

**UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD WORKING GROUP
THEMATIC SEGMENT FOR THE 43rd PCB MEETING**

Mental Health and HIV/AIDS – promoting human rights, an integrated and person-centred approach to improving ARV adherence, well-being and quality of life

At its 41st meeting, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) agreed that the theme for its 43rd meeting will be “*Mental Health and HIV/AIDS – promoting human rights, an integrated and person-centred approach to improving ARV adherence, well-being and quality of life*”. The Thematic Segment will take place on 13 December 2018.

A PCB Thematic Segment on ‘*Mental Health and HIV/AIDS – promoting human rights, an integrated and person-centred approach to improving ARV adherence, well-being and quality of life*’ is timely and strategic. It will provide PCB members an opportunity to review evidence on the interlinkages between mental health and HIV, including in relation to treatment adherence and quality of life of people living with HIV; discuss approaches for addressing mental health and HIV from a human rights perspective; identify strategies to increase cooperation and collaboration between different actors to better integrate mental health considerations into HIV prevention, treatment and care programmes to jointly address the social determinants of both mental health and HIV.

MEETING SUMMARY: FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

DATE: Thursday 20 September 2018

PARTICIPANTS

(See attached list)

MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Presentation of the original proposal for the theme *Mental Health and HIV/AIDS – promoting human rights, an integrated and person-centred approach to improving ARV adherence, well-being and quality of life*
3. Presentation of the draft outline of the Background Note for the thematic segment
4. Discussion on the draft outline of the Background Note
5. Way forward
6. Any other business

SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mr Morten Ussing, Chief of Governance and Multilateral Affairs, UNAIDS Secretariat, welcomed the PCB Working Group to its first meeting for the preparation of the Thematic Segment of the 43rd PCB on *Mental Health and HIV/AIDS – promoting human rights, an integrated and person-centred approach to improving ARV adherence, well-being and quality of life*.

Mr. Ussing explained that the thematic segment working groups are convened on a permanent basis to prepare for the thematic segments because there are often many possibilities for the focus and approach to the theme. The working group gives the PCB constituencies an opportunity to influence the focus and approach and to provide inputs into the content of the background note, the agenda of the thematic day and the recommendations for the way forward which will have impact on the follow-up to the thematic segment at the subsequent PCB meeting and the possible decision points.

Mr. Ussing also recalled that the process to select themes for next year's PCB meetings is currently ongoing.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL ON THE THEME *MENTAL HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS – PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, AN INTEGRATED AND PERSON-CENTRED APPROACH TO IMPROVING ARV ADHERENCE, WELL-BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE*

Mr. Eduardo Pinto Da Silva from the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva provided background on the development of the original proposal for the theme *Mental Health and HIV/AIDS – promoting human rights, an integrated and person-centred approach to improving ARV adherence, well-being and quality of life*.

He explained that the idea behind the proposal was to explore the interlinkages between mental health and HIV and the stigma and discrimination associated with both. The proposal on this theme follows from a 2017 Human Rights Council resolution on mental health and human rights. The original proposal to the PCB on the theme had been initiated by Portugal and supported by Brazil, Norway, WHO and the PCB NGO delegation.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE ON *MENTAL HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS – PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, AN INTEGRATED AND PERSON-CENTRED APPROACH TO IMPROVING ARV ADHERENCE, WELL-BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE*

Ms. Ani Shakarishvili, Special Adviser, Fast Track Implementation Department, UNAIDS Secretariat, introduced the draft annotated outline of the Background Note. She explained that the draft outline started with the key principles on which the background note would be based and was followed by a section on the relevance of a focus on psychosocial wellbeing, mental illness and substance use for an effective HIV response and by a section on current responses to these issues. The last section focuses on the opportunities for integrating mental health and HIV programmes and for strengthening coordinated multisectoral interventions to address the social determinants of both mental health conditions and HIV. She explained that the scope of the background note was broad since there were several interlinkages between mental health and HIV.

4. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE ON *MENTAL HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS – PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, AN INTEGRATED AND PERSON-CENTRED APPROACH TO IMPROVING ARV ADHERENCE, WELL-BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE*

The PCB working group welcomed the draft outline of the Background Note. Specific comments included the following:

Member States

- Commended on the comprehensiveness of the document.

- Emphasised the importance of discussing the impact of stigma and discrimination related to mental health and HIV, including on access to health services.
- Suggested including a section to explore evidence on mental health and HIV drug interaction.
- Suggested that the background note explores the issue of overmedicalization of mental health and considers other approaches.
- Emphasised the importance of using less stigmatizing terminology, focused on person rather than disease.
- Encouraged the inclusion of country experiences in the background note.
- Suggested reaching out to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to invite them to participate in the working group.

PCB NGO Delegation

- Expressed appreciation that the issue of the quality of life was discussed in the draft outline.
- Suggested including a discussion in the paper on the impact that criminal laws criminalising key populations have on mental health and HIV.
- Enquired about what is meant by substance use, substance abuse and drug use disorders in the paper.
- Suggested that some of the HIV prevention language was somewhat outdated and could be revised.
- Suggested to include a section on drug interaction.
- Mentioned that the NGO delegation is seeking comments and inputs on the draft outline of the background note from a civil society advisory group.

Cosponsors

- Emphasised the importance of the thematic segment in ensuring mental health issues are integrated into HIV programming and guidelines.
- Suggested mentioning of the SDG target 3.4. specifically.
- Emphasised the importance of an integrated approach, breaking the silos and of universal health coverage.
- Suggested the WHO mental health action plan as well as the background paper to the 2009 World Health Assembly agenda item on mental health and HIV as useful references.
- Mentioned the upcoming Global Mental Health Summit, to be held in London in October, as an important milestone.
- Suggested an increased emphasis on the links to NCDs and under nutrition.
- Suggested to include a specific focus on fragile communities as well as refugee settings.
- Emphasised the importance of looking at sustainability in the context of integration and also including examples of where integration has failed because it was not been sustainable.
- Offered to provide concrete examples of country level work related to the theme.

5. WAY FORWARD

Mr. Morten Ussing mentioned to the working group participants that they had until Thursday 27th September to send any written comments on the draft outline of the background note.

He informed the group that the next meeting, scheduled for the week of the 8th October, will focus on comments and inputs on the full first draft of the background note and the draft agenda for the day. He recalled that there would also be a possible third and final meeting of the group in late October to finalise the agenda and the list of speakers.

He also informed the working group that, as usual, a call for submissions of best practice case studies would be send out to all PCB members and permanent missions soon.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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