

## **NICE may remove Complementary Therapies from Supportive and Palliative Care in Adults**

The revision of NICE Guidelines for Improving Supportive and Palliative Care in Adults is underway and the scoping process has recommended that Complementary Therapy Services (CT) are removed from the guidelines. The rationale and implications for removing CT do not appear to have been given.

CT is given by hundreds of volunteers and some paid staff, who are practitioners of a number of different therapy practices, including reflexology, aromatherapy or massage, acupuncture, healing and Reiki, Tai Chi and others. There is an emerging, though as yet small, body of evidence regarding how these practices support patients, their carer's and bereaved families cope with the myriad stresses and strains an illness, such as cancer or motor neurone disease, place on them.

On behalf of their members and the practice of Healing, the CHO and BAHA both registered as stakeholders and submitted comments regarding the use of healing within supportive and palliative care. The Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC) and the General Regulatory Council for Complementary Therapies (GRCCT) have also both submitted comments.

## **News from our first meeting in July 2015**

The first meeting of SNU, CHO, UKH and BAHA was held at Stansted Hall, hosted by the SNU in July 2015. This was a very constructive meeting.

From this successful meeting we have developed an action plan and will be making progress on this.

It is early days and we agreed that we would be taking things slowly, a step at a time.

If you have any thoughts or comments on this exciting development please let us know.

To quote Sheila Holmes of BAHA "We all have things in common, these include our love of healing, bringing everyone together in unity and the sharing of ideas and all working towards a greater healing movement that we can all be proud of and to show the Government, the NHS, the medical profession and the general public that the healing movement is a professional and unified body, working together in their chosen field"

## **News from our meeting in January 2016**

The second meeting was held at Guildford organised by the CHO, again this was a very constructive meeting.

Feedback from the newsletter issued after the first meeting suggested that a change of title would be beneficial for the future pathway.

The meeting explored various avenues where there could be benefit for the healing community.

It was thought that this newsletter would be the best start. It is intended to issue the newsletter periodically with input from those organisations attending.

There is a third meeting planned for March 2016 to be held in London, which is to be arranged by BAHA.

## **BAHA - The way forward**

Since 2012, the British Alliance of Healing Associations has returned its voting rights back to its members, also bringing major changes to the internal management. They have made themselves more approachable, helpful and friendly to all healing associations irrespective of whether or not they are members of the British Alliance. All this is to bring about a trust and confidence, not only to their organisations but also to other healing organisations. So to this end they aim to work closely within the bigger structure of the healing movement to build the trust that has been lost over many years.



## **The Harry Edwards Healing Sanctuary**

Harry Edwards Healing Sanctuary established in 1948 by renowned healer Harry Edwards continues to offer distant and contact healing daily at the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary also offers opportunities for likeminded folk to come together through monthly meditation groups and Cygnus Review Interest Talks. The Sanctuary now offers a Spiritual Healing Service on the third Sunday of the month conducted by Celebrant Jan Dayton. There are also a variety of Healing Courses and Awareness Days available through the Harry Edwards Healing College. The Sanctuary will be holding its Annual Spring Fair on 28th April 2016. For further information about the work of the Sanctuary and healing events see website [www.harryedwardshealingsanctuary.org.uk](http://www.harryedwardshealingsanctuary.org.uk)

## **Healing Practice Survey**

In 2015, the CHO presented the results of two meta-analyses into non-contact healing, which had been published in the peer-reviewed journal *Explore: Journal of Science and Healing*. The CHO funded the research studies as they felt strongly that the studies could add credence to what healers all practice. They were delighted when the results showed a significant effect of healing intention on both humans and non-humans. This was the first step towards a greater acceptance of healing and increasing understanding of why it works.

Upon that basis, in December 2015 CHO invited 300 healing organisations to take part in a nationwide Healing Practice Survey. Participants will return their surveys before the end of July 2016 and results will be compiled and analysed by Professor Paul Dieppe of the University of Exeter. Once finalised, the findings will be shared with all participants and will be used to give us all a further platform for raising awareness of healing and the value that it has in healthcare.

## **CHO Website**

The CHO has been active on their website [www.the-cho.org.uk](http://www.the-cho.org.uk) and social media pages [facebook.com/ConfederationofHealingOrgs](https://www.facebook.com/ConfederationofHealingOrgs) and [twitter.com/ConfedofHealing](https://twitter.com/ConfedofHealing). Their "What is..." series that explained various modalities of healing proved popular, as have links to articles on healing and on meditation, plus their own published articles. They have also promoted CHO member organisations and their events.

## **Promoting Healing**

During the past year the CHO have invested in the services of a Public Relations consultant, which has resulted in two BBC radio interviews and articles in many publications, national, local and online, helping to raise awareness of healing. They are now being asked for case studies, so that publications can build stories around them. They are able to provide a "case study template" for use if anyone is interested. Just contact Sue Knight at [cx@the-cho.org.uk](mailto:cx@the-cho.org.uk).

## **MBS Wellbeing Festivals**

The CHO have negotiated with the organisers of the MBS Wellbeing Festivals to have a 30m<sup>2</sup> exhibition space at the NEC festival in November 2016. The organisers are excited about the concept of "Aspects of Healing". The idea is to concentrate on various aspects of healing and the way it is used throughout society. CHO will be holding free 15-20 minute talks around the theme, giving healing and running workshops within the main programme. They are hoping to also exhibit at the London festival next year and cover both venues thereafter. They would love healers to come and say "hello"!

## **Film about Spiritual Healing**

Sue Knight has represented the CHO in an interview by an independent producer who is making a film about spiritual healing. It is not yet known how the film will be used but the hope is to make it the pilot to be sold to a TV channel with a follow-on series.

## **SNU Healing Mediums**

The SNU in the last few months have changed the name of their healers, they are now to be known as Spiritualist Healing Mediums. This change reflects who they are within the religion of Spiritualism and seeks to promote an understanding of the healing process, from spirit, through spirit, to spirit. However it in no way changes the practice of the Healers and does not imply the inclusion of any form of evidential communication within the practice of SNU healing mediums. This has brought about a revision of all their internal paperwork, which will be published very soon.

They are also incorporating healing into their church services more than they have done in the past and this is proving to be very successful. Many services now include a practical demonstration of healing rather than just a time allocated to absent healing. They now also have a special day in January which is to promote healing and their churches all put healing into their Sunday service.

The CHO survey has been circulated through SNU district representatives and also put on the SNU website for their members to download on a quick link. Feedback so far shows that their churches are getting involved.

The SNU are planning to make a short film on initial contact which will be put on YouTube for their members to look at, but this will also be a useful tool for teaching in the classroom on their internet site SNUi Spiritualist National Union International which now has a presence of thirty four countries as the SNU becomes an increasingly international focused organisation.

## **Meeting between BAHA and UK Healers**

In March 2015, an informal meeting took place between Ken Wyatt of the Harry Edwards Healing Sanctuary, Colin Baker of UK Healers and the officials of BAHA. It was a wonderful meeting held at the Harry Edwards Healing Sanctuary. In the process of this meeting BAHA asked if meetings could be arranged to get the main healing organisations together. The objective being to promote unity within the healing movement and to share ideas and information in order to bring about better standards and training, so that we can all work from the same page. This can only be achieved by all healing organisations working together without the fear of control.

## **Meeting between SNU and UK Healers**

In June 2015 there was a meeting between representatives of SNU and UK Healers. The discussion was about a wide variety of subjects and among these there was agreement between the two organisations that regular meetings between BAHA, CHO, SNU and UK Healers to address matters of common interest could be of significant benefit.