

PHECC Council Meeting Minutes
16 June 2022
Via Videoconference



Present:

Alison Smith
Hillery Collins
Jimmy Jordan
Patrick Fleming
William Merriman

Apologies:

Conor Deasy
Fiona McDaid

Video Conference:

Jacqueline Burke (Chairperson)
Aidan O'Brien
Dennis Keeley
David Menzies
Jason van der Velde (Vice-Chair)
Martin O'Reilly
Niamh Collins
Tomás Barry
Tess O'Donovan

In attendance:

Richard Lodge, PHECC Director
Con Foley, Council Secretary (VC)
Brendan Cawley, PHECC Manager
Ray Carney, PHECC Manager (VC)
Ricky Ellis, PHECC Manager
Karen O'Neill, Council Administrator

1.0. Closed Session

There were no items for discussion during a closed session.

2.0. Open & Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and noting apologies received.

3.0. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of possible conflicts of interest had been received.

4.0. Chairs Business

4.1. Correspondence

As outlined in an email from the Chair of FRACC, the Chair informed Council of the agenda items of the FRACC meeting taking place later that day. A further report on the outcome of the meeting will be provided to Council at the July meeting.

The Secretary to Council provided an explanation of changes to the design of the Council meeting Agenda going forward which now indicates each item's classification; For Information, For Noting or For Resolution. The cumulative outputs of these activities would be reported to Council and to other stakeholders, as appropriate, as Key Performance Indicators for the Governance of Council. A review of the activities for the first six months will be presented to Council at the July meeting for further comment.

4.2. Legislation Update

The Chair advised Council of the appointment of Mr. Keith Comiskey as Principal Officer of the Trauma

and Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Policy Unit in the Department. Separate initial conversations have taken place between Mr. Comiskey and both the Chair and Director, and both welcome the opportunity for further engagement.

A formal letter of thanks will be issued from PHECC to previous Principal Officer, Mr. Eoin Dunleavy, for his endeavours on PHECC's behalf, in particular assistance in recruitment of replacement Council appointments, during his tenure.

The Director took the opportunity to report on his meeting with the DoH on 20 May last, (with Eoin Dunleavy), wherein PHECC emphasised the impact of the legislative deficiencies across the entire range of PHECCs regulatory obligations. The Director was informed that the matter of PHECCs legislation was being addressed.

PHECC requested direct access to the Medicines Unit in relation to several specific medications that require inclusion in the Seventh Schedule as part of the development of both Community and Critical Care Paramedicine. PHECC are currently seeking legal opinion in relation to the provisions of the current Seventh Schedule in particular to the potential 'prescribing' of medications, by specialist paramedics, in addition to 'holding' and 'administering' medications.

5.0. Minutes & Matters Arising

5.1. Draft Minutes 19 May 2022*

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, and Council passed the following resolution.

Resolution: That Council approves the minutes of the Council meeting of 19 May 2022.

Proposed: Aidan O'Brien **Seconded:** Dennis Keeley

Carried without dissent.

5.2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6.0. Directors Report

6.1. Directors Report to Council

6.1.1. COVID-19 Arrangements

The Executive, in accordance with the DPER and Civil Service Blended Working Guidelines, are developing a Blended Working Policy using the templates provided.

6.1.2. Emergency Ambulance Crewing Model

The situation remains whereby no requests have been received to move from the current minimum crewing model standard, of 'two PHECC Registrants, one of which must be at Paramedic level'. It was agreed that this standing item will be removed from the Director's monthly report going forward and Council will be notified of any future requests in this matter.

6.1.3. DoH Quarterly Meeting

This item had been addressed earlier during Agenda Item 4.2.

6.1.4. New Principal Officer in DoH

As above, this item had already been addressed during Agenda Item 4.2.

6.1.5. Ukrainian Displaced Persons and PHECC Registration

In common with other organisations, PHECC is proposing to provide a Ukrainian translation of its Registration /Recognition of Qualification procedures on our website. Though two enquiries have been received, no formal applications have been received to date. Engagement will continue with the DoH Professional Regulators Unit with progress updates provided weekly.

6.1.6. Poor Performance of an ATI in QRF Process

Due to poor performance in their recent QRF assessment, resulting in an overall compliance rating of 'Not Met', the Director advised Council that in accordance with Delegated Decisions of the Director he will be removing approval from the ATI in question. This is the first time that this provision has been activated as a direct result of a QRF Review.

6.1.7. Complaints in relation to Licensed PHECC CPG Service Provider or Recognised Institution

While PHECC have a well-developed Fitness to Practice [FTP] process, (currently under review), there is no corresponding mechanism to facilitate a complaint that is made against either a Licensed CPG Service Provider or an RI/AT in between GVF reviews. It was agreed that this could be considered part of PHECCs role in "protecting the public". It was agreed that to further inform discussion the Director would consult with HIQA and legal advice would be sought as to the scope of PHECC's jurisdiction in these matters, under the current legislation. The potential resource implications for PHECC to administer same were acknowledged as being considerable and beyond PHECCs current capabilities.

