

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS - SPECIAL THERAPY INTERVENTIONSNOTES OF MEETING OF 14TH FEBRUARY 1995.

Present: Fr. John Usher (Chair); Bishop Geoff Robinson;
Br Julian Liddiard O.H; Sr Angela Ryan.

Apology: Mr Tim Burn, St John of God Hospital

The central focus of the meeting involved the care and treatment of Priests and Religions.

The St John of God Brothers are willing to be a link and so offer professional services if and when a residential program were in place.

The points considered were:-

- that any residence not be attached to a hospital
- that wide ranging professional services are needed doctors, psychologists etc and personnel for a pastoral role
- that at times the clients may be suicidal
- that there are different stages of pre-or-post-trial and differing stages of readiness for treatment
- that different treatment models need to be evaluated/considered as these determine whether a residential program is appropriate
- that any program must be credible and able to stand up in court
- that rehabilitation raises serious questions
- that both legal and pastoral sides need to be considered
- that 9 out of 10 allegations turn out to be true

The recommendation of the meeting was:-

- a) that a serious study is needed about the care and treatment of Priests and Religions.
- b) that the Bishops and Congregational Leaders commission some person to do this research in collaboration with and with the supervision of a committee such as this.
- c) that the researcher be given broad terms of reference and a time line.
- d) that these be presented to the meeting of the Bishops' conference (in April) and to Religions (around the same time).
- e) that the Committee have some proposals about a researcher to put to the Bishops at this time.

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