

EATA e-bulletin

October-2009

The monthly e-bulletin from the European Association for the Treatment of Addiction (EATA) to keep our members up to date on the latest developments and news in the drug and alcohol treatment and aftercare sector. If you have any comments or questions about our articles, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Coming up in this month's e-bulletin...

- Cape Cod
- Skills for Justice
- Regional Events
- And Finally....

Chief Executive's update

Well it has been a busy September. It all began with the latest board meeting, my first as Chief Executive, followed by a trip across the pond to the annual drugs symposium in Cape Cod. And so much to look forward to including our CEO event with guest speaker David Burrowes on October 19th and our regional workshops in Bristol and Derby in November and London in January (further details below). I have also been busy writing and have had two articles in the trade press such as DDN and Addiction Today. These have certainly filled my inbox so apologies if I haven't responded to you yet! We have also had another addition to the team in Steve Broughton as our new Finance and Administrative Officer and Naomi Plasky from the University of Pittsburgh who will be interning with us until December.

At the beginning of September I travelled across the pond to the annual drug symposium at Cape Cod along with other key figures from the field. I was particularly inspired by Dr Al Moonie MD who ran a workshop called "Calling Angels to Promote Recovery" and raved about the values of recovery, something that EATA is taking a lead on back here in the UK as a member of the newly formed Recovery Group UK. Another aspect of the American system was the value and importance placed upon accreditation for drugs programmes, where in some States government funding is only released once a programme or organisation is accredited. This continues to raise the importance and role that the EATA accreditation could play in raising standards amongst our existing members and beyond.

I will be trying to visit as many of you as possible over the coming months to discuss issues and concerns and see what great work I know many of our members are doing across the country. Katie will also be getting out and about so expect a visit or a call from either of us soon...

**Don't forget to sign up to our e-group by emailing
eatamembers@googlemail.com!**

STOP PRESS – EATA campaigning on behalf of members!

Chief Executive writes to Paul Hayes on Tier 4 funding concerns of members. The Bedvac figures plus feedback from members who operate tier 4 services treatment and rehabilitation centres and detoxification centres including those funded by the NTA's Tier 4 Capital fund of

£58 million. Several members are experiencing difficulty with Community Care Funding and Local NHS Commissioners (ex PCTs) and waiting lists of clients wanting abstinence treatment are being turned away. Peter Martin has called for an urgent meeting to call for immediate remedial action so that Drug and Alcohol per capita funding is not used as a easy target for efficiency savings. We are only half way through the year and the bedvac numbers demonstrate a serious trend is beginning to emerge beyond the difficulties ordinarily experienced by members.

Skills for Justice meeting

Louise Walsh, our new Membership Services Officer, attended the 21st Community Justice Occupational Committee which is organised by 'Skills for Justice'. For those of you who don't know the CFJ work in partnerships to ensure that organisations in the Justice sector have the necessary skills and staff to be productive, efficient and effective.

The meeting was held in London and was well represented by those in the drug and alcohol field. This meeting was a great opportunity for idea sharing and collaboration. We were made aware of the huge budget the NHS have for training in psychological therapies. The scheme which was recently set up is called 'Improving Access to Psychological Therapies'. The committee thought it could be beneficial for drug and alcohol charities to be aware of this due to the benefits of having a work force skilled in motivational interviewing and cognitive behaviour therapy.

Unfortunately the money is held by the PCT but with enough badgering and interest from our members in the drug treatment field, we may just get it released into the 3rd Sector. Please see this website for further information <http://www.iapt.nhs.uk/>

There was also a presentation on inter-agency training from Tommy Cuthbert (Skills for Justice). He discussed the management of sex offenders by collaborative working and also the national Offender Management system in Scotland (NOMS).

In terms of training we will be carrying out a telephone survey from our members soon and would appreciate finding out about any training needs or ideas around staff skills, so please have a think about it before we contact you in October.

Regional Events

EATA will be holding a programme of regional events through November to January. These will include workshops on preparing for inspection and on EATA accreditation from David Finney and Pauline Bissett. We hope to meet many of you at these events. Please email Katie.hill@eata.org.uk if you are interested in coming and finding out more.

November 3rd Bristol **12.00 to 4.30**
Watershed Centre, 1 Canon's Drive, Harbourside, Bristol, BS1 5TX
Lunch included

November 16th Derby **12.00 to 4.30**
JET, 284-286 Normanton Road, Derby, DE23 6WD
Lunch included.

January 18th London **12.00 to 4.30**
Lunch included.

And Finally...

A big welcome to Steve Broughton who has joined us as the new Finance and Administration Officer. Steve has previously worked in financial administration for Stonham, one of the largest providers of supported housing in the UK.

We would also like to welcome Naomi Plasky, our new intern who joins us from the USA to work with the team for the upcoming three months. Naomi will be helping to develop a members news area on the website and supporting our upcoming events. She is a Junior (third year) at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Psychology and Sociology and minoring in Administration of Justice. Naomi has a background in working with juvenile delinquency and the treatment of drug addiction having interned at a programme for convicted felons in Pittsburgh. Naomi says she is very excited to be part of the team for the next three months.

We have also been attending Labour and Conservative Party Conferences – we will provide a report in the next e-bulletin in November.

E-group – we have been posting regularly on our new e-group – please email eatamembers@googlemail.com to join.

Have a great October!