

Meeting of Pandemic Ethics Advisory Group Minutes

- **Attendees (via Microsoft Teams):**
 - Dr Siobhán O’Sullivan (Chair);
 - Prof. David Smith;
 - Dr Simon Mills SC;
 - Mr Stephen McMahon;
 - Dr Joan McCarthy;
 - Dr Andrea Mulligan BL;
 - Dr Louise Campbell;
 - Mr Mervyn Taylor.
- **Apologies:**
 - Dr Barry Lyons;
- **Also in Attendance:**
 - Emily de Grae (secretariat);
 - Audrey Ní Chaoindealbháin (secretariat).

Minutes

- The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

1. Update from NPHET/Chair

- The Chair asked members for their views regarding the publication of PEAG meeting agendas and minutes, membership and terms of reference on the Department of Health’s website. Members agreed that, in the interest of openness and transparency, they would be very happy for this information to be published. It was agreed that the secretariat would liaise with relevant colleagues to set up a dedicated PEAG webpage in advance of the next meeting.

2. Ethical Considerations Relating to Long Term Residential Care Settings (LTRCS)

- A brief overview of the revised paper was provided. The general view was that the current draft was a good progression from the previous version and that it represented the previous discussion very well.
- There followed an in-depth discussion of the scope and structure of the paper including:
 - the concepts of vulnerability and home and how they relate to different facilities and contexts;
 - historical context in relation to the delivery of social care;
 - the role of families and mechanisms for challenging decisions making complaints;
 - Duty of care and the need for facilities to access specific skillsets and expertise in the delivery of care;
 - Whether innovative solutions could be found in relation to visiting loved ones in the longer-term management of COVID-19;
 - The protection of liberty and autonomy within the restrictive context of COVID-19;

- The role of law and ethics in terms of consent to testing and treatment especially as the country moves towards longer-term management of the pandemic and the importance of maintaining trust.

- It was agreed that members would send any further comments to the Chair/secretariat and the Chair would edit the current version. It was agreed that the Chair would circulate the next draft to a small group of stakeholders for review.
- It was agreed that the Chair would liaise with colleagues in relation to the interaction between law and ethics in the context of mandatory testing.
- It was agreed that any feedback received would be used to prepare another draft which would be circulated to Members for their review/comment.
- It was agreed that the secretariat would seek to submit the final draft to the NPHE during the week commencing 18th May.

3. AOB

- It was agreed that the next meeting of the PEAG would take place on Wednesday 20th May.
- It was agreed that the secretariat would circulate HSE Guidance re CPR and DNAR in Decision-Making During the COVID-19 Pandemic to the Members for the information.