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22nd August 2005

Dear Mr Johnson and Mr McMahon Public Petitions Committee

Thank you for writing to me and sending copies of response to our **Petition PE820**.

Funding Yes I agree with Mrs. Rhona Brankin that there are Funding opportunities but these are clearly at the discretion of the Local Authorities and I have included an email response from my Local NHS Board via Mr. Jack Stuart General Manager of CHP which speaks for itself. This email has been presented to MSP Mary Scanlon who has on our behalf forwarded to Morays Mental Health Manager Mr Andrew Fowlie (copy of this letter included)as yet no response. I personally am disgusted at Mr Stuarts response as I personally heard Mr Stuart open and address an RECOVERY conference at Inverurie with the statement “ Users are the real experts in Recovery” yet he and many others are not prepared to put OUR money where their mouth is. At this same event we were presented with information about what Grampian had done in connection with supporting Recovery **A Football team** was mentioned it wasn't made clear who was running this project and if the jobs created were for people with disabilities so facilitating therapeutic work or by able bodied Social workers. I suspect the latter to be the reality in this case. Needless to say if that is the case I would not consider that appropriate usage of funds to support recovery. It seems the “Goal posts” of what is considered helping to assist recovery can be stretched to incorporate the respective Health board funders Fancy? Yet Bonafide examples of those helping themselves to help others with no Job possibilities incorporated are refused funding. **God helps those who help themselves But the Health Boards / Scottish executive dosent?**

Service provision The Recovery standards which we at Shamanic Studios incorporate are as mentioned in our petition the 8 components of recovery as proposed by American research conducted **14 years ago** would not consider someone that hasnt intergrated into mainstream society as being recovered. This would mean that those heavily involved in attending support services . Yet the Scottish executive uses user representatives of recovery who clearly are still in receipt of supported services. So we currently have people who have not broken free from support services guiding the way services should be developed? In my opinion that is the blind leading the blind. If you happen to think that your local drop in is very significant to your recovery I would argue as has been successfully done in America that the respective members of the drop in or any other service is RUN by the USERS in a therapeutic work capacity. It is well known even in Scotland that quite a sizeable percentage of mental health service users are Scamming the system and dont actually have a mental illness. Such individuals would have No interest in recovery and would continue to support and promote the SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE system of mental health provision and care.As for professionals who have not been actively promoting recovery; now that recovery is the New initiative no one will admit to doing this and will give lip service to recovery but when push comes to shove as shamanics funding application is an example they would and do not support such initiatives. .

SUICIDE

The figures quoted in my Film 1 in 100 can all be verified via Professor Kay Redfield Jamison's classic World recognized authority on Manic Depression entitled Manic Depressive Illness which she co wrote with Frederick K Goodman. p228 “ in nine studies **12 to 19 percent of deaths** were due to suicides, and in eight studies the suicide rate ranged from **35 to 60 percent**. From a different perspective , Robbins and coworkers (1959) found that **46 percent of individuals who committed suicide had manic depressive illness**. Barraclough (1979) estimated that **64 percent of the suicides in his sample had a primary affective disorder, and 60 percent of the suicides in the sample studied by Helgasson (1979) had an effective disorder**. “rates of attempted suicide studies of attempted suicide in bipolar patients(manic depression) show that **25 to 50 percent attempted suicide at least once.**” p231 So to conclude my statistics of **“upto 25% was actually understating the truth.”**

RECOVERY

To conclude the Scottish Recovery network has been approached for funding and there conclusion was that it was upto the **respective health board to fund such projects as Shamanics**. They saw that there role was to **fund research initiatives not those that are TRYING to demonstrate Recovery which is what shamanic studios is trying to do**. We feel that enough research has already been done via Boston in America and that there recent research on Recovery clearly verifies what we at Shamanic studios have proposed in this petition. **That peer support is very significant to assisting people into recovery and any imitative as proposed by shamanic studios to facilitate therapeutic work should be Actively facilitated by funding bodies. At the present time it is clear they are not and if we wait for the Scottish executive to formally recognize and implement this a lot of people are going to lose there lives unnecessary .** *I urge all the politicians that have and do come into contact with this petition to support the initiative to have funding provided for those who wish to do something to help themselves and others in a therapeutic work capacity to be able to access funding to do so.*

As far as I can see the only organization that had any grasp of the situation that this petition proposes was **CAPABILITY SCOTLAND** and We would Obviously agree with there sentiments that there is a gap in funding provision for recovery initiatives. Please find enclosed PDF File from BOSTON which reiterates the value of Peer Support for psychiatric disabilities. May I suggest that **DIRECT GRANTS** be given the Commission to Fund therapeutic Work initiatives as we propose as they were the only funders who had the **vision** to fund our website and public education film making in the past. We currently need £ 2750 per annum to keep our peer support educational recovery website mobile service going. I have included a copy of DVD which was sent to Scottish recovery network/and Jack stuart for the committees attention. yours faithfully graham Clark shamanic studios

COPY OF EMAIL REPLY FROM JACK STUART

Dear Mr Clark

I have discussed with colleagues within NHSG to try and identify a potential source of funding. Unfortunately, we have no funds that we could appropriately divert to your project.

I am sorry I cannot give a positive reply and wish you well in your endeavours to attract funding.

**Regards
Mr Jack Stuart**

**Mr Jack Stuart
General Manager
Aberdeenshire (Shadow) CHP
Inverurie Hospital
Upperboat Road
Inverurie
AB51 3UL
Tel: (01467) (6)72840**

>>> "Graham Clark" <member@studiox.freeserve.co.uk> 05/23/05 11:49am >>>

Please find enclosed two PDF files one is an outline of CHOOSE LIFE presentations which I am looking for bookings The other is a request for Funding assistance.

This Funding request has been sent to individuals for possible inclusion in newsletters and also directly to Funding bodies in connection with mental Health.

If you are a funding Body Representative i.e. Grampians Health Board please consider this as a formal request for funding and advice on any further appropriate action i.e. funding application form etc that I might need to fill in.

The service I am requesting funding for a petition has been submitted to the Scottish Parliament on the 23 rd February and has been sent via the Scottish Parliament to the following organisations Scottish Association for Mental Health , Disability Rights Commission, Scottish Executive, and Capability Scotland. We should be getting a response soon but we need funding as the time it will take to implement changes could be quite a few years and we cant wait that long. Please forward to All Mental Health Sub Committees

Mary Scanlon MSP **COPY OF LETTER SENT TO ANDREW FOWLIE**
Highlands & Islands

The Scottish
Parliament
Mr Andrew Fowlie
General Manager
Moray & Community Social Care Partnership
Spynie Hospital
Elgin
Moray

15 August 2005

Dear Mr Fowlie ,

Shamanic Studios - Graham dark

Re: A hard hitting film with the facts about mental illness.

Mr Clark currently had a petition before the Scottish Parliament and received the enclosed response from Mr Jack Stewart, General Manager of the Aberdeen-shire CHP, based in Inverurie.

Mr dark feels very strongly that peer support is one of the main categories for recovery from mental health problems. He has worked to develop a programme which can positively help people recovering from mental health problems back into work. I understand that in America, the peer support network is found to be very successful and Mr Clark has received a response from the previous Depute Minister for Health relating to a peer support programme in Scotland.

I would be very grateful if you would watch the enclosed film and contact Mr Clark in order to evaluate how this project could be utilised to help patients with mental health problems back to work in Moray.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Yours sincerely

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Mary Scanlon MSP

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