

Annual Report of the South African Society for Mental Health and Deafness  
for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

1. Section A: basic details of the organisation:

1.1. Number (NPO Number): The organisation is currently applying for registration as NPO.

1.2. Organisation's name: South African Society for Mental Health and Deafness

1.3. The twelve-month period this report covers: 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

1.4. Contact person:

Name: Rev A L Smit

Position in organisation: Secretary

Telephone number: 028 754 3613

Fax number: 028 754 3613

Cell phone number: 083 633 0701

E-mail address: [secretary@sasmhd.org](mailto:secretary@sasmhd.org)

1.5. Physical address of organisation's secretary:

49 Paling Crescent

Still Bay West

Still Bay

STILL BAY

Postal code: 6674

Province: Western Cape

1.6. Organisation's postal address:

Same as physical address

1.7. Organisation's Office Bearers:

Portfolio	Name	Work or Home address	Postal address	Telephone	ID Number
Chairperson	Dr. FBN Sokudela				
Vice Chairperson	Prof. PH de Wet				
Secretary	Rev. AL Smit	49 Paling Crescent, Still Bay. 6674	Same as home address	083 633 0701	
Treasurer	Mr. EW Kleinschmidt				
Additional Member	Ms. EN Ramokhele				

2. SECTION B: ORGANISATION'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefitted
1. A brochure on Mental Health and Deafness was produced, published on the website and distributed	Mental health professionals and mental health workers were sensitised to the deaf specific mental health needs and risks of misdiagnosis and misunderstanding regarding the use of medication.
2. Publishing of local and international research results and scientific presentation on the website.	Mental health professionals and mental health workers were kept informed on the newest development in the field of mental health and deafness.
3. Building and maintaining a network of local and international experts and organisations	Exchange of knowledge and skills were promoted on local and international level.
4. Special effort was launched to expand and diversify membership	Practitioners as well as users of mental health services developed more interest to join in membership. More awareness was developed for shortcomings regarding accessibility and appropriateness of services.
5. Establishment of a Scientific Committee for the gathering and dissemination of knowledge	A trusted source of knowledge in the field of mental health and deafness was ensured for mental health service providers, for Deaf persons who need to access mental health services and their families.
6. Identifying and utilising opportunities to promote understanding and addressing the mental health needs of Deaf people and their families in the public and private health sectors of society	The chairperson, who is a psychiatrist, was nominated to serve on the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Mental Health. Should she be appointed, it will bring new knowledge to the committee that will promote accessible and equal mental health services to Deaf persons and their families.

7. Addressing the issue of communication barriers when Deaf persons need to access mental health services	Mental health service providers gained more awareness of the impact of the harm communication barriers cause and how to overcome it. Deaf patients experienced that an increasing number of mental health service providers have awareness and skills to communicate with them and reduce misunderstanding.
8. Maximising the website as communication and empowerment tool	Reports from the webmaster indicated that visits to the website and downloading of material, locally and internationally, increased to levels not previously achieved.

3. SECTION C: LIST OF IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND ANY CHANGE TO CONSTITUTION

Type of meeting	Indicate by ticking		No of meetings	Comments
	Yes	No		
Annual general meeting (AGM)		✓	0	Biennial meeting will be held in 2016
Special general meeting		✓	0	There was no need for a special meeting. Biennial meeting of members in 2016.
Board meeting	✓		2	Discussions and decision-making was done by e-mail and confirmed at meetings in terms of article 10.3 of the constitution for time- and cost-effectiveness.
Others (Specify)				
E-mail meeting of the Board	✓		4	Decisions on: Nomination for the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Mental Health, Signing powers for checks and documents, Website update, Budget 2015/2016.

4. Did you make any changes to the Constitution during the past year:

YES	NO ✓
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*AL Smith*

Secretary  
13 May 2015