



Reiki Federation Ireland
many paths, one voice

Minutes

Meeting:

Delegation from the Department of Health and Children with Reiki Federation Ireland.

Date: Friday 28th January 2011

Time: 2pm-3pm

Venue: Hawkins House.

Department of Health & Children Delegation:

Ms Deirdre Walsh: Principal Officer, Professional Regulation Unit.

Ms Geraldine Kelly: Principal Officer

Reiki Federation Ireland Delegation:

Patricia Sheehan, CChem MRSC. Reiki Teacher/Practitioner (Chairperson)

Abby Wynne, MSC, Dip Counselling & Psychotherapy. Reiki Teacher/Practitioner (Editor/Website Manager)

1. Introductions.

RFI thanked the Department of Health for facilitating this meeting.

2. Introduction to Reiki Federation Ireland, RFI

RFI delegates communicated how RFI operates. To support this, RFI provided the Department of Health with a detailed Operational Folder, including Constitution, Code of Ethics, Code of Practice, Training Guidelines, Job descriptions of committee members, how RFI communicate through RFI website, AGMs, EGMs, Newsletter, Public Awareness Days, Facebook etc. Also included was some research articles. RFI discussed that some Reiki Practitioners are currently working in Cancer Care and Palliative care.



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3. Current status on RFI Self Regulation.

RFI communicated that RFI audited the National Working Group Document 2005 prior to the meeting. RFI communicated that RFI is compliant with this document with some items that need to be addressed and improved.

RFI comply with the requirements of the NWG document eg: Course Standards, Content, Duration of Training, Complaints Procedure, Providing a Reliable Source of Information for the General Public. General Public can evaluate qualification requirements for Practitioners.

RFI's Assessment of the Practitioner is upon receipt of Professional Reiki Certificates and Insurance Certificate.

RFI's Assessment Procedure and Validation process will be improved in 2011/2012.

Validation/Independent Assessment

RFI communicated that RFI has built connections with UK and Australia and RFI has modelled their systems on UK. UK are further on in the process than Ireland. NHS approves Reiki Practitioners from UK Reiki Federation to work in the NHS in Palliative and Cancer Care. UK has not gone the Higher Educational Route. RFI also intend to have a suitable independent assessment process for Reiki Practitioners. Reiki is not a knowledge based therapy and the Higher Educational assessment procedure does not assess the suitability of a Reiki Practitioner. A Therapy Practice Assessment is more relevant.

Regulation

UK Reiki Federation is regulated by The General Regulatory Council for Complementary Therapies. (GRCCT). Barry Tanner Senior Project Manager (GRCCT) has offered support to the Chairperson RFI on the regulatory process. It is RFI's intention to keep abreast with UK and Europe on Reiki systems and regulation.

4. Reiki in Mainstream Health

We discussed possible avenues for moving forward that will support Health and Well-Being and provide access for people to choose personal care that they feel supports them, while in medical care. RFI communicated that we are doing the work on the ground and would like some communication from the Department of Health that would allow Reiki to be accessible for those who choose it, while in Medical Care.



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RFI communicated that Reiki Practitioners do not diagnose and do not claim to cure. Our approach/proposal is that The Reiki Practitioner is an

Independent Service Provider for a Personal Care Service. This provides fair access for the patient to choose to participate in their health and well-being. The Department of Health communicated that access to Medical Care / acute hospitals by non core health service professions /providers is limited due to the nature and complexity of acute services, the specialist settings involved and the need to maintain infection control etc. It was suggested that it may be more productive for RFI to seek access to non acute services in the areas of mental health, disability, services for older people and palliative care.

The Department of Health communicated that it deals with high level policy and related statutory /legislative matters rather than provision of service on the ground. The Department of Health and RFI all agreed that to be recognized by the department was not what was at issue but rather a way of developing provision of services in the personal /social care arena. The Department of Health recommended that we could look at and link up with service providers with HSE Service Level Agreements for the provision of mental health, disability and elderly care services as this would appear to be where RFI could best seek to offer a service. Reference was also made to engaging with the many voluntary organisation involved in the health and social care area, most of whom work closely with the HSE and related service providers. These organisations include, Mental Health Ireland, The Alzheimers Society, Nursing Homes Ireland, The Brothers of Charity Services, The St. John of God Brothers etc.

The Department of Health acknowledged the work completed by RFI.

RFI thanked the Department of Health for the meeting and their advice on moving forward.

Patricia Sheehan.

Patricia Sheehan CChem MRSC

Chairperson
Reiki Federation Ireland