

CAIPE AGM 2007: Chair's Annual Review

Good morning, welcome to the 2007 CAIPE AGM and a very big thank you to Liz Anderson and Dawn Forman for organising this meeting, to our hosts, the University of Leicester, to Simply Health for sponsoring lunch and to all of you for being here on a very important day in the life of CAIPE.

I am delighted to present to you my first annual report as Chair of CAIPE, to be able to comment on our achievements in 2006-7 and share with you some of the ways the CAIPE Board plans to take the organisation forward in the next three years and beyond. Our annual general meeting is not just something as a Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee we are obliged to hold. It is the opportunity to recognise and applaud our successes as an organisation, the successes of our members and to introduce colleagues to the importance and diversity of interprofessional education and collaborative working across the UK.

If you are not yet a member of CAIPE I hope that by the end of today you will appreciate the value of joining the organisation. CAIPE membership gives you a range of benefits and opportunities – for example, a reduced subscription to the Journal of Interprofessional Care. Our continued relationship with Taylor & Francis, who publish that Journal, is an important aspect of CAIPE's commitment to dissemination of matters interprofessional. These days this is not only means hard copies of the Journal through your door and in your library but electronic access to its content and to what is happening widely in the relevant international arena. To assist us all with access to timely and appropriate information that suits our particular interprofessional interest, CAIPE is presently in discussion about providing tailored news feed and guided information services to members. The possibilities this can offer will be demonstrated in the Medical School at lunchtime.

An important piece of work presently underway by the Board is a revised package of services to individual and corporate members. Subscribing members rightly demand value for money and we are

determined to identify what you want and to do our best to provide that. The CAIPE website remains our prime gateway of communication with everyone and the website services offered will continue to grow. In the future we would like to have dedicated student pages, and increased interactivity on the site. It is the CAIPE website that will hold the final documents of the now completed Creating an Interprofessional Workforce project.

However, joining CAIPE is not just about what CAIPE offers its members. It is also about what members offer each other and the wider community of practice in interprofessional education and practice. It is about making a contribution to supporting the national and international work of CAIPE. You will hear more about this as my report continues. I will also outline some key things that have happened in CAIPE during 2007, all of which mean we can continue to play an important role in worldwide interprofessional matters.

Being elected as Chair of any organisation is an honour and responsibility. It carries with it hopes for how that role will be fulfilled. I had hoped that my first year as CAIPE Chair would be one that allowed me to get to know the organisation and its members gently; would give me time, with my colleagues on the Board, to identify what needed to be done and to set our strategic priorities for the next few years.

Nothing could be further from the reality of CAIPE in 2007. Rather, it has been a year of making essential and fast changes that have resulted in key differences in the way we work. The Board firmly believes that these changes were absolutely necessary for the good health of CAIPE. They are changes in how we operate; our principles and aims remain constant. They are changes that bring our systems and processes in line with the 21C world of work, respond to current thinking about how public services are delivered and enable CAIPE to continue to influence that thinking.

Last year CAIPE operated from a small but expensive central London office which proved, as the autumn progressed, to be more of a cost than a benefit. Today we are hosted by the Higher Education

Academy Health Sciences and Practice Subject Centre at Kings College London, and in the future we are looking at the possibility of becoming a much more virtual organisation e.g. taking advantage of e-communication for administration functions. My sincere thanks go to Ann Ewens and Helena Low who managed and executed the office move and to Ann for acquiring storage for the CAIPE archive. Thank you also to Margaret Sills for negotiating the loan of the space at Kings College that is now the CAIPE office every Friday.

This is the first CAIPE AGM to be held outside London, our workshops are now offered 'in situ' rather than in London and Board meetings take place across the UK. Our efforts to take CAIPE around the four countries of the UK will continue next year. We welcome offers to host critical thinking seminars and other types of meetings. Invitations for CAIPE speakers at conferences and seminars are also welcome.

My travel itinerary as CAIPE Chair this year has included events in Derby, Oxford and Bedford, and I am in Sheffield and Plymouth later in the year. All those occasions offer the time and space to think together about interprofessional education and work, and in this way to develop our knowledge on these matters. This is part of what CAIPE means to me: the chance to be involved in a continuing dialogue about interprofessional matters that shapes our thinking and contributes to what we know about interprofessionalism in theory and in practice. In essence, sharing experience and expertise about learning together, so that we can all work better together. In turn, eventually, some of this work is published and shared more widely.

