

Mental Health Reform

Promoting Improved Mental Health Services

Orla Barry, Director

Presentation to Gamian Regional Seminar

Dublin, Ireland

1st June, 2013



Mental Health Reform

Promoting Improved Mental Health Services

Mental Health Reform is the national coalition of organisations working to improve mental health services and achieve implementation of the Government's mental health policy

A Vision for Change

Youth Mental Health



Professional associations



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland
Caidite Siciatrachta na hÉireann

Ethnic minorities



Deaf community



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Homelessness and housing



Older People



Voluntary Mental Health Groups



Social Housing



Bereavement and suicide



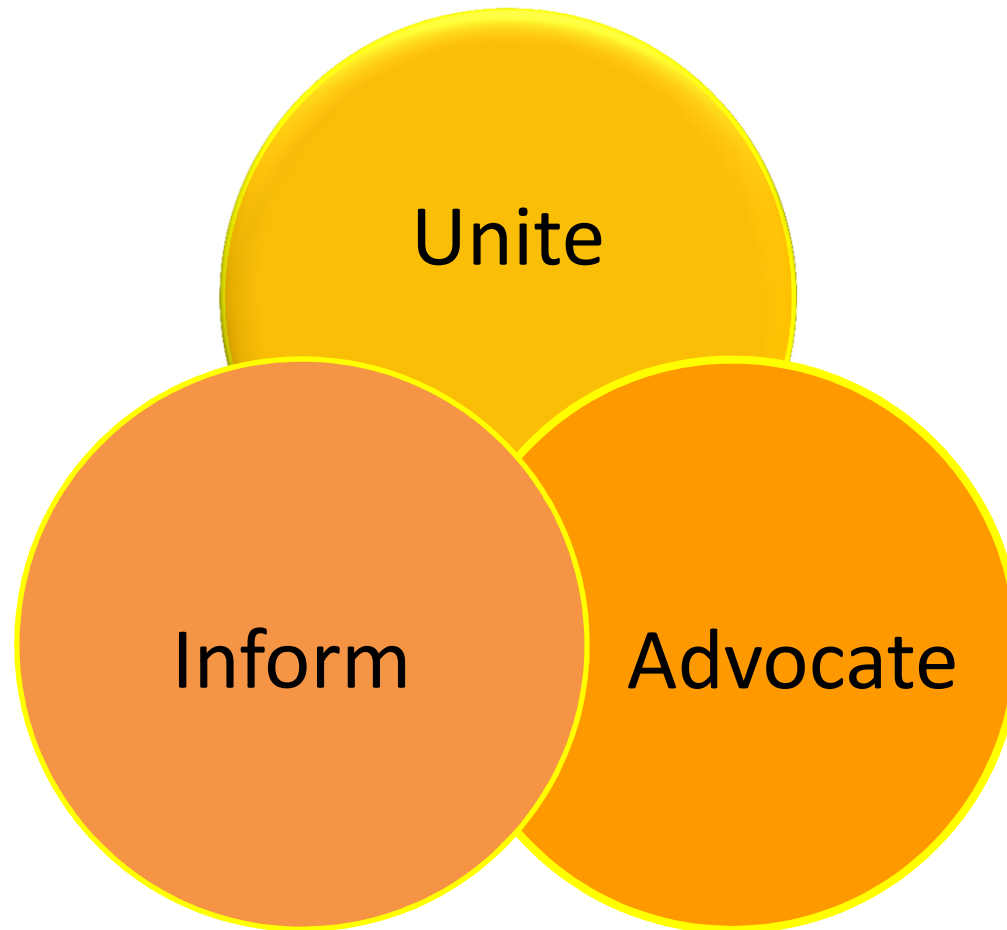
Independent Mental Health Providers





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Unite Building a movement for reform



Inform on best practice in mental health services



Advocate Influencing government and HSE decision making





Mental Health Reform
Promoting Improved Mental Health Services

Government Policy – *A Vision for Change* 2006-2016

Community based mental health services
Involvement of service users and family, carers
Recovery model
Equity and Quality
Integration with Primary Care
Respect for human rights



Gaps today

- Moratorium on hiring staff since 2007
- Uneven quality across the country
- Lack of 24 hour access
- Lack of psychological therapies
- Reducing beds and slow development of community services
- Staffing 75% of recommended in policy
- Legislation out of compliance with human rights
- Poor links with employment
- No information system for community services



Impact of the economic crisis

General population

- Increased emigration, particularly young people and young families
- Increased number of suicides (552 in 2009) 12.7 deaths per 100K population
- Fourth highest rate of youth suicide in Europe
- Leading cause of death in men aged 15-24 years
- Year-on-year increased presentations of self-harm to A&E 2007-2010
- 3% Increase in calls to Samaritans with one in six financial-related



Impact of the economic crisis

People with mental health difficulties

- Harder to get disability benefits
- Financial pressure from increased prescription charges, higher rent contributions, reduced fuel, tv and other household allowances
- Very difficult to access employment
- Very difficult to get a Government employment scheme place
- Difficulty finding rental accommodation
- Easier to talk about mental health because everyone is under stress



Opportunities

- New Director for Mental Health
- Government commitment
- Wider political interest
- Reconfigured staff resources with multidisciplinary staff
- National counselling service in primary care
- Increased public awareness

Thank you!



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- www.mentalhealthreform.ie
- Twitter - @MHReform
- www.facebook.com/mentalhealthreform
- Email: info@mentalhealthreform.ie
- Tel: 01 612 1422
- 6-9 Trinity Street, Dublin 2