



SASOM news

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR WORKSHOP ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS

SASOM participated in, and contributed to, the workshop on "Occupational Health Service Providers" which was organised and hosted by the Department of Labour (DoL). It was held on 7 September at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) Training Centre, at the headquarters of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) in Sandringham, Johannesburg. The workshop was attended by representatives of the occupational health organisations, SASOM, SASOHN and SAIOH, and facilitated by Mr Warren Mallon of the DoL.

Representatives from the DoL presented on the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations related to health surveillance; and on the importance of registering occupational health service providers (OHSPs) and the proposed requirements for approval and registration of OHSPs by the DoL.

An overview given by SASOHN member, Ms Karen Michel, on the state of occupational health in South Africa, and what changes need to be made to the current system (based on her research work), set the stage for the presentations that followed. These were given by representatives from the occupational health organisations, providing their respective viewpoints on the roles played by occupational medical practitioners, occupational health nursing practitioners and occupational hygienists in health surveillance programmes.

There was ample time and opportunity for discussion around a number of issues raised by participants, and there was a strong focus on the collaboration and joint efforts which are required by the three main representative professions in occupational health, to ensure functional and successful delivery of health surveillance programmes.

A draft document on the registration process for, and the compilation of a national database of, occupational health service providers, is currently under discussion between the occupational health organisations and the DoL. It is envisaged that the

DoL will implement and monitor the registration process and the national register of occupational health service providers.

UPDATE ON THE JOINT SASOM AND THE FOUNDATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING COLLABORATION

SASOM and the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) have agreed to cooperate in developing, compiling, packaging and customising content, marketing, administering and delivering a training programme for healthcare workers based on the SASOM Guidelines for occupational medicine practice.

The first two modules which have been developed, and are in the process of being finalised as training materials, are based on the SASOM Guidelines for the management of absenteeism due to illness or injury, and for the accommodation of medically-incapacitated workers. It is envisaged that the roll out of these first two training modules will take place in early 2017.

SASOM NEWS

Renewal of SASOM membership for 2017 is now in progress with membership renewal forms and invoices sent out by email. The SASOM National Office will close on 15 December 2016 and reopen on 9 January 2017.

The SASOM Chairman and Executive Committee wish all occupational health practitioners a well-deserved rest over the holiday season and a healthy and successful 2017.

Report by

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