

## Meeting with Professional Associations 17 November 2009

CNHC's Executive Chair, Maggy Wallace, and its Chief Executive and Registrar, Maggie Dunn, were delighted to welcome over 60 representatives from a wide variety of Professional Associations (PAs) to its bi-annual meeting for PAs on 17 November.



Maggy and Maggie with Kate Ling  
from the Department of Health

Maggy introduced the meeting and spoke about CNHC's committee structure and, in particular, the work of its Professional Standards Committee over the next 3 years, which will be looking at criteria for new professionals that might be considering applying for registration with CNHC; CNHC standards for Continuing Professional Development (CPD); accreditation; and issues relating to audit. Maggy also spoke about recent meetings which she and Maggie had had with other statutory bodies, and speaking events in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The meeting was then addressed by Kate Ling, Head of European and Specialist Legislation from the Professional Standards branch of the Department of Health which deals with the regulation of health and social care. The Department of Health provided start-up funding for the CNHC. Kate confirmed that *"CNHC is the only voluntary regulatory body for complementary healthcare which has official government backing. No other organisation has the same exacting criteria or focus on patient safety and quality across a range of therapies..... The more people who register with the CNHC the more it will be recognised as the only organisation which provides the guarantees that members of the public are looking for"*.

She went on to say that whilst it was not possible to make CNHC registration a requirement or condition for GP's or PCTs referral, *"we are recommending that referrals should only be made to CNHC registered professionals"*.

Maggie Dunn then spoke about the important role which PAs have in working with CNHC and in encouraging their members to register. She mentioned the hard work which PAs and professional fora had been involved in to set up a regulatory body over the last two decades which was a viable and robust body which practitioners could be proud to be registered with. Maggie also announced that the register had opened that day to Shiatsu practitioners.

There followed a question and answer session, before participants worked in groups to look at how CNHC might raise awareness of its work amongst the professions and how it could persuade more people to register.

The meeting ended with a discussion about CNHC badges and it was agreed that all practitioners renewing their registration should receive a CNHC badge.

The Chair and Chief Executive thanked all those who attended for their contributions to a lively and useful debate.

The next PAs meeting will be held between 14:00 and 16:30 on 25 May 2010. Invitations will be sent to all those on our contact list. Please contact [info@cnhc.org.uk](mailto:info@cnhc.org.uk) if you wish to be added to the contact list.