Healthcare Informatics Society of Ireland
~Cumann Ríomheolais Sláinte~
Incorporating the Healthcare Informatics sections of
the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland and of
the Irish Computer Society

Nursing and Midwifery Informatics: A Critical Component for the Health Ecosystem in Ireland.

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HISI NM Strategy and Action Plan 2013-16

Background

National policy and strategic service plans reflect the need to modernise our health care services to meet the changing needs of clients, patients and users. Nursing and Midwifery services have a key role to play in the modernisation of healthcare, and in the establishment of a "healthy" Irish ecosystem. Integrating informatics skills within the healthcare process should now more than ever seen as a key priority.

In May 2013 an international eHealth Summit will be hosted in Dublin. The importance of this summit for nursing and midwifery is significant. This summit offers nursing and midwifery leaders in Ireland an opportunity to situate nursing informatics at the forefront of health care planning and service provision. Recent evidence suggests that nursing workload is often subtle and hidden (Potts et al 2011, p.28). The care process, which often occurs close to the patient can be difficult to code and articulate in an eHealth environment. It is therefore vital for us to focus our attention on protecting this often elusive or subtle practice, and maximise its visibility.

On the 25th of January the Health Informatics Society of Ireland Nursing and Midwifery Group (HISINM) facilitated a workshop with key stakeholders that have an interest in nursing/midwifery informatics in Ireland. This workshop included participants from rural and urban, private, public, primary and secondary health care, as well as academics engaged in nursing/midwifery informatics research and education. In addition representatives from Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO), and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, An Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann were also in attendance. Individuals attended because there is an increasing realisation that the nursing and midwifery informatics agenda in Ireland is approaching a critical time and as a consequence requires a logical systematic review and dedicated leadership. The outcome of this workshop is considered to be the first step in this review process. A strategic action plan has been devised which outlines first principles for HISINM and forms the basis for the short ,medium, and long terms goals for driving forward the nursing informatics agenda in Ireland.

As a group HISINM was originally established in 1996 with a view to promote the practice and knowledge of Nursing Informatics in Ireland. Since its inception HISINM has provided leadership, networking and educational opportunities for nurses and midwives with an interest in informatics in Ireland. Nursing and Midwifery practice in 2013 has changed significantly since 1996. Informatics competencies are now seen as a fundamental skill set in nursing and midwifery practice (TIGER) .

First Principles Established

At the November HISI Conference in 2012 participants in the nursing workshop argued the case that in Ireland, the topic of informatics within the sphere of nursing and midwifery is broad in scope, at a more theoretical than practical level and requires further definition. As a result this requirement was discussed in some detail the focus was an open discussion with the participants as what it is they consider the first principles for the HISINM group should be when drafting a strategic plan. The following sections summarise the points raised by the individual participants:

1. Collaboration Co-operation and Convergence

The workshop attendees stressed the need for more focused collaboration co-operation and convergence to facilitate targeted discussions relating to the nursing and midwifery informatics agenda in Ireland. Focused strategic communications are now required in order to deliver the long awaited change management initiatives to deliver the anticipated efficiencies in health service provision. HISINM wish to open a dialogue with specific agencies on how they can contribute to the wider national agendas. *Establishing a nursing/midwifery informatics identity* and *being the voice* were viewed as critical drivers for the future strategic action plan. Key agencies that HISINM wish to invite membership to include:

- The Office of Nursing and Midwifery Services Director, Health Services Executive
- Department of Health
- An Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann
- Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation
- Institute of Community Health Nursing
- Health Information and Quality Authority
- All third level institutes nationally who teach nursing and midwifery modules

(It was noted in the discussion that some of the participants attending the workshop were active members for some of the agencies listed above).