6.1.8. Covid-19 Temporary Registration Cessation

Notification has been sent to all remaining COVID-19 Temporary Registrants and Licensed CPG Service Providers that, in accordance with DOH instruction, these temporary licences will expire at midnight on June 30th next. The processes required to apply for registration thereafter in the appropriate Division of the PHECC Register have also been communicated.

6.1.9. Changeover to 6-Digit PIN for Registrants

Feedback received since the notification to organisations of the agreed implementation of the new 6-digit PIN number for Registrants was provided. It was clarified that to avoid confusion existing PIN numbers will not change but will be preceded by 00 and the format of all new, randomly allocated numbers, will begin at 500 XXX. The start date for issuing the new 6-digit numbers has yet to be decided, but due to the rapidly diminishing numbers of existing 4-digit numbers, this will need to be imminent.

6.2. Delegated Decisions of the Director

The report as included in Council papers, was noted highlighting that conditional recognition is given to those organisations which have not yet had a GVF review but had passed the initial screening review.

7.0. Clinical Matters

7.1. MAC Sub-Committee Enactment

Council was informed of the recent enactment of three new sub-committees of MAC, Cardiovascular Sub-Committee; Clinical Care at Events Sub-Committee; Responder Sub-Committee, and the Trauma Sub-Committee. While Sub-Committee Chairs have been appointed in all cases, the Committees will be populated in line with the Terms of Reference for their committee via nominations and open EOI. Appreciation was extended to all those who have volunteered to sit on these sub-committees. The

potential for additional workload for the Executive was noted, given the formation of these sub-committees, as was the potential completion of the current work being carried out by both the Community Paramedicine and Critical Care Paramedicine Sub-Committees.

7.2. Methoxyflurane Administration & Management

Following the recent conviction of a PHECC Registrant of serious offences, which involved the illegal use of methoxyflurane, the MAC considered changing the designation of methoxyflurane to that of a controlled substance. It was concluded that there was no requirement to recommend a change to the designation of methoxyflurane, but rather, the emphasis on appropriate medication management and monitoring systems be in place in Licensed CPG Service Providers was to be reviewed. It was therefore recommended that the Quality and Safety Committee consider these matters under the Governance Validation Framework to ensure robust inspection measures are in place to examine medication management and oversight policies and procedures in Licensed CPG Service Providers. It is expected that this matter will be re-visited by Council when this work is complete.

Council took a short recess during which Jason van der Velde departed the meeting

8.0. Education

8.1. Education & Training Committee Update

The Chair of the Education & Training Committee updated Council on two matters that had been raised at a recent E&T Committee meeting.

Firstly, the potential for misalignment of CPGs with Practitioner Education & Training Standards; CPGs had been developed and changed, however the practitioner training had not always kept pace with this. It was agreed that a mechanism be developed to update practitioner competency frameworks with new skills and knowledge from future CPGs, prior to their publication, to ensure both work streams remain synchronous.

Secondly, a related discussion on the minimum duration of practitioner courses recognised that courses are being extended; these are also being redesigned and potentially extended, to accommodate the continuous cycle of CPG publications. While the timing for such changes may not be immediate, it was agreed that the ongoing education project under Dr Newton would explore a move away from PHECC setting minimum tuition hours towards “outcomes-based education” and “indicative learning hours” or allocating “ECTS” (European Credit Transfer System) to allow more flexibility for the institutions and ensure quality learning experiences for students.

9.0. Examinations

9.1. Examinations Update

The Examinations Schedule for the Third Quarter of 2022 was presented to Council. The significant increase of students undertaking examinations was noted by Council and has also been communicated to the Department.

10.0. Research

10.1. Research Committee Update

An update of the Research Committee meeting of 24 May last was provided, highlighting progress of the development of the Health Research Applied Partnership Award scheme application, the MAC Medication and Skills Survey output results and library access for PHECC staff and committee members.

An update was also provided on the progress of the two projects in the area of the development of a research strategy for PHECC and a review of pre-hospital research undertaken to date.

It is expected that work on both projects will be completed in time for the Committee meeting, early in September.

11.0. Register

11.1. Register Report

The Register Report, as detailed in Council papers, was noted by Council. Further analysis of the Register is currently being undertaken and a more in-depth exposition will be presented in the near future.

12.0. AOB

12.1. Certificates

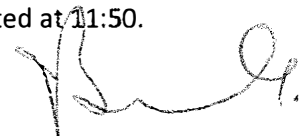
The Director reported on delays in the supply of PHECC licensing certificates. While the on-line register remains up to date, it is expected that the matter of certificate provision will be resolved in a matter of days.

The Chair thanked all for attending, both in person and virtually. The next meeting will take place on July 14th next at 10:00. In person attendance was encouraged.

Development of the location and agenda for the meeting in September continues.

The meeting terminated at 11:50.

Signed:



Jacqueline Burke
Chairperson

Date: 14th July 2022