1. List of questions
2. Letter from a group of consultants at the trust
3. Response from the CEO

It has increased the profile and creates an impression where the staff care about sustainability and enables clinicians to identify as activists.

Next step for JK to produce a document with questions people could ask, examples from the past. Document for board to approve.

### Action:

- JK to produce a document for the board to approve related to supporting clinical engagement with trusts with questions people could ask, examples from successful campaigns

### Exit interview for outgoing trustees

JK offered to produce questions for an exit interview with outgoing trustees. LM agreed to work with TK on this.

### Action:

- Trustees to send suggested questions for exit interview to TK.

## **19. Farewell to Terry and Liz**

This was the final meeting as trustees for both TK and LM. RS thanked both TK and LM for all of their contributions over the last number of years.

LM: Thanked the trustees and EM for their support and being a great group to be part of  
TK: This has been a great network with enthusiastic people motivated to make change, thanks for the experience

RG: Delighted to be staying. Tremendous privilege to be part of this committee.



**20. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 10 October 2024