As well as linking with national organisations the group considered it important to broaden the intended audience of HISINM to all nursing and midwifery staff encompassing nurses from all the differing care areas. Dispelling the myth that HISINM was a specialist interest group, and membership to attend seminars or workshops was solely for those working and/or interested in the area of informatics needs to be addressed. Preparing the workforce for the transformational programme in terms of eHealth agenda was a key role for HISINM; this is described by OECD as Readiness for Engagement (OECD, 2011). Future communications relating to membership with HISINM should be directed towards all nurses and midwives who are engaged across a broad scope of practice within Ireland. It was agreed therefore that regional cluster networks would be established with regional co-ordinators to disseminate new material developed within the action plan.

International collaboration has been established formally with Canadian Nursing Informatics Association and the Welsh Nursing and Midwifery Informatics Service. These collaborative networks are considered important and the group will continue to foster the collaboration in the future.

2. Defining Nursing and Midwifery Informatics in Ireland

Defining nursing and midwifery in the Irish context was also noted to be important. The participants considered that the existing IMIA SIG NI definition as appropriate and have adopted and adapted this definition as the national definition for nursing and midwifery in Ireland.

Nursing and Midwifery informatics science and practice integrates nursing and midwifery, its information and knowledge and their management with information and communication technologies to promote the health of people, families and communities worldwide.

3. Supporting Person Focused and Wellness Activities in the Health Ecosystem

HISINM wish to ensure that the overall context of health and living is considered in the broadest sense. Health and social care in the 21st Century is person centred. This principle needs to be articulated in future strategic planning. Figure 1 below represents an analogy of how nursing and midwifery are situated within the health ecosystem. Nursing and midwifery can be compared to bees in a global ecosystem. Core attributes that nursing and midwifery presents within healthcare include shared goals with a specific purpose i.e. person centred care, a strong collaboration and communication network and a view to protecting and organising the community. As is the case with bees in the global ecosystem what we must strive for is a sustainable healthcare system in which nursing and midwifery is centric.

4. Succession Planning and Organisational Structures

The group wish to establish terms of reference for succession planning and turnover of key roles within the committee. The future HISINM structure will move towards a more flexible approach with defined periods in key roles for no longer than 3 years. This will foster succession planning for the nursing and midwifery community in the future.
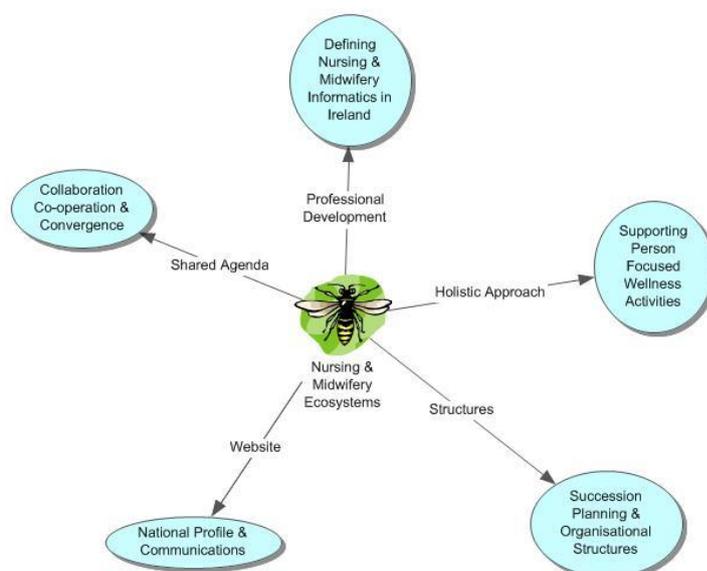
Figure 1 Nursing and Midwifery First Principles for Health Ecosystem

HISINM Strategic Action Plan

Mission

Establish and promote the national profile for nursing and midwifery informatics in Ireland.

Through a process of restructuring strategically position HISINM group as an emerging national association for nursing and midwifery informatics in Ireland.

To provide nursing and midwifery informatics leadership to all organisational bodies and services that nursing and midwifery engage to promote the health informatics agenda in Ireland.

To offer advice to and expertise on informatics to all organisations bodies or services that are engaged with health policy development in Ireland.