Books and papers by CAIPE members continue to be valued sources of knowledge for the international interprofessional community of practice. CAIPE has been working with Wiley Blackwell for some time now to publish key texts on interprofessional education and collaborative working. Presently, another title is in preparation, proposals for two others under consideration and preliminary discussions in progress for two more. CAIPE members are also writing books for other publishers. CAIPE has always provided opportunities for people who think and write about interprofessional matters to meet each other and work collaboratively.

The revised CAIPE is well placed to facilitate networking and to work with other organizations to enable expertise and experience to be shared. A podcast of a discussion about the evaluation of interprofessional education and one on its sustainability, will soon be available on the Health Sciences and Practice Subject Centre website and, via links, on the CAIPE website. This is an example of CAIPE members working with the Subject Centre to encourage and enable a dialogue about key aspects of interprofessional education and putting the results of that dialogue in the public domain.

One change in 2006-7 that anticipates other similar changes is to the Board of CAIPE, where we welcomed a student as a member for the first time. Julia Rout, who is studying occupational therapy at the University of East Anglia, joined a Board that by tradition sought representation of CAIPE membership from professionals working across health and social care service settings and in related educational settings. That approach has served CAIPE well but it is time to consider if it is the best way for the organisation's responsibilities to be met.

To facilitate this rethink the Board voted not to have elections this year and in 2008 we will be looking at proposals for a revised Board structure. We need to take an approach to restructuring that means CAIPE is governed by the diverse wisdom and experience of all interprofessional stakeholders: practitioners, employers, service users, carers and learners. CAIPE also needs people on its governing body who are able to contribute time towards its many functions and those with experience of key functions such as finance and marketing. Getting this right is one of next year's challenges.

One change to the Board next year will be the absence of two very loyal, longstanding members. Rosie Tope, who was vice chair with me from 2003-6, has contributed much insight and hard work: thank you Rosie for your support to me in my first year as Chair and for your work for CAIPE –we shall all miss you. Audrey Leathard also leaves us this year after many years of loyal support for CAIPE. Audrey's remarks at Board meetings always remind me of the importance of an organisation's

collective memory for how it shapes its future. Many thanks to you Audrey for all your contributions to CAIPE.

Any Board that consists of busy volunteers has to accept that some of them find it impossible to continue. Ivan Lester has had to resign, also David Pearson's job change meant he reluctantly left the Board. At its next meeting I will be seeking the Board's approval to co-opt for one year David's alternate member, Melissa Owens, who has been a valuable attendee at meetings this past year. In this way we maintain some continuity until new governance structures are approved.

Another important reason for rethinking how members participate in decision making and work for CAIPE relates to the level of income that we can expect in the future. We have to be realistic about how much work CAIPE can afford to pay for and act accordingly, since trustee/directors as Board members have a legal responsibility in these matters.

With this firmly in mind and knowing that Helena Low planned to resign from her position as Development Officer at the end of March and Barbara Clague to retire as Chief Executive Officer at the end of April, the CAIPE Board decided not to simply replace these staff. Some of you may already know that by this time we were already relying on temporary administrative cover. This situation allowed us to replan how best to carry out all the CAIPE work functions.

Whilst it is early days for the new arrangements I am very pleased to confirm that we have a new administrator, Carmel Cannon, and a working Board sharing responsibility for various aspects of CAIPE's work. So, for example, I now hold responsibility for financial management and strategic initiatives, Bryony Lamb as Vice Chair is leading the tendering process for the website contract, working with Susanne Lindqvist and, as you will hear later, Dawn Forman as Vice Chair is working on income generation and fund raising.

Dawn is also coordinating CAIPE events and we hope to soon share an interprofessional diary of events so that everyone can see what is happening and when, in their part of the world. Some diary dates worth noting here relate to Hugh Barr's year (2007/2008) as President of the

General Practice with Primary Health Care Section at the Royal Society of Medicine. Hugh will be leading a programme of interprofessional workshops and conferences to which CAIPE colleagues will be warmly invited. Keep a watch on the website for details of these. And there is an invitation to all CAIPE members to the Journal of Interprofessional Care's 2007 John Horder Lecture at Kingston/St George's University, to be given this year on July 5th by Baroness Julia Cumberlege.

