July, 2020

Opportunities for Members
COVID-19 mental health resources
BluePrint Group network updates

BluePrint Group Membership

BluePrint Group Working Groups

Member Resources and Reports

Weight: 1300 - 1400 grm
INTRODUCTION

The BluePrint Group is a global joint advocacy, communications and learning coalition consisting of over 800 representatives of governments, international organisations, NGOs, academia and the private sector. The group was formed to encourage greater global collaboration on mental health advocacy, communications and learning, and to enable anyone with a professional interest in mental health and/or in health policy to have a means to link up with others who share this interest.
BluePrint Group updates

BluePrint Group Calls

The July BluePrint Group (BPG) call notes are available here and recording of the call is available here. The August call will be held on the 5th August, you can register via this link. If you would like to contribute an item to the call agenda please email us.

Details of the next few calls are available below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August call</th>
<th>Wednesday 5th August, 2pm BST</th>
<th>Register here</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September call</td>
<td>Wednesday 2nd September, 2pm BST</td>
<td>Register here</td>
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Coffee conversations

The “coffee conversations” initiative has been running for a few months now, and we have had some wonderful feedback from various BPG members, saying that it has been useful to learn about mental health work in different contexts, and they have since been connected to other contacts through their coffee conversation.

“I would surely recommend it to anyone and everyone in BPG.”
“It was a terrific way to learn more and connect with like-minded people who are passionate about mental health”

Sign up to our coffee conversations and be paired at random with another BluePrint Group member, so that you can have a video call and learn more about your colleagues work.

BPG LinkedIn Group

Keep up to date with the BluePrint Group by joining our LinkedIn group. This group is an informal way of connecting and interacting with BPG members. Please feel free to post useful articles, blogs that you have written, or any other helpful insights. Join via this link.
COVID-19 and mental health updates and resources

World Health Organisation and United Nations Resources

As a mental health network, we are committed to actively sharing information on how to address the mental health consequences to this outbreak, including potential for individual and wider spread anxiety. As BluePrint Group members, we would like to share with you the resources available from the World Health Organisation (WHO) who are the UN agency with the global leadership role in responding to the outbreak. (For full list of WHO resources see here)

- WHO’s mental health website
- Children’s storybook on COVID-19 goes global
- Stress management guide
- Basic Psychosocial Skills : a guide for COVID-19 responders
- Operational guidance for maintaining essential health services
- Operational considerations for multi-sectoral mental health and psychosocial support programmes during COVID-19
- Considerations for public health and social measures in the workplace in the context of COVID-19

In addition please find also here the WHO news related to the launch of WHO’s iSupport Lite, a set of practical support messages – available as posters - for caregivers of people with dementia.
BluePrint group member resources

For a full list of BPG member resources see here.

- StrongMinds report ‘COVID-19 and mental health in Africa.’ The report contains findings from a survey of 12,000 women in low income communities in Uganda and Zambia, detailing that the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an increase in persistent stress, anxiety and depression symptoms.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics’ Healthy Children team has produced the following two resources related to teen mental health during COVID.
  - Mental Health During COVID-19: Signs Your Teen May Need More Support
  - Teens & COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities During the Outbreak
- “No health without mental health” and what has COVID-19 got to do with it? United for Global Mental Health (UnitedGMH)
- Managing uncertainty in the COVID-19 era. The British Medical Journal (BMJ) opinion

Webinar Series

Every Tuesday (09:00 EST; 14:00 BST; 15:00 CET; 15:00 SAST; 18:30 IST.) BPG members join other global experts, policy makers and those at the frontline in the response to discuss the latest evidence and impact of COVID-19 on mental health and how to address it.
Please contact COVID19seminars@unitedgmh.org with any questions or concerns.

After almost four months of our weekly webinar series on mental health and COVID-19, the increasing interest in broader global mental health issues means we are reshaping this series. The webinars will pause for the first two weeks of August, starting again on the 18th August, where we will continue to look at the most pressing and often neglected issues of mental health around the world.

Sign up to the webinar series.

All recordings of previous webinars can be found here.
2. Mental Health & COVID-19, Supporting the Mental Health of Frontline Health Workers
3. Mental Health & COVID-19 Research: What Research Do We Need Now? What Should We Measure for The Longer Term?
6. Mental Health & COVID-19 Beyond Face to Face: Digital and Other Ways to Provide Mental Health Service Delivery and Support.
7. Mental Health & COVID-19 People in vulnerable situations: protecting people in institutions, older people, and other groups
11. Stories from the Field - Ensuring Continuity of Mental Health Care during COVID-19.
12. Far from home: MHPSS for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.
13. Workplace Mental Health
14. Mental Health and Poverty Alleviation
15. How to Support Patients and Caregivers
16. Integrating mental health in health systems

To sign up to any of the webinars above please follow this link, if you have any questions please email covid19seminars@unitedgmh.org
BluePrint Group Working Groups

You can join any working group by registering here.

Youth Group:
Co chairs - Ann Willhoite, UNICEF; Craig Hodges, Orygen; Victor Ugo, UnitedGMH

Please join us or feel free to keep updated on the group's work through this link.

