

Minutes for GMHRG meeting 11.09.19

Present: Ingunn Engebretsen, Melf-Jakob Kühl, Marit Hafting, Christine Ødegaard.

Attending by Skype: Vilde Skylstad, Norbert Skokaukas.

Guests: Ragnhild Dybdahl and colleague, Unni Marie Heltne.

Photo: Melf Kühl

Planned agenda and news:

1. Visit from Global Mental health partners in Oslo – Oslo Met, Forut
 - a. Short introduction of our research group to guests – Ingunn
 - b. Short introduction of other Global Mental Health groups in Norway - Ragnhild
 - c. Discussion: What are joint interests and opportunities for collaboration?
2. What should be the group's priority areas in terms of research given existing partnerships and existing results from calls?
 - a. Decline: The Erasmus KA 107 International Credit Mobility application with Bhutan and Agder did not reach the necessary level at UiB
 - b. Good news:
 - i. Vilde Skylstad starts here as PhD candidate 1.9 – connected to the TREAT C-AUD project (100%, 3 years)
 - ii. Ane-Marthe Solheim Skar starts in 10% position for 3 years 1.9 – connected to the TREAT C-AUD project
 - iii. Solveig Kolaas has a strong relationship with Bhutan and has taken the initiative for a MoU with CIH, UiB; Department of Public Health, Sports and Nutrition; UiA and Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB).
There is a need to facilitate a working group on the Bhutan collaboration on how we should move forward. If we plan for an application in 2021 – we should apply for seed money in 2020.
 - iv. There is a broad interest in the research group for pursuing a deeper collaboration within Mental health with Asian partners, both Nepal, Cambodia and Bhutan. There are also some early plans and opportunities in Bangladesh.
 - v. There are multiple Norwegian partners contacting us for possible collaborations.

There is interests in this collaboration from various Norwegian partners (UiO, Ansgar, NLA).

Minutes:

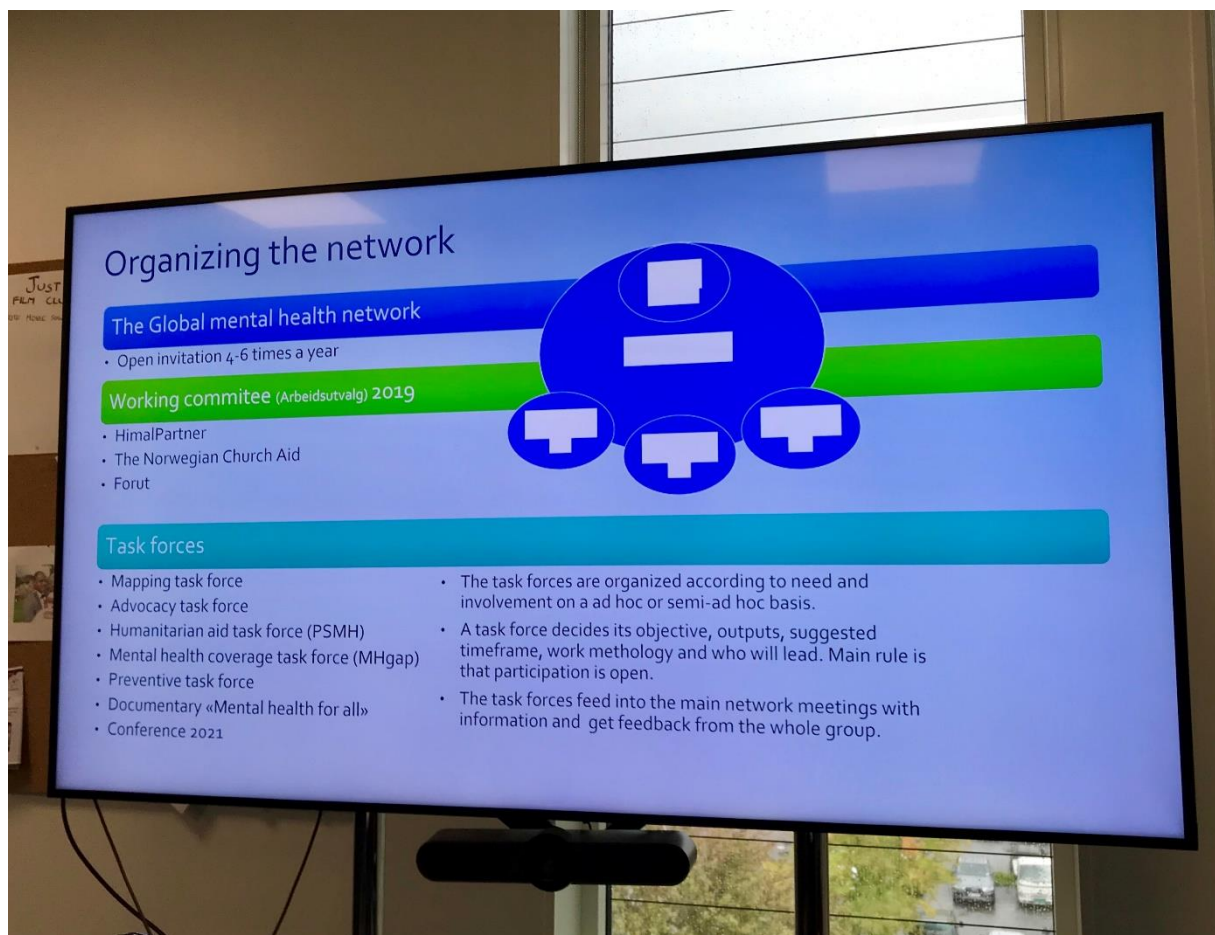
Ragnhild Dybdahl introduced herself and Global Mental Health Network in Norway (link: <http://globalmentalhelse.no/>)

