

First MHPSS meeting minutes

Date: 02/09/2016

Place: Babel (mental health day center)

Participants: MSF OCG (Fouzia Bara-Medical Coordinator, Eleni Chronopoulou -Medical Coordinator, HOM Assistant, Social Worker), Solidarity Now Centre (Ioannis Kallinikakis-Psychologist), Praxis (Evi Spourdalaki-Psychologist), Society of Social Psychiatry & Mental Health (Sofoulis Tataridis-Administrative), MDM (Martha Arnaoutoglou –Psychologist, Ana De La Cuadra-PSS Trainer, Dora Rebelo-PSS Coordinator), IFRC (Natalia Hortiguuela-PSS Delegate), IRC (Chantal Dorf-Mhpss Manager), Save the children (Paula Gil-Health / Nutrition Manager, Eni Tsela-Social Worker), Babel Day Centre (Nikos Gionakis-Psychologist, Maria Katsouli-Admin Coordinator), IMC (Andria Spyridou-MHPSS Coordinator, Evdoxia Chatzimpladi-MHPSS Officer, Eleftherios Pallis-MH / MHPSS), Solidarity Now (Lena Zachou-Psychologist)

Chair: Nikos Gionakis (Babel) and Andria Spyridoy (IMC)

Agenda: 1. Introduction for the reason of the meeting, 2. Acquaintance between participants (name, position, responsibilities, organization, what kind of MHPSS services are provided by their organization and in which camps, expectations for the meeting), 3. Introduction for Babel (ideology, way of working), 4. Challenges and problems concerning the existing MHPSS services needed to be addressed, 5) Planning of the following meetings (frequency, date, duration, participants, place of the meetings).

Introduction: The scope of the meeting is to link all MHPSS teams of every organization which are active at the camps of Attica in order to share useful information on the present activities, update on the limitations and challenges each actor faces and try to resolve them and finally achieve more productive and effective mental health services provided by them.

Aim of this meeting: The aim of this first meeting is to create a strong network among experts of mental health by initially meeting each other and sharing useful information about the experiences, worries, thoughts and challenges everyone has faced on the field. The main issue of this introductory meeting that came up and will be further discussed in depth during the next meeting(s) are: 1) the necessity of the use of a common language among all actors to strengthen effective collaboration, 2) the establishment of a united referral system in collaboration with Babel (the person who refers, whom is referred, the reason of the referral, where the person is referred, the way the person is transferred to the referral point and back), 3) the general instability that is obvious in the field regarding the camp situation (permanent or temporary) and the duration of actors' work/activities, which creates the need to find new ways of working (for example keeping records for informing the next colleagues about the kind of work has been done so far) and 4) the context of the following meetings (who is going to participate → the same persons every time or others, the frequency, duration and continuity).

A first step which was also agreed in order to overcome instability and gain a better communication among organizations is to create a form which will be available online and accessible by all MHPSS teams where everyone can share necessary information (which position each actor has, what activities/services are provided, for how long, at which camps, what gaps/needs have been noticed so far) and update it with new one as well so as both old

and new members of the teams will be informed. IMC will be creating a working paper that will be online and updated by all the actors in order to have a 4Ws mapping.

MSF France: They have 3 psychologists (2 females, 1 male) and case workers at the camps Thermopyles, Oinofyta, Malakasa, and social workers who work on the referral system. Main cases they face are violent incidents from adolescents/men and GBV cases. They have noticed an improvement both of the patients but there are still gaps and the referral system to the psychiatrist but there is still a big amount of people who need medication.

Solidarity now center (which is open to refugees and Greek): There is 1 psychologist/psychotherapist, doctors and social workers in collaboration with Praksis, Arsis and other organizations for children (Together for the child) and 1 help-line. They have 4 mobile units with psychologist and social workers for the camps.

Praksis: They have 1 psychologist at the camps Fylakio and Orestiada.

The society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health: They are not in the field but they want to try to find a way of collaboration with the other organizations.

MDM: They have a psychosocial trainer at the camps Elliniko, Kavala, Ioannina, Katsikas, Redestos, Konitsa, Filipiada and a psychologist in Elliniko. They offer stress management to other organizations and in the field they work through referrals at the hospital or other psychiatrists.

IFRC: They provide community base activities at the camps Ritsona, Skaramagas, N. Kavala and Softex.

IRC: They work at the camps Skaramagas, Elaionas and Lesvos.

Save the children: They provide nutrition to the children, a social worker and case management at the camps Elliniko, Skaramagas, Inofyta, Ritsona, Schisto, Samos, Lesvo, Leros and a shelter for unaccompanied children is going to be created in September in Kalamaki camp.

Next meeting: All actors agreed to conduct this meeting every 2 weeks thus the next meeting will take place on Friday (16/09), 9.30-11.30 at Babel.

The minutes will be uploaded at the webpage of UNHCR Greece as well as the calendar information on upcoming meetings.