Financing Mental Health Working Group
Co-chairs - Matthew Mutiso, Nanga, Kenya and James Sale, UnitedGMH.

The Financing Mental Health Working Group is continuing the BPG work of encouraging the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to invest in and fully integrate mental health, through psychosocial support, into HIV and TB approaches across the world. The Global Fund is currently holding an open consultation on their next five year strategy giving the opportunity for organisations to make the case for mental health integration into the strategy. If you would like to do that then you can do so here, and here you can find a briefing with more background.

The next monthly call of the Financing Mental Health Working Group is Thursday 30th July. If you would like to join the call or the Working Group then please contact James at james@unitedgmh.org

Humanitarian group
Co-chairs: Ann Willhoite, UNICEF; Carmen Valle-Trebadelo, MHPSS Collaborative

A quarterly mail out with updates and opportunities for linkages on advocacy needs will be sent to those who are interested (sign up here), and updates from group members on ongoing local and global advocacy efforts will be housed in this folder.
Member Resources & Reports

UN Friends of Mental Health Group

In May the UN Secretary General released a statement on mental health in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN has also released a much needed policy brief outlining how COVID-19 is affecting mental health services, the mental health of vulnerable populations and frontline workers; and key recommendations for governments and decision makers.

Last week we were delighted to see that the UN Friends of Mental Health Group published a statement of support calling on the United Nations, Member States and all actors concerned to address the mental health dimension of this pandemic. This has been signed by 95 Member States, agreeing that it is “crucial that we all act together”. You can read more about this success, and see if your country signed the letter here.

Human Rights Watch Report

Human Rights Watch have profiled ‘groundbreaking advance to support people with mental health conditions in Belgium’ showcasing good practices in ensuring the rights of people with disabilities.

Ember Insights

The SHM Foundation, are currently running an initiative called Ember, supporting mental health initiatives around the globe. They’ve compiled this report, based on the insights they’ve gained from the organisations they work with, showcasing how the organisations have adapted to COVID-19, what challenges they’ve experienced and how they’ve transformed their services, so that they can still keep serving their beneficiaries.

Report: The need to prioritize mental health within the workplace

BPG member Lene Sovold has just written a piece on the importance of prioritizing mental health and practice principled and compassionate leadership in the times ahead, this can be found here.
Government of Kenya Mental Health Task Force Report

The Ministry of Health Taskforce of Mental Health of the Government of Kenya has released a report entitled ‘Mental Health and Wellbeing Towards Happiness and National Prosperity.’ The taskforce was inaugurated in December 2019 and given 80 days to undertake a comprehensive review of mental health in Kenya. This report is the result of a literature review of mental health in Kenya and globally, and numerous interviews with Kenyans across the country. The taskforce held hearings in Mombasa, Nairobi, Eldoret, Nakuru, Meru, Garissa, Makueni, Kakamega, Kisumu and Nyeri, as well as holding sector specific meetings focused on youth, security, education, religion, government, politicians and those of lived experience. The following report contains detailed recommendations presented in ten thematic areas: mental health and wellbeing; burden of mental illness; mental health in special populations; determinants of mental health; stigma and discrimination; policy and legislative framework; leadership and governance; mental health services and systems; mental health financing and universal health coverage; and mental health data and research.
The Kays Foundation

The ECD (Early Childhood Development) Network for Kenya and The Kays Foundation (TKF) are partnering on a series of five webinars to explore the lived realities of parents and caregivers in coastal Kenya, and the implications for the early childhood field. On Weds 5th August at 10am East Africa Time they will be hosting a webinar on maternal mental health. TKF’s report ‘An Exploration of Childhood and Childcare for 0–3 year olds in coastal Kenya’, and short documentary film ‘Mama Kwanza’ provide an insight into the lived realities of children and parents in coastal Kenya and offer provocative, actionable insights for those working in the early childhood sector. Here is the microsite for the project.

IASP: Decriminalisation of Attempted Suicide Policy Position

Members of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) recently ratified & passed a policy position statement on the decriminalisation of attempted suicide. This is an important step in suicide prevention & suicide awareness policy and advocacy efforts and supports current international efforts for mental health action and investment.
Suicide is a global public health problem and among the top 20 causes of death globally for people of all ages. It remains a universal challenge impacting millions. Suicide is illegal in 25 countries which have specific laws for attempted suicide and in an additional 10 countries which follow Sharia law people who attempt suicide may also be punished. Accessing healthcare is a fundamental human right. WHO (2014) found no empirical evidence that decriminalising suicidal behaviours leads to an increase in suicide rates and urges countries to “review their legal provisions in relation to suicide to ensure they do not deter people from seeking help”. In addition, the IASP policy position states that ‘The criminalisation of attempted suicide undermines prevention efforts and restricts access of vulnerable individuals to suicide prevention and mental health services.’ IASPs next step is to seek endorsements in support of this policy position statement from friends and wider networks, from large international organisations to community led crisis lines. We aim for these endorsements to raise awareness for the decriminalisation of attempted suicide but to also demonstrate the international will for this important step in advancing mental health policy. More information on the decriminalisation of attempted suicide can be found here.