Ragnhild is a psychologist, and has previously worked in Norad, primarily with education. Her interests are child and youth mental health and developing at risk. She has worked with ICDP (International Child Development Program (link: <https://www.icdp.no/>)). She now holds a 20% position at the Centre for Crisis Psychology (link: <https://www.uib.no/en/ccp>).

She is also assistant professor at Oslo Met (link: <https://www.oslomet.no/>)

The network for global mental health started in 2012 after a conference about this topic, in order to strengthen collaboration and information between people working with mental health in developmental aid work. The aim is to reinforce status and focus on mental health both in politics as well as in developmental aid work. They would like to collaborate closer with academia to achieve this. The network is open to all, run by people working with this in their spare time.

How the network is organized:



How the network can be useful to us:

Projects needing collaborating partners within NGOs.

Newsletter once a month; sign up: <http://globalmentalhelse.no/meld-deg-pa-nyhetsbrev/>

Joint efforts:

Helping to develop their website (don't criticize, help by sending ready to post news about projects and collaborative efforts and other relevant news).

Conference in (March?) 2020: Join to prepare and plan. Ingunn will be the collaborative partner for this. Suggestions for people to invite are welcome. Main topic is the Norwegian strategy on Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) and mental health.

Ingunn suggested to have a peer-reviewed research track (1/2-1 day, with posters and presentations) for this conference, but Ragnhild meant this would be too soon to organize, but it could be done for the next conference in 2021.

Ingunn: Globvac is coming to an end, applications for research funding through NFR is difficult. There is a need for more focus on mental health and NCD.

The network needs better arguments in the funding processes as they have an expert bias not understanding how others don't understand the importance of child and youth mental health.

Main aim is national visibility and international collaboration.

CIH is hosting the next European Conference for tropical diseases (2021), and this could provide possibilities for collaboration with the network. Topic suggested: Child Mental Health.

We postponed the remainder of the agenda until the next meeting, considering the strategic discussion today too important to end it prematurely.