



## Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting, Washington DC, 27-28 October 2009

<b>Attending:</b>	Arild Bjørndal, Mark Lipsey, Merete Konnerup, Paul Montgomery, Eamonn Noonan, Terri Pigott, Nick Royle, Aron Shlonsky, Peter Tugwell, David Weisburd, David Wilson.
<b>Apologies:</b>	Robert Boruch, Chad Nye
<b>Guests:</b>	Phelan Wyrick, Brecht Donoghue (both OJP)
<b>Minutes:</b>	Eamonn Noonan, Bjørn Tommy Tollånes

### 1. Opening, adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

### 2. Adoption of minutes

The minutes of the Oslo SG meeting were approved without revisions.

### 3. Report from the Social Welfare Group

See attached report.

Discussion covered the need for additional editing capacity, the imminent completion of an online start-up pack for authors, and the use of phone conferences as part of the effort to create a fast track for reviews.

A template for procedures related to co-registration with Cochrane is in preparation. The decision of co-registration should be made at the start of the process, and one of the two sides needs to take editorial responsibility. Duplication of work should be avoided. At this point four Cochrane groups are involved: DPLP, Equity, Public Health and Substance Abuse.

The Johanna Briggs Institute has indicated an interest in co-registering reviews. Discussion centred on how to approach qualitative studies, and on cooperation to date between Cochrane and JBI. It was agreed to discuss the issue further with JBI. The Methods Group will continue to examine issues related to qualitative studies.

### 4. Report from the Crime and Justice Group

See attached report.

Since last October, 8 new reviews, 4 new protocols and 8 new titles have been approved.

The editorial process was discussed. In-house turnaround is good, but external peer reviewing is a bottleneck. The problem is general to academic journals. Preliminary editing is one useful option, identifying standard issues such as eligibility criteria and search strategy. A note setting out how long the entire process should take is being prepared. Average time to completion is too long, especially where external funding is absent. However, reviews have been completed within a year, where funding is provided and deadlines are stipulated.

The group has an excellent Coordinating editor, and it is important to secure funding for this position. New members have been nominated to the CJ Steering, as set out in the report. The next Jerry Lee Symposium takes place on 19-20 April 2010.

Campbell now has a higher profile in the field, and is in a position to take advantage of new funding opportunities arising from an increased focus on the need for evidence as a basis for policy.



## **5. Report from the Education Group**

See attached report.

The level of activity in this group continues to increase, and Ralf Schlosser editor has recently been appointed editor. As Co-chairs, Chad Nye and Carole Torgersen have led this development, but both are stepping down. Candidates to replace them have not yet emerged. Arild Bjørdal and Eamonn Noonan are invited to contact key figures in education research, with a view to forming an advisory group, identifying suitable candidates and adding to the impetus gained recently.

## **6. Report from the Methods Group**

See attached report.

The Methods Advisory committee has agreed in principle to adapt the Cochrane Handbook for the purpose of guiding work on Campbell reviews. An ad hoc group will now review the relevant chapters and existing policy briefs. Where appropriate they will prepare adapted versions to take account of issues specific to social research. Mark Lipsey will chair the ad hoc group, which includes David Wilson (CJ), Julia Littell (SW), A. N. Other (Education), Peter Tugwell (Methods), Terri Pigott (Methods), Merete Konnerup (Users group), Bjørn Tommy Tollanes (secretariat)

## **7. Report from the Users Group**

Two thirds of completed reviews have user abstracts. Eight more are currently being prepared. The group does not have a coordinator at present.

Gill Clark of the Office of the Chief Researcher, Scotland ([www.scotland.gov.uk/socialresearch](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/socialresearch)) is the sole candidate for the vacant co-chair position, nominated by Deborah Rutter of SCIE. Her election will now be ratified.

It is now standard practice to include a "plain language summary" in Social Welfare reviews and in Cochrane, alongside and distinct from the abstract. It is recommended that other groups adopt this as standard. Editors and Managing editors are asked to follow this up with the authors.

The importance of getting good evidence into agencies was underlined. The Evidence-based Policing Matrix was cited (<http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/Matrix.html>) as an example.

## **8. CEO/Secretariat**

See attached report.

The redesign of the website, the inauguration of an online journal, the successful Oslo Colloquium and the increased production of systematic reviews are signs that the Collaboration is increasingly active and increasingly visible. It now appears likely that Norway will continue to provide core infrastructure funding after 2010. It remains a priority to conduct reviews on issues of relevance for Norway. In the coming year, one focus will be on training for decision makers and practitioners on commissioning and using research.

A process tracking system (the Toolbox) and a contacts database (the Directory) are now ready for use. In accordance with earlier decisions by the Steering Group, this is a simple and inexpensive solution, with low operating costs.



## **9. Exchange of views with representatives of the Office of Justice Programs, Assistant Attorney General's Office ([www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov)), on the prospects for evidence based policy and practice in the USA.**

Dr. Phelan Wyrick addressed the question of how to encourage a more evidence-based approach, against the background of a renewed interest in research as a means to improve outcomes. As the Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General have stated, we need to be smart on crime, not just tough on crime.

There is increasing focus on the need to bring about better evaluation of funded programs. Another priority is to translate research findings and evidence into practice. Evidence integration is a challenge. There are areas where strong evidence is lacking, and there are areas where randomized trials are not feasible. These issues need to be addressed. There is a need to assemble what is known about the problems that concern decision makers. A strong web presence is important. A multi-step approach is essential, with clear standards. The strong overlap between the aspirations of Campbell and of the AAG's Office was acknowledged.