Goals

1. To expand and broaden HISINM membership to include nursing and midwives who **may not** consider themselves as experts in the domain of informatics.
2. To act as an advisory hub, professional network for nursing and midwifery practice development in areas that encompass a health informatics agenda.
3. To proactively influence all organisations bodies or services that are engaged with health policy development in Ireland on matters relating to nursing and midwifery informatics.
4. To develop a more focused and cohesive collaborative relationship with strategic national organisations and groups in Ireland.
5. To provide guidance and support for education and training of nursing and midwifery informatics competencies in Ireland.
6. To promote and publish nursing and midwifery informatics research in Ireland

The participants considered the action plan for a working programme to be developed in three phases with specific deliverables included in each phase. These phases can be broadly considered as short medium and long term objectives.
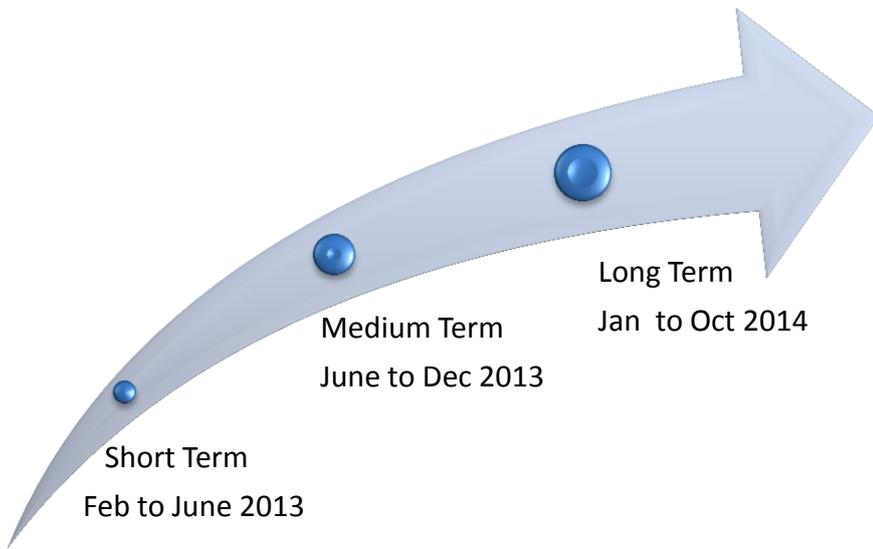
Short Term
Feb to June 2013

Medium Term
June to Dec 2013

Long Term
Jan to Oct 2014

Figure 2 Time line for Short Term Goals - Working Programme February to June 2013

Action Plan	Progress	HISINM Member & Activity	Timescale	Comment	Communication
Strategic Plan & Road Map	Draft Action Plan Phase 1	P Hussey to write and circulate first draft of AP for comment	Complete first draft – comments by 15th Feb Final Draft 21st Feb	Key Areas	Email draft to all and receive comments by 15th Feb
Communications					
Communications strategy – promotional activity 1	Identify stakeholder list and create draft letters for circulation	D Hines to create list and everyone to send relevant contact details to her – dairin.hines@cuh.ie	Details to be sent before 21st February. 1st March is the date for letters to be circulated – see if ICS can offer admin support	Communications with INMO, ABA, ONMSD, ICHN and DOHC Nursing & Midwifery Planning Unit underway December 2012	P Hussey will feedback to group as and when an update is available on existing communications. Letter to be Sent
Communications strategy – promotional activity 2	Website redesign template	G,Hiney, M, Tighe (invite Audrey Adams)	Report back 1st initial draft quickly and have some 1st design mock ups for 21st February	Build on existing nursing informatics websites in Ireland such as NIRE PARTNERSCOP	
Communications strategy – promotional activity 3	Promotional poster for ACENDIO / eHealth Summit	Anyone interested in taking the lead in this?	March 7th		Will need to link in with promotional activity 2 group
Conference participation	Promotional presentation for website/conferences	Anyone interested in taking the lead in this?			Will need to link in with promotional activity 2 group
Dictionary and Glossary of Terms for Website		R Collins and S Brown to review - ? link to RCN	21st February		