We have appointed two new co-editors of the Bulletin which will be published electronically four times a year, with hard copies for archive and PR purposes only. Eileen Huish and Siobhán Ni Mhaolrúnaigh are already planning the summer edition and they look forward to receiving ideas for what to include, brief articles about your interprofessional initiatives and feedback on the content and layout. The Bulletin is not only to read but the opportunity for you to contribute, comment in and if necessary, use as a soap box!

Before I leave this brief outline of staff and functions I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the staff who left CAIPE this year. Firstly, our thanks to Barbara Clague for the many years of dedicated work she gave to CAIPE and our good wishes to her for a happy retirement. It gives me great pleasure to confirm that although Helena has left us as a paid member of staff she remains part of the CAIPE working team. We are very grateful to Helena for her commitment and hard work and look forward to her experience and expertise helping to shape CAIPE's future, especially the portfolio of workshops we are presently planning. Jenny Rainsford, who had been CAIPE's administrator for many years also left this year. She has left a legacy of sound administrative processes that have now been handed over to Carmel. We thank her for her valuable contribution to CAIPE.

During the early part of this year, when the changes I have just outlined were in progress, the Board learnt together the ways we can all work together so that CAIPE continues to be the leading international interprofessional education and practice membership organisation and matures in this role as it works in partnership with similar organisations throughout the world.

I am delighted to report that in addition to its longstanding link with The Network: Towards Unity for Health at which it was represented in Gent this year, the Board has agreed to a formal affiliation between CAIPE and the International Association for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (InterED). We are discussing a similar agreement with the newly formed Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC). We have also agreed to extend the geographical boundaries of CAIPE and to work closely in the future with colleagues in the Republic of Ireland and I will be there next week to take this initiative forward.

There are many reasons for supporting this development but an important one is the value to CAIPE of many more members. Our income from membership fees is the backbone of our financial planning. Many of you will have heard my money mantra of how membership fees provide us not only with funds for membership services but also income that does not have specific work attached to it.

It is the income that permits us to develop as an organisation that can continue to lobby for IPE. An example of this important function of CAIPE was a joint presentation by Hugh Barr and Liz Anderson, with Professor Steven Shardlow from Salford University, on the 20th March at the House of Commons on interprofessional education for work with children. This was during a seminar for peers and MPs convened by the General Teaching Council, the General Social Care Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council. A copy of their presentation is lodged on the CAIPE website.

Funding also enables us to support research and development for general benefit, and to participate in funding bids for other types of work. The Board is presently working on models of collaboration between CAIPE and other organisations, for example, universities and private sector bodies. In most cases, it is envisaged that CAIPE will take the important role of providing consultancy to projects, rather than the responsibility for the major work in any particular project. Joint working is the way forward, building on the experience and utilising the expertise of all CAIPE members.

To continue with international matters. I can confirm our continuing involvement in the European Interprofessional Education Network project (more on EIPEN from Marion Helme the project manager this afternoon). CAIPE members will be participating in the 2007 EIPEN conference in Krakow, the 2008 All Together Better Health conference in Stockholm, giving us another opportunity to liaise with colleagues in the Nordic Interprofessional Network, and a few of us will be at the North American Collaborating Across Borders Conference in Minneapolis later this year.

I am also very proud that Hugh Barr, CAIPE President, Lisa Hughes and Susanne Lindqvist, Board members and I have been asked to join the new WHO Study Group on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice. CAIPE has accepted the invitation from the WHO to be a partner in this work and we will keep you posted on its progress.

In making the changes I have just described, it has been a year that proved that, to use a well worn phrase that is often more rhetoric than reality, things can only get better. More than this, it has proved that this happens most easily when everyone committed to making things get better works together at this. My deepest thanks go to all my colleagues on the CAIPE Board who have given me their unqualified support this year and have responded magnificently to every request for someone to do a particular something. Their guidance and positive responses to emails for advice and help have been essential and invaluable.

This has been a particular year that the CAIPE principles have been put into practice by its Board and members. We have thoroughly tested the theory of collaborative working. It has emerged absolutely worthy of our continuing engagement with it as an academic subject, as a way to deliver services, as the means to the end; where that end is partnership working that feels real and valuable to the people we all serve.

Professor Marilyn Hammick

Chair, CAIPE

June 7, 2007