In the ensuing discussion, the following points were emphasized by members of the Steering Group:

- The US should follow Norway's lead in providing infrastructure funding for leading-edge research on effectiveness, also in view of the prominence of American researchers and US-sourced evidence in Campbell reviews.
- A world library capturing all that was known would be immensely useful for the Justice authorities. This is within reach – it could be accomplished in a relatively short time. Dr. Wyrick agreed that full coverage was an exciting goal.
- The research involved in a systematic review is hard to do, being fully peer-reviewed at different stages, but there is a big dividend. Once completed, reviews can be updated relatively easily and thus remain relevant for the long term.
- Campbell is focusing on the need to translate evidence to policy-makers, not least through the Users' Group. The development of practice guidelines is an emerging area in this regard.
- Campbell is well positioned to address the question of comparative effectiveness.
- The Campbell Collaboration is now in a position to radically and rapidly scale up its operations.

## **10. Strategic Plan**

It was agreed that an advisory group should be convened to assist with fundraising. Mark Lipsey will take this forward.

## **11. Budget overview**

See attached budget note.

Even with the likely continuation of core infrastructure funding in Norway, it is important to pursue other funding opportunities, not least in the US. It is proposed to activate a new US bank account for the Collaboration as a US registered 501 (c) 3 foundation. The SG was informed of plans to create an endowment to support the Leonard Gibbs award, on the initiative of Mrs. Betty Gibbs.

## **12. Review production**

The rapid progress this year of the DNA review commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice shows that it is possible to meet a challenging schedule for review production. We should publicise the fact that we now have a Fast-track option.



A number of innovations can shorten time to completion were discussed.

- Full funding is a major advantage.
- Conference calls (e.g. through Skype) can save time.
- Such calls may involve the editor, the authors and, where appropriate, peer reviewers.
- Time-sensitive projects should be flagged as such in the Toolbox.

### 13. Review dissemination

Deferred (topic was covered under other items.)

### 14. Preparations for the Keystone Colloquium, 18-22 October 2010

The Keystone Colloquium is a joint colloquium, and Campbell representatives must play an active role in the various preparatory committees. All Coordinating Groups are urged to begin identifying possible workshops in order to ensure suitable representation. Proposals for both paper and poster presentations should also be encouraged.

The introduction in Oslo of different thematic streams may be useful as a model for Keystone. The secretariat will share its experiences in running the Oslo event with the organizing committee. The event provides an opportunity for joint meetings of coordinating editors, managing editors, and other groups.

Our website will be used to promote participation, and CGs are invited to post relevant items regularly.

Key dates in the preparation of the Colloquium:

15 February	Registration Start
29 March	Abstract Submission
17 May	Notification of Abstract Acceptance
1 June	Consumer and Developing Countries Stipends
28 June	Notification of Stipend Acceptance
6 July	Early Registration
9 August	Meeting Room Request
7 September	Hotel Registration Deadline
13 September	Cancellation Deadline
18-22 October	Keystone Co-Colloquium

### 15. Partnerships

#### *SFI Campbell*

SFI Campbell (the Nordic Campbell Centre) is now shifting its focus to the production of reviews. To this end they will also sponsor training workshops. Initial discussions have taken place on the conclusion of an MoU. The SG pointed to the need for suitable reciprocal arrangements as the Collaboration develops regional centres. Arild Bjørndal and Eamonn Noonan will follow up with SFI Campbell on the matter of an MoU and a plan of work.

3ie

See attached note.



Our partnership with 3ie has given rise to a series of new title proposals. The importance of ensuring a fast-track approach for fully funded external reviews was reiterated. Eamonn Noonan was invited to continue discussions with 3ie on further developing relations with them.

#### *Other*

On the subject of centres and partners generally, attention was drawn to the recommendations on this topic made on the basis of Cochrane's recent Strategic Review.

A discussion on our relations with the Cochrane Collaboration concluded with unequivocal support for continuing our present close and open-ended cooperation.

### **16. Update on the Cochrane Collaboration**

Nick Royle, CEO, reported on recent developments in Cochrane. The appointment of an Editor-in-Chief is a major cultural change. The Strategic Review has been concluded and its recommendations are published. The Singapore Colloquium was very impressive, with an attendance of 700 people. Cochrane will soon be contracting for a software system for the trials register, to feed into CENTRAL. With so many positive developments underway, it is clear that the Keystone Colloquium will take place at a very exciting moment.

### **17. Any other business**

The Co-chairs and CEO reported on meetings which took place on Monday 26 October:

- With AIR's President, Sol Pelavin, and Executive Vice President, Diane Pelavin;
- With Jon Baron, Executive Director of The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy; and
- With Ronald Abeles and Stephan Philogene of the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (<http://obssr.od.nih.gov/>). It was agreed to work towards a presentation by Campbell to the Coordinating Committee of NIH agencies at an early date.

### **18. Place and date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Steering Group takes place in Oslo, Norway, on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 June 2010. It is planned to combine this with meetings with key officials in Norway and with a training workshop. The date is chosen to facilitate participation in the Stockholm Criminology Symposium on 14-16 June 2010.

The autumn Steering Group meeting will take place *en marge* of the Keystone Colloquium. The proposed dates are Sunday 17 October and Monday 18 October.