

MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT PROJECT

COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY, 15 October 2021

This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from the Steering Committee meeting on Friday, 15 October 2021.

This project seeks to work with the Mental Health Network (MHN) Co-Leads, Executive Advisory Group (EAG) and Sub Networks to build on previous reviews and recommendations to define the unique role of the MHN in the view of the new governance structure. Ultimately the project will provide processes, structures and materials to ensure the MHN program is optimally placed to continue to provide important advice that supports the effective delivery of the Western Australian State Priorities.

For additional information and terms of reference refer to the Project landing page on the Mental Health Commission (MHC) website [here](#).

The meeting took on the form of a Validation Workshop with Jane Forward, of [janeforward & Associates](#) presenting findings and assumptions as outlined in the consultant's report. The purpose of this session was to give steering committee members the chance to discuss the report with the consultant, seek any further clarification required and give feedback direct to the consultant. This provided the opportunity to capture the perspective of Steering Committee members and any advice or suggestions they had on the information provided in the report. The conversation focused on the key assumptions that underpin the recommendations and the logic behind the findings in the report.

This session focused on five key questions:

1. Do you agree or disagree that a more agile and project oriented machinery is desired? – *members agreed*
2. Do you agree or disagree that the MHN is about statewide care reform? – *members agreed*
3. Do you agree or disagree that there is overlap and opportunity to take away duplicative activity? – *members agreed*
4. Do you agree or disagree that time-based skills leadership is required for a project and the network requires a skill appointed manager? – *further discussion required*
5. What do you believe are the main considerations that the MHC must hold in mind in reviewing the report and the subsequent communication of its decision? – *further discussion required*

Meeting attendees engaged in robust conversation and thanked Jane for the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the report. It was confirmed that the next Steering Committee meeting would be focused on each of the eight recommendations in the report, including a focus on the evaluation of Steering Committee membership and the support for Lived Experience members.

Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks.

For further information or if you have any queries, please email mhnetwork@mhc.wa.gov.au.