St Patrick’s Mental Health Services Advocacy Campaign

St Patrick’s Mental Health Services in Ireland are launching a ‘No Stigma’ campaign aims to positively reframe mental health stigma and discrimination by showing the positive effect on life when they are not experienced. This digital campaign is focussed on sharing information on life without stigma in work, community and at home, with a campaign website – nostigma.ie, where people can share experiences and thoughts on life without stigma via an interactive forum. The campaign website will also provide information on how we are all protected from mental health discrimination under law, and where to get help and support if needed.

BPG members can take part and support the campaign by:

1. Sharing examples of the positive difference it makes when mental health stigma or discrimination is not experienced.
2. Learning about what a home, work or community without stigma would mean.
3. Sharing the campaign assets with friends and contacts, or in your work or community environment.
Wellcome Trust Photography Prize Shortlist 2020

The Wellcome Trust have released their shortlist for the 2020 Photography Prize, you can see the shortlisted 25 entries here. The categories are: Social Perspectives, Hidden Worlds, Medicine in Focus, and mental health. The winners will be announced on 19th August.
Opportunities for members

Call for Submissions: Forced Migration Review

Questions about mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) have been written about in Forced Migration Review (FMR) at times over the years. This is the first time, however, that FMR has dedicated a full issue to it – reflecting its relevance in all situations pertaining to displacement and the level of interest in this subject shown by our readers.

FMR are looking for concise, pertinent, practice-oriented submissions that present analysis, lessons and good practice with wide relevance. In particular, the FMR Editors are looking for submissions that reflect a diverse range of experience and opinions, a list of the key issues they are specifically looking for input on can be found here.

BEFORE WRITING YOUR ARTICLE: If you are interested in contributing, please email the Editors at fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk with a few sentences about your proposed topic so that we can provide feedback and let you know if we are interested in receiving your submission. See here for more information.

Grand Challenges Canada call for proposals

The newly relaunched Global Mental Health program hosted at Grand Challenges Canada is excited to announce the launch of its first call for proposals! Made possible by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) UK Aid through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), this first round of seed funding will focus on the mental health and wellbeing of young people.
This call for proposals seeks bold ideas to meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people aged 10 to 24 years who are living with or at risk of mental health conditions. Specifically, we are looking for innovative approaches to enhance mental health literacy and/or provide youth-friendly services while taking into account the complex social and environmental factors that impact and shape the mental health of youth. Approaches should be culturally sensitive, community driven, and engage young people and stakeholders with lived experience from the outset. Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants of up to $250,000 CAD over 18 to 24 months to develop and test the proposed innovation. For more information on the Global Mental Health program, including how to apply, please visit the Global Mental Health page on Grand Challenges Canada’s website.

**Non Communicable Diseases and Mental Health**

United for Global Mental Health is interested in collecting any evidence that demonstrates positive non-communicable disease (NCD) outcomes due to integration of mental health services (see Table for more information). Thank you to everyone that has previously reached out to the NCD research calls. If you know of any research that helps build the case, please feel free to insert directly into this document, or write Christie at christie@unitedgmh.org for any questions or to discuss this initiative further.
BluePrint Group Members

- The BPG is continuing to grow and diversify, you can see the full list of members here.
- This month we have had 33 new members join, with our first ever members from Burundi, Costa Rica and Hungary - the BPG now has members based in 73 countries.
- We continue to aim to diversify the BPG membership, in particular from under-represented regions. If you can put us in touch with potential new members please let us know or share this link: http://eepurl.com/gumkeP
Welcome to new members

The BluePrint Group now has over 800 members. Anyone can sign up to the group via this link. A full list of our members is available here. Welcome to new members from:

Welcome to new members from:

- Anthem Inc, India
- University of Auckland School of Medicine, New Zealand
- American Academy of Pediatrics, United States of America
- FIREFLY NW, Canada
- Kitale county hospital, Kenya
- CENTRE FOR PTSD ALLEVIATION AND RESEARCH, India
- Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe
- FSG, United States of America
- Asociación Costarricense de Alzheimer y otras demencias, Costa Rica
- YGAM, United Kingdom
- MedConverge, LLC, India
- Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust, United Kingdom
- SLC communications, United States of America
- The University of Melbourne, Australia
- SGRDIMSR, India
- UNU-EHS, Germany
- Philippine Red Cross Marikina Chapter, Philippines
- IFRC Psychosocial Centre, Iceland
- Yellowleaf, Netherlands
- Self-employed, India
- Pakistan Psychiatry Society, Pakistan
- APA, Sr Director, United States of America
- Youth Health Foundation, Tanzania
- IFRC, Denmark
- Psychosocial Support-Umutwenzi, Burundi
- The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, United States of America
- NELSONS, United Kingdom
- AIM Youth Mental Health, United States of America
- Calmind Foundation, Kenya
- University of Washington, United States of America
- American Academy of Pediatrics, United States of America