

Athens, 04.09.2020

Minutes of the 81st MHPSS Technical Working Group at Babel Day Centre

Chaired by Nikos Gkionakis, Maria Ntetsika

Participants: ARSIS, Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, Network for Children’s Rights, GCR, Mdm Greece, ADDMA, UNHCR, Greek Forum of Refugees, DRC, HR 360, IRC, Velos Youth, Unit for Social Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors, Babel Day Centre

Agenda:

- Updates from the field and the other WGs
- AOB

Updates from the field	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GCR: The situation in Elaionas site becomes worse every day. There are many recognized refugees that are living under awful conditions.• HR 360: The community center in Kypseli is operating normally. The demands for accommodation have increased a lot during the last period. Three to four demands are for accommodation. There is also an increase on the demands for psychological support.• Greek Forum of Refugees: The training for the interpreters continues on-line, so interpreters from different places around Greece can participate. A training will take place on 14th of September. The programme continues until January. More information can be found in the following link: https://www.facebook.com/gfr.ermes/?notif_id=1599193536234251&notif_t=page_fan&ref=notif
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- **DRC:** DRC continues providing its services in Skaramaga, Lavrio, and Schisto as usual. Yesterday, in Schisto, a case of COVID_19 was found, so there was a discussion on how they will handle it. Around Skaramagas site there are many rubbishes, that are usually getting fire and create dangerous situations in the site.
- **ARSIS:** “Simio” Centre does not exist anymore, as well as the job consultancy services that were provided there. Hestia programme continues with a small decrease in the number of staff.
- **Unit for Social Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors:** There are four Units focused on issues related to UAM operating under the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (Social Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors, Supervision of the Shelters for UAM, Institutional Protection, Management of the Relocation Demands). A representative of the Unit for Social Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors will participate in the meetings of the WG.
- **UNHCR:** Changes are expected to happen on the organization chart during the next period. There is not any formal notification yet. EPAPSY continues providing mental health services as usual. A training is scheduled by EPAPSY for professionals providing non typical education in the islands.
- **IRC:** IRC continues to provide psychosocial support and mental health services in Lesbos, Samos and Chios. An issue has occurred with the transfer of people from Moria site to IRC clinic in Mitilini. There is an announcement expected by the Ministry focused on the site of Moria. The trainings focused on COVID_19 response in the islands continue normally.
- **Velos Youth:** An increase on the demand of accommodation has been noticed in the Velos Youth Centre. The number of

youngsters that are living in precarious conditions or are homeless has increased a lot the last months. Even the young people that have done their EKKA Application for accommodation needs to wait for a long time until they get a placement, sometimes up to 8 months

- **Network of children's rights:** An increase on the demand of accommodation has been noticed in Network for Children's Rights as well. The number of young boys, 13-15 years old, and girls, that are asking for services, has been increased too. 25 to 30 UAMs were transferred to shelters during the last months of COVID_19 pandemic. All the tests for the COVID_19 were conducted at the clinic at Saradaporou. At the moment, there is a long waiting list at the Network for Children's' Rights.
- **MdM:** An increase on the demand of psychological support for UAM and for adults as well was noticed in the MdM Polyclinic. The programme for the support of elderly people during COVID_19 epidemic continues.
- **ADDMA:** The psychiatrist and the two psychologists keep providing mental health services in the clinic at Petralona. The contract that beneficiaries are asked to sign while entering an apartment has included some small changes. The fact that asylum seekers need to be informed for their decisions related to asylum by a notification sent to their address causes a lot of issues, since many of them may have changed their house during the waiting period.
- **Babel:** A website focused on providing useful information for professionals working on the front-line during COVID_19 pandemic is being prepared. More information will be shared as soon as possible. The website "[Covid-19 Refugees Info](#)", that provides information to refugees and migrants during the COVID_19 pandemic operates the last month. The WG members are asked to share the information to PoCs.

Updates of the task force on the on-line work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting of the TF will take place on Tuesday 8th September.
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion focused on UAM in collaboration with CPsWG was suggested to be scheduled in one of the coming meetings of the WG.
Agenda for the next WG	<p>-Discussion and updates on the current situation</p> <p>-Discussion on the psychosocial impacts of homelessness</p> <p>-AOB</p>

The next MHPSS WG meeting is going to take place on **Friday 18th of September** at **09:30 -11:30**.