



NATIONAL HWC

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW



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MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson

Ciaran McLaughlin, Cathaoirleach CLG Tir Eoghain. Email: ciaranmclaughlin20@gmail.com

Secretary

Colin Regan, GAA Community & Health Manager. Email: colin.regan@gaa.ie

Connacht Reps

- Justin Campbell – Galway ASAP Officer, mental health/addiction counsellor (Addiction Counsellor of Ireland member) and Roscommon hurling manager. Email: justincam@eircom.net
- Dr Aoife Lane, Chair of Camogie Player Welfare Committee and Lecturer in Health Sciences, Health Sport And Exercise Science in Waterford IT. Email: alane@wit.ie

Ulster Reps

- Fiona Teague, Chair of Tyrone County Health & Wellbeing Committee and Health Improvement Manager with the Public Health Agency with a regional responsibility for Mental and Emotional Well Being and Suicide Prevention. Email: fiona.teague@hscni.net
- Cathal Hand, Chair of Monaghan Health & Wellbeing Committee, County ASAP Officer (and former Children's Officer), HSE employee. Email: chair.hwc.monaghan@gaa.ie
- Aileen Cummins, Ulster Health and Wellbeing Manager, has been co-opted onto the committee to bring the experience from Ulster's work in the area and to ensure consistency between the province and national work plans in the future. Email: aileen.cummins.ulster@gaa.ie

Munster Reps

- Dr. Janas Harrington, Lecturer in Public Health Nutrition, UCC, and Project Leader for the St. Finbarr's Healthy Club Project. Email: j.harrington@ucc.ie
- Conor Cusack, former Cork hurler, current Cloyne club player, GPA ambassador, mental health advocate. Email: ccusack111@gmail.com

Leinster Reps

- Susan Kenny, Programmes manager at the National Office for Suicide Prevention, qualified dietician and Leinster ASAP Officer. Email: susanc.kenny@gmail.com
- Dr Brendan Doody, Head of Child & Adolescent Services HSE. Email: bjdoody@eircom.net

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BIOS

Ciarán McLaughlin

Ciaran McLaughlin, Sigerson's club in Strabane Co Tyrone, proposed the motion to formally recognise the position of health and wellbeing in the GAA to his club AGM in 2012 and from there the motion went through Congress in 2013. Ciarán was appointed chair of the National Health and Wellbeing Committee formed by an Uachtaráin CLG, Liam O'Neill, in Spring 2014. His five years as chairperson of CLG Tír Éoghan comes to close in December 2014, and he looks forward to assisting his new committee members in developing and rapidly expanding the Association's work in the area of health and wellbeing.

Aoife Lane

Dr Aoife Lane, a native of Ballinderreen in Galway, is a member of the Department of Health, Sport and Exercise Science in Waterford Institute of Technology. Aoife lectures and undertakes research in the area of physical activity and wellbeing, with a particular interest in using sport as a setting for health promotion for players, clubs, and communities. Aoife is currently involved in evaluating the GAA Healthy Club Project.

Conor Cusack

Conor Cusack hails from the village of Cloyne in East Cork, working for a multi-national medical devices company in their Facilities Department. A former Cork Senior Hurler, he continues to compete and play with his club in the Cork championship. Since speaking openly about his experiences with his emotional wellbeing and his sexuality, he travels Ireland, Europe and America discussing these subjects to bring hope and encouragement to others and help to remove the stigma and taboos surrounding these aspects of the human experience. He is a Wellbeing ambassador for the Gaelic Players Association.

Fiona Teague

Fiona is currently a Health Improvement Manager with the Public Health Agency (PHA) and is the regional manager for mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention with the PHA. Fiona is also chair of the Tyrone GAA health and wellbeing subcommittee as well as development officer with her local club An Caisleán Glas Naoimh Padraig. Fiona has a background in sports development and physical activity. Having lived in New York for a number of years she is now married to Seán and has three children Tiarnán, Laoise and Seán Og. Fiona played football at both club and county level but now coaches her daughter's underage team which is challenging in itself.

Cathal Hand

Cathal Hand is from Ballybay in County Monaghan and has been involved in his local club for the past 40 years as a player and coach. Cathal qualified as a physiotherapist in 1987 and worked both as a clinician and in a management role within physiotherapy until 2006. He now works for the HSE as the Primary Care Manager for County Monaghan and holds an MSc in Healthcare Management. Cathal is a former Children's Officer with Monaghan GAA and is currently the ASAP Officer and also Chairperson of the Monaghan Health and Wellbeing Committee.



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Janas Harrington

Janas Harrington is the Project Leader of the St Finbarr's ('the Barrs') Healthy Club Project Team in Cork City. She has a BSc in Nutritional Science, an MA in Health Promotion and a PhD in Epidemiology. She works as a lecturer in Public Health Nutrition in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health in UCC. Her research work is focussed on dietary patterns of the Irish population and she has a specific interest in childhood obesity.

Brendan Doody

Graduate of Trinity College Dublin, completed vocational training in General Practice prior to commencing a career in Psychiatry and appointed Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in 2000. Clinical Director of the Health Service Executive Linn Dara Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, and Senior Clinical Lecturer in Psychiatry, Trinity College Dublin. Previously Chair of the Child and Adolescent Faculty of the Irish College of Psychiatrists, and member of the Health Service Executive Expert Advisory Group on Mental Health. Served as a Member of the Mental Health Commission from 2007 to 2012. Published Annual Reports on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services from 2009 to 2013. Elected to the Board of the European Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (ESCAP) in 2007.

Susan Kenny

Susan Kenny is a member of the Naomh Mearnóg club in Dublin and National Planning Specialist with the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention. Also a qualified dietician, she takes great interest in the role sport and healthy balanced diet plays in maintaining positive mental health. She has previously researched the lifestyles of GAA club players and in particular their engagement and consumption of alcohol. This led Susan to volunteer her time as both the Dublin and Leinster ASAP officers with the Association in the past.

Colin Regan

As manager of the GAA's Community & Health Section, Colin is responsible for ensuring that the Association is aware of and responds to the health and wellbeing needs of its members, its clubs, and the communities it serves. A former Leitrim footballer and member of the Melvin Gaels club, he worked as a journalist and editor for 12 years in Ireland and Boston before joining the team in Croke Park in 2011. He holds a Bsc in Communications (Journalism) and an Msc in Sport Management and is a member of the Healthy Ireland Council.