
Miscellany

Mental health officer (MHO) status: part-time doctors

The BMA is urging doctors to submit Industrial Tribunal (IT) claims as a result of recent legal decisions casting doubt upon the exclusion of part-time doctors from the benefits of MHO status. MHO status enables each year of service after 20 years as an MHO to be doubled, along with retirement at age 55. Doctors might have a claim for a bigger pension if: first, they have worked part-time in mental health since 1976 and not been credited with MHO status for this service; and second, if this part-time working when combined with any full-time working in mental health totals more than 20 years calendar service or might do so before retirement. If this criteria is satisfied, doctors should immediately contact their local BMA office with a view to submitting an IT claim. Any delay might result in loss of entitlement to claim. For further information contact: Carmel Turner, Public Affairs Division, BMA, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP (Telephone: 0171 383 6254).

National Lottery Charities Board launches new health and social research grants programme

These grants are aimed at charities and voluntary organisations wishing to pursue medical and social research projects into health. The research can be undertaken in university departments and research institutes in collaboration with a charity or voluntary organisation. The application line will be open until 9 October 1998. Completed applications must be received, together with a full research proposal by 30 October 1998. The grants will be announced in Spring 1999. For further information contact: Ruth Jones, National Lottery Charities Board Press Office on 0171 747 5200/227.

MIND Inquiry into social exclusion follows evidence of intolerance and discrimination

This Inquiry entitled **Creating Accepting Communities** is headed by a Panel who will be inviting religious groups, business leaders, statutory and voluntary organisations and users of mental health services to give written or oral evidence during four day-long hearings in London during the Summer and Autumn of

1998, or at the regional Inquiry roadshows in each of the six MIND regions in England and Wales. A key objective is to develop a Code of Practice with practical solutions for overcoming social exclusion. The Panel are also requesting examples of successful projects where community integration and inclusion have been achieved. The Inquiry team have already sent over 5000 questionnaires, and are appealing for anyone with experience as an individual, an organisation or a business to ring the MIND Inquiry Line on 0171 490 0811 for more information or write to: The MIND Inquiry, Kemp House, 152-160 City Road, London EC1 2NP.

The IMAGO Multi-Lingual Psychotherapy Centre (MLPC)

This recently opened centre aims to address the problem that many people can be excluded from psychotherapeutic help mainly due to the fact that psychotherapy in our multi-lingual society is generally provided in English. The MLPC sees as one of its tasks, the creation of clinical space for discussion and further papers on this area of psychotherapeutic practice and experience. They aim to create a forum with ongoing meetings, discussions and supervision groups as well as expanding its network of multi-lingual therapists. For those who are interested in involvement with this organisation or may require further information contact: Ali Zarbafi (Telephone: 0181 747 0408) or IMAGO, 24 Maryon Mews, London NW3 2PU (Telephone/Fax: 0171 431 7170).

New publications

Understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is a new booklet published by Mind. Aimed at parents, teachers and carers, the new booklet suggests a number of avenues of help for those who are worried about their children's behaviour. The booklet also looks at possible causes and the likely impact of childhood behavioural problems in adult life and contains a list of useful addresses and suggestions. The booklet is available from MIND Publications, 15-19 Broadway, London E15 4BQ, priced £1 plus A5 SAE (Telephone: 0181 519 2122).

Carers National Association has teamed up with The Samaritans to produce two new booklets - *When caring becomes a crisis* and *When the*

person you care for has died. The first looks at the emotional stresses faced by carers, and offers advice on how to get financial, practical and emotional support. The latter looks at the intense and turbulent emotions of grief and encourages carers to look after themselves. It also covers the practical and legal matters of bereavement and signposts carers to useful agencies. The booklets are available free of charge from: Carers National Association, 20-25 Glasshouse Yard, London EC1A 4SJ (Telephone: 0171 490 8818, Fax: 0171 490 8824).

The Journal of Psychotherapy Treatment in Managed Care is a new quarterly publication from Haworth Press under the editorship of Frank DePlano. It aims to provide practitioners with innovative and effective approaches to clinical practice in relation to managed care. Articles are reviewed by the editorial board and undergo a double-blind review process. Further information: Journal of Psychotherapy Treatment in Managed Care, Haworth Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, New York 13904-1580, USA (Telephone: 1 607 722 5857, Fax: 1 607 722 6362, e-mail: getinfo@haworth.com).

A new publication reprinting eight important papers by E. H. Hare entitled *On the History of Lunacy: 19th Century and After* has recently been published. The papers form a contribution to historical epidemiology and a stimulating discussion of changing ideas about the concepts and pathology of mental illnesses. Based on careful reading of 18th and 19th century literature, the book offers a brief history of psychiatry likely to interest neurologists and mental health workers of various professions, as well as social historians. A copy may be obtained free (while stocks last) by writing to the publisher at the following address: Gabbay, 47 Alleyn Road, London SE21 8AD.

De Montfort University's Centre for Social Action has recently produced four new publications

relating to childcare and health: *Building on the Trent Health Lifestyle Survey (Young People) A Wilder Picture* and "If you have a pain in your heart . . ." *A Summary Evaluation of an Effective Service for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse* by Jennie Fleming; *Meeting the Health Needs of Young People Leaving Care* by Lesley Saunders and Bob Broad; and *Confidentiality and Young People* by Susie Daniel. To order any of these publications contact: Centre for Social Action, Department of Social and Community Studies, De Montfort University, Scraptoft, Leicester LE7 9SU (Telephone: 0116 257 7777).

The Meridian Broadcasting Charitable Trust has launched a secondary schools' resource pack focusing on mental health entitled *Talking About It*. It covers a variety of sensitive issues - from loss and depression to bullying and mental distress, and includes training materials for teachers to provide help on both a personal and professional level. The pack includes a video, guidelines on promoting mental health in schools, a booklet about mental health and 'life events' along with worksheets and materials. For further information and review copies: Karen Gilchrist, Resource Base, Television Centre, Southampton SO14 0PZ (Telephone: 01703 236806).

The Mental Health Foundation have produced three new leaflets to help mental health professionals answer the most commonly asked questions about specific mental health problems. *All About Anorexia*, *All About Bulimia Nervosa* and *All About Dementia* are written in question and answer format and contain suggestions for further reading and useful addresses. Other subjects covered in this range include leaflets on depression, schizophrenia, the anxious child and learning disabilities and the family. The set of seven is free and available from: Helen Matson, The Information Office, The Mental Health Foundation, London W1N 8JU (Telephone: 0171 580 0145).