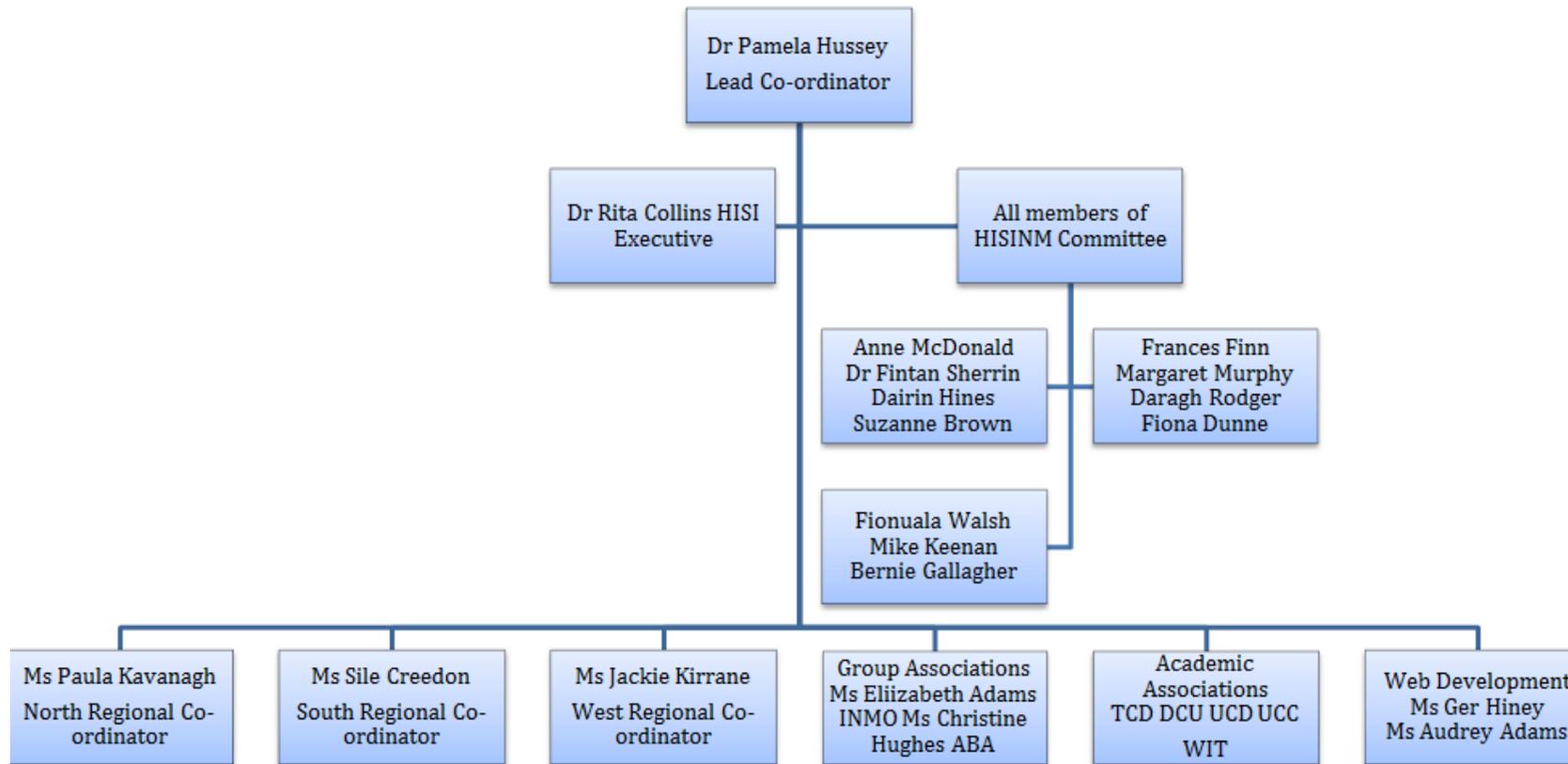| Action Plan	Progress	HISINM Member & Activity	Timescale	Comment	Communication
Identify Regional Co-Ordinators, Consider Role & Function	This was started at the workshop but co-ordinators are required to accept positions.	4 regional co-ordinators	21st February feedback on progress	Co-ordinators to draft role. We need to consider additional person for the midlands	This is draft at the moment need to confirm regional directors nominated are happy to proceed
ACENDIO Promotion	Develop information stand for HISINM and distribute HISI membership organisation	HISI to sponsor a member of HISINM to attend ACENDIO – P Hussey to contact HISI Chair	21st March meeting in the early pm at ACENDIO. For HISINM to meet	Anyone who does not wish to be in the draw please email PH	This has been agreed by G Hurl – 30/1/13

