

Athens, 8.1.2021

Minutes of the 89th MHPSS Technical Working Group at Babel Day Centre

Chaired by Nikos Gkionakis, Maria Ntetsika

Participants: ADDMA, Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, GCR, EPAPSY, MsF OCG, Network for children’s rights, MsF VoT, ARSIS, DRC, UNHCR, Babel Day Centre

Agenda:

- Discussion and updates on the current situation
- AOB

<p>Discussion and updates on the current situation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ARSIS: The provision of accommodation in the islands through Estia project was completed for ARSIS. The ARSIS team has come across a number of refugees who after having completed their participation in Helios integration programme have informally returned to the sites or are living in the streets. This situation opens once again the issue of integration and the effectiveness and adequacy of the Helios programme.• EPAPSY: On Monday 4th January starts the ToT on PFA during Covid_19 with Nancy Baron. DRC, EPAPSY, MsF VoT, MsF OCG, IRC, Action Aid and Babel will finally participate. The project that focused on the provision of mental health services to people that was accommodated through Estia project was completed in the end of December 2020. The projects of the Community Workers and the Psychosocial Support Help-line continue with the addition of an interpreter of French language.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MsF OCG: A mobile unit focused on the sexually transmitted diseases will start operating in the centre of Athens and later in the sites of Attica as well. With this mobile unit, MsF aim to access people that cannot reach the clinic in Solonos. • MsF VoT: A project focused on community intervention based on PFA and PM+ with the support of community workers is to be launched the next days by MsF. More information will be provided to the WG in the next days. • GCR: The UAMs that have not yet acquired PAAYPA continue facing challenges with the healthcare access. They can only make appointments with private doctors except of emergency cases. • Network of Children’s’ Rights: The Network continues to provide its services as the previous year. Any changes that might come up will be shared with the members of the TWG. • ADDMA: The transfer of the accommodation programme to the Ministry of Migration has not yet been completed, however the programme continues to operate as it used to be. The two psychologists that are working in the municipal healthcare center of Petralona continue to receive referrals. The majority of the appointments take place remotely. • DRC: The DRC continues its operations as the previous year. More presence of the legal team in the camps is planned for this year. Some of the group activities has restarted in Schisto and Lavrio sites but not yet in Skaramagas site. • UNHCR: The UNHCR referred to the challenges that people living in the site in Samos face regarding their mental health. A number of 17 individuals were referred to EODY since they had self-harming thoughts. The representative of MsF OCG referred also on the difficulties on accessing appropriate mental health care that became worse after the phase out of IRC.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babel Day Centre: The project with the provision of trainings on PFA to frontline workers in collaboration with HR360 was ended. A big number of professionals working in the camps or in shelters for UAM participated. Many training needs remain to be covered according to the participants of the trainings. The projects focused on the support of frontline workers during Covid_19 pandemic and on the provision of information to refugees related to covid_19 pandemic continue for this year as well. More information can be found here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.frontline-covid19.com/ - https://covid19refugeesinfo.gr/ • Two psychologists and two interpreters were hired for the better response of the Centre to the urgent needs that appeared during Covid_19 pandemic. The four professionals are funded by the Ministry of Health. Babel will conduct a series of trainings focused on the refugee condition in collaboration with the Network of Municipalities. The idea is that NGO professionals will participate together with municipality officers in the trainings. Finally, a training will be organized with Lesvos Solidarity on the psychosocial dimensions of the refugee condition.
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The difficulty to issue ath.ena card for individuals that hold PAAYPA was also discussed. It was mentioned that in certain cases the show of the ministerial decision related to PAAYPA to the officers was helpful and led to the desirable results. However, this practice cannot be of help with the on-line provision of the aforementioned service. • ARSIS and other organizations that participated at the meeting referred to the fact that after the end of the support of Helios project many refugees they are still far of being integrated and they have no choice than to return informally to the sites or stay in the streets. Moreover, the difficulty of the municipal services to keep track of the real number of homeless refugees was mentioned. The representative of the UNHCR also

	<p>confirmed that the Afghan Community as well mentioned that they face an increase of homeless afghans the last months. A suggestion to invite a representative of the Greek Network for the Right to Housing to participate in one of the next meetings was mentioned. The representative of Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos was offered to make a contact and discuss the results on the next TWG.</p>
<p>Agenda for the next WG</p>	<p>-Discussion and updates on the current situation</p> <p>-Discussion with Mr Lazaros Petromelidis, representative of the Greek Network for the Right to Shelter and Housing, on issues related to the increase of homeless refugees and asylum seekers</p> <p>-AOB</p>

The next MHPSS WG meeting is going to take place on **Friday 22nd of January** at **09:30 -11:30**.