

Commonwealth Partners' Forum (CPF) 19 May 2013

This was hosted by McKinsey & Co., the Commonwealth Foundation and CHPA at the Starling Hotel. It was chaired by Dr Nicolaus Henke of McKinsey & Co. He introduced the 2 speakers, first, Dr Soumitra Pathare, Coordinator, Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy, Indian Law Society, then Dr Michelle Funk, Coordinator Mental Health, WHO. Dr Pathare outlined the results of their excellent review of Commonwealth member states' mental health legislation. In summary, little or none or very old legislation exists in many countries. Dr Funk elaborated on the need for relevant legislation and the role and importance of optimal mental health for civilisation. In comments, several country representatives described their own countries' recent efforts and agreed that up to date legislation was imperative so that improvements in mental health can follow. Unfortunately, CHMM finished an hour and a half late. Following this, CPF had to proceed while lunch was being served and eaten and while delegates came and went. This was very distracting for those who wished to listen and for the two excellent speakers.