Figure 3 Time line for Medium Term Goals - Working Programme June to December 2013

Action Plan	Progress	HISINM Member & Activity	Timescale	Comment	Communication
Business operational action list	Medium – Long Term	E Adams	To present some ideas at the next meeting of what we need to include in the communications strategy		
Library resource section	Medium – Long Term	S Creedon, P Hussey	Include link to new EHR resource		This needs to link to the web site
Case studies of examples of informatics practice within Ireland	Medium – Long Term	S Creedon to create template for vignettes – P Hussey to work with S Creedon longer term	February if possible as they are required for the web site	D Hines, B Gallagher, F Walsh, S Brown to consider submitting short vignettes about project work completed within their own institutions to date	This needs to link to the web site Deadlines for this need to be determined
Shared workspace – Dropbox folder		M Keenan, P Hussey, M Tighe	21st February	ICHN and HSEland	Looks at a 'shared' online space that all stakeholders can access – issues with HSE restrict access can ICS help?
Marketing		M Tighe to discuss for longer term once the web site is established			
IHTSDO	Lobby HSE/HIQA	P Hussey, AMcDonald need to discuss with OMNSD & HIQA	Initial HIQA group to review this in due course		

Figure 4 Time line for Medium Term Goals - Working Programme January to October 2014

Action Plan	Progress	HISINM Member & Activity	Timescale	Comment	Communication
HISINM conference on specific themes based on requested professional development requirements	For example on Standards or IHTSDO	Entire Group			
TIGER Booth for HISINM		Entire Group		Estimated cost is 3000 USD if you add resources it can be significantly less	

Table 1 Action Plan - Proposed Regional Co-ordinators and Organisational Structure for HISINM 2013-2016

Dr Pamela Hussey
Lead Co-ordinator

Dr Rita Collins HISI
Executive

All members of
HISINM Committee

Anne McDonald
Dr Fintan Sherrin
Dairin Hines
Suzanne Brown

Frances Finn
Margaret Murphy
Daragh Rodger
Fiona Dunne

Fionuala Walsh
Mike Keenan
Bernie Gallagher

Ms Paula Kavanagh
North Regional Co-ordinator

Ms Sile Creedon
South Regional Co-ordinator

Ms Jackie Kirrane
West Regional Co-ordinator

Group Associations
Ms Eliizabeth Adams
INMO Ms Christine
Hughes ABA

Academic
Associations
TCD DCU UCD UCC
WIT

Web Development
Ms Ger Hiney
Ms Audrey Adams

Next Steps

1. Complete draft strategic action plan and circulate to the HISINM list.
2. Present the strategic action plan to HISI executive and ONMSD and circulate to key agencies listed above.
3. Establish a calendar for meetings for Webinar for the following 6 months which may be virtual to minimise cost. Discuss options with ICS regarding communication email list that is compatible with HSE ICT infrastructure.
4. Set date for AGM early.
5. Target completion of short term goals by the due dates identified in the action plan table.

References

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ONMSD Online Resource Available from
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Potts HWW, Keen J, Denby T, Featherstone I, Patterson D, Anderson J, *et al.* Towards a better understanding of delivering e-health systems: a systematic review using the meta-narrative method and two case studies. Final report. NIHR Service Delivery and Organisation programme; 2011.