

Draft Constitution

NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The name of the association shall be "AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH" (AACAMH)

VISION

The vision of the AACAMH is that every child and adolescent on the African continent will enjoy optimal mental health

MISSION

The AACAMH is committed to providing effective leadership for the promotion of child and adolescent mental health on the African continent through concerted collaborative efforts in advocacy, training, scientific study and service development.

VALUES

The AACAMH believes that interventions for child and adolescent mental health in Africa should be holistic, compassionate, evidence-based, and developmentally and culturally-appropriate. The organisation will conduct its affairs according to the principles of representativeness, transparency and accountability.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the AACAMH shall be

1. To promote the development of national and regional child and adolescent mental health associations in Africa
2. To maintain a coordinating function with respect to such associations, and to promote their interests within the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP)
3. To promote the quality improvement of mental health promotion, prevention, care and rehabilitation for children and adolescents in every country on the continent
4. To promote training and scientific study in child and adolescent psychiatry and mental health on the continent
5. To forge partnerships with international organisations involved in promoting child and adolescent mental health
6. To continuously identify and develop future leaders in the field of child and adolescent mental health in Africa to carry out the Mission of the AACAMH
7. To elect a committee to support the membership and organisation of the AACAMH by means of, among others, regular communication, scientific meetings, and general meetings of the membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association shall comprise three categories: full members (national and individual), affiliate members and associate members. Membership shall be approved by the officers of the Association, upon application. Full national membership is open to national organisations of African child and adolescent mental health professionals. Full individual membership is open to individual African child and adolescent mental health professionals working in Africa or in the diaspora, whose countries of origin do not have a national child and adolescent mental health association. Affiliate membership is open to regional, national or local organisations which do not meet the criteria for full membership but wish to partner or support the AACAMH in its Mission. Associate membership is open to individual non-African child and adolescent mental health professionals who wish to support the Mission of the AACAMH.

A membership fee structure shall be proposed at a later date.

It is the intention of the AACAMH to apply for membership of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP)

OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, and not more than 5 other members, all of whom shall be resident in Africa. Two additional members may be appointed. As far as possible, all major regions and European language blocs should be represented on this committee. The election procedure shall be determined at a later date.

MEETINGS

The nature and frequency of meetings of the Association shall be determined at a later date.

Only full members, resident in Africa, will be eligible to vote

NEWSLETTER

The committee shall distribute an electronic newsletter at least twice a year.