

MHPSS WG minutes 16/09/16

Date: 16/09/2016

Participants: IMC, BABEL, UNHCR, IRC, Hellenic Network of Group Analysts, MDM, Save the children, Praksis, ORC, UNICEF, EKΨ & ΨΥ

Venue: BABEL Day Center, Drosopoulou 72, Plateia Amerikis

Chair: Andria Spyridou (MHPSS Coordinator)

Agenda: 1) Introduction for the new participants, 2) Review & Approval of previous meeting's minutes, 3) Feedback on the previous meeting, 4) Coordination issues, 5) Limitations and issues as the ground and context of this working group, 6) Organizational issues (next meeting)

Introduction: The scope of this meeting was mainly to organize the context of the following ones addressing the coordination issues that came up during the previous one. Connection between the previous and the present meeting was made, introducing the new participants to the issues that were discussed and receiving feedback by everyone about them. In addition to this, participants started posing questions which have to be immediately answered, in order to overcome existing challenges and establish a common language that will facilitate the communication and the functional collaboration among all MHPSS teams.

Aim of the meeting: The main aim of this meeting was the establishment of an effective communication among all actors both during the meetings and in the field. As instability was one of the main issues that came up during the previous meeting, a first step to work on it already initiated. Participants started building the wishing collaboration by providing useful information concerning the existing activities and infrastructures offered by them and shared their future plans with each other in order to avoid duplicating or not living anyone without help.

Special issues that came up and further discussed: a) Transportation, b) The creation of a common language, c) The necessity of a more specialized and experienced staff, d) Provided services and future plans by all organizations.

Updates:

Transportation	BABEL informed that transportation will be done case to case and that there is a waiting list for appointments 2 weeks approximately.
Creation of a common language	A first step to secure the common language is the creation of a pyramid with different levels, where every actor will complete at which level he works (psychologists, social workers etc.) so as create a guideline about what mental health services are, how they are provided and by whom. This pyramid will be uploaded at the dropbox file to which all participants have already access.

<p>The necessity of a more specialized and experienced staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Praksis raised the issue about the necessity of more experienced staff and revealed their efforts to find one. ✓ It was agreed by everyone that this issue could be addressed in terms of coaching, training and supervision. ✓ Provided or future relevant trainings were further discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Children provides training to volunteers that are running child-friendly spaces, lessons etc in Ritsona and a 4-session person to person for 6 months for child protection and safe guarding in Ritsona and Inofita. • IRC provides inside PSS activities and stress management for both refugees and staff in Eleonas and Skaramagkas camps. • Group analysts already offer in Chios seminars about Risk of staff to burnout and thoughts about relevant education and supervision through group sessions in Athens were generated. • IMC in collaboration with BABEL and KETHEA organize a workshop in Skaramagkas for the field workers concerning substance and alcohol use and prevention. IMC will also provide a PFA training on 26th of September in Athens and on 26th and 27th of September in Thessaloniki.
<p>Provided services and future plans by all organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDM and MSF have already done an effort in Epirus to clarify who actor is going to do what and which criteria are used by everyone to the referrals. • IRC will also provide psychoeducation to refugees regarding symptoms they may experience to be able to identify if their symptoms are normal or not. • Save the children build a hostel but it is not ready yet. Their guest room in Kalamaki is ready. • PRAXIS mentioned that there are not available places for psychiatric cases/patients. In Chios, Leros, Kos and Filakio there will be staff at the hot spots, 3 groups of medical and pss support for 1) the staff, 2) unaccompanied minors, 3) women who are breastfeeding. A new shelter for 10 cases of trafficking victims from 8 to 18 ages and 3 infants will be also built. • Solidarity now does not have a clinic in Athens but they will maybe build 4 mobile clinics in the camps.
<p>Connection and effective collaboration among actors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants were urged again to fill in the online working paper concerning the 4Ws mapping for every service provided, by all actors and at all camps in Greece concluding the services provided by public sector. • UNHCR mentioned the document “TASK FORCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH” that has been created by the ministry and will be ready during the following week, trying to collect all above information and the possibility of the present working group to act as counsellor or to obtain access to, was discussed. • IMC also suggested agenda will be available online before the meetings so as everyone can propose issues and ideas to be discussed during the following one. • In addition, it became obvious that there are many field workers for each organization, it was agreed that maybe 1 or 2 for each

	one will attend the meeting and pass the information obtained to the others.
--	--

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on the 3rd of October, 9:30-11:30. The place has not been arranged yet and remained open to suggestions from all the organizations. Participants will be in touch for this and in case no other place will be available, the meeting will take place again in BABEL, Drosopoulou 72, Plateia Amerikis.