

## Minutes of HUMAN GIVENS INSTITUTE Annual General Meeting

DATE: Saturday 14 June, 2014

VENUE: Sunningdale Conference Centre

PRESENT: Declan Lyons (chairing); Joe Griffin, Ivan Tyrrell, Sue Saunders, Julie Lawrence, Linda Singer, Sue Cheshire, Cathriona Edwards (Consultant)

APOLOGIES: Gail Rhodes, Renee Van der Vloodt, Julian Penton, Kevin McDonagh

1. Apologies of absent Board members given
2. Minutes of the previous AGM 20 August 2013 were agreed.
3. BOARD REPORT by Julie Lawrence

The Human Givens Board report was received.

Julie Lawrence summarised the board report. Changes in board membership were underlined with new members joining and others departing (Bart McEnroe). The latter was thanked for his service.

Board concentration in the past year has been on tightening up governance as part of the journey to becoming a mature organisation. These actions are designed to bring the organisation into line with the requirements of accreditation by PSA, upon which the board has been particularly focused over the past twelve months.

Actions have included:

- The establishment of a separate Registration and Professional Standards Committee (previously ECC).
- Defining the role of the board as:
  - setting out standards for training and practice,
  - promoting the human givens approach,
  - organising bi-annual conference,
  - supporting HGI members.
- Change of supervision policy.
- Establishment of first point of contact (Linda Singer) to support any therapists who may receive a complaint against them.
- Guidelines for online therapy.
- Evidence submitted to Mental Health Commission on efficacy of human givens therapy and suggestions as to how mental healthcare should be arranged in future. These will be available on website by autumn.

4. PSA Sue Saunders

An update on the process for PSA accreditation was received.

Sue Saunders gave an update on where the Institute is in relation to the process of application to PSA for accreditation. Sue underlined that the process highlighted how effective the HG diploma training is and that preparing for the application, as labour-intensive as it was, consisted of mapping current practice to acceptable educational language. This process has evolved as follows:

Governance –

Governance aspects concentrated upon defining standards, control & entry on the HG register, and handling complaints, as well as increasing board and committee memberships.

Training -

The learning outcomes of current training were mapped into educational language. This was achieved in conjunction with two academic experts. The process has been completed and signed-off by these two experts. It has been sent for initial feedback from PSA. The expectation is that the response will be positive. If so, formal application will be submitted in autumn 2014. The expectation and hope is that full accreditation will follow by early 2015.

Supervision -

Changes have been made to the supervision policy as informed by membership feedback and PSA accreditation which has been circulated to membership.

Client Feedback -

An electronic facility for client feedback has been agreed and will be added to the HGI website in the near future

Applause greeted this update with attendees expressing their appreciation of the work done and progress accomplished. A number of questions were asked which were all answered by board members, including clarifying how the PSA accreditation will be paid for: The membership fee will be increased to cover the application and annual PSA fee. It is expected that this will be in the region of £55-60 and will be payable by those practicing members. Attendees signaled their approval of this method of financing. Some discussion took place around the application process with Sue underlining the level of cooperation the PSA has afforded the HGI throughout. There was agreement that this was a significant step in the evolution of HGI and the human givens approach.

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Ivan Tyrrell

The audited accounts were received.

Ivan Tyrrell presented the accounts, pointing out that the overall trend is positive. Assets versus liabilities are positive year-on-year. The profit for 2012-2013 is in line with the previous year. Reserves stand £16,186 at year-end (2013). HGI income is derived from membership fees (currently 367 people), with a small profit made by holding the bi-annual conference. He thanked members for supporting the conference, underlining its importance in supporting the ongoing work and development of the Human Givens Institute. Ivan reiterated the need for the membership fee to be increased in order to facilitate the PSA accreditation process – estimated as £12,000 in the year of application

and £8,000 per annum thereafter. Attendees expressed understanding of the need to do this and willingness to pay an increased fee.

An attendee requested that the board warn members in advance of the fee increasing, which the board committed to do – once the fee from the PSA is confirmed. It was underlined that the fee is applicable to those on the register only.

## 6. ETHICS & COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Sue Cheshire

Sue Cheshire delivered the report from the Ethics and Complaints Committee, describing the majority of the work as being a process of ironing out conflicts of interest. Sue reported on numbers of complaints received and resolved, including whistleblower cases. Linda Singer was announced as first port of call to support therapists undergoing a complaints procedure. The new Ethics Code will be available via the HGI website in the near future. The contribution of Ian Thompson to the work of this committee was noted. She reported that the membership of the committee has doubled in the last year.

## 7. HUMAN GIVENS FOUNDATION REPORT

Miles Daffin

Miles Daffin presented the report from the Human Givens Foundation, outlining the activities the Foundation supported during the year, including research. Tribute was paid to the work of Dr Andrew Morrice in putting together a random control trial. A family donation has been put towards the creation and rollout of an app designed to support depressed individuals and their families, supplying information, tips and advice based on the human givens approach. Attendees expressed appreciation and approval of this undertaking.

Miles also reported that the HG Foundation had held its AGM and published its annual report. Minutes and full report are available on request.

Miles also briefed the meeting on the Easy Fundraiser mechanism. Commitment was made to promote this mechanism to membership for onward promulgation.

Future focus for Foundation support will be

- Upgrading website
- Support ongoing research
- Support HG projects on ad hoc basis

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.