



Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group

Communique – Meeting 17 October 2024

The fourth meeting of the Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) was held on Thursday, 17 October 2024. This communique provides all stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting.

The JLG provides high level, system-wide, collaborative decision-making, and oversight, to deliver a system that adopts a person and family-centred approach and encapsulates whole of system priorities. This includes the transition to more community-based services that provide prevention and earlier intervention, and diversion away from acute in-patient services. The JLG is accountable for the delivery of key reform priorities including those outlined in the overarching system-wide Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030 (when completed) in alignment with the Outcome Measurement Framework (when completed).

Statement of Intent – Restrictive Practices

Dr Nathan Gibson, Chief Psychiatrist, attended the meeting to discuss and seek JLG engagement regarding the development of a Statement of Intent on Restrictive Practices. Members provided in principle endorsement to progress next steps, subject to further considerations.

Mental Health Act Compliance Action Plan (CAP) Proposed Governance

Members noted a status update on the CAP deliverables. Dr Gibson provided an update on components within the CAP which the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist is responsible for. The Mental Health Commission will continue to monitor implementation of the CAP as part of the JLG. The Department of Health will consider mechanisms for ongoing compliance monitoring.

Health Service Provider Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Service Mapping and Audit

Members received an update on the AOD service mapping and audit, noting that this work, together with the Mental Health, AOD Strategy consultation will provide guidance on priorities for development.

Deliverables for ‘Infrastructure to Support Mental Health Projects’

Members discussed the benefit of JLG oversight of mental health infrastructure projects, to be facilitated through tabling of existing governance reports.

Mental Health Act Amendments

Members endorsed a final position on recommendations regarding amendments to the *Mental Health Act 2014* noting targeted consultation to inform this work. Further consultation to follow prior to progressing for Government approval.

CLMI Mental Health Agencies Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Members endorsed the *Criminal Law Impairment Act 2023* Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, which will assist in demand forecasting and resource allocation.

Other items of note:

Dr. Steven Blefari, Director Clinical Services, WA Country Health Service was announced as the Co-Chair for the Clinical Advisory Group.

Recruitment for the Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) is nearing completion, with the inaugural meeting scheduled for late November 2024.

Members were also provided with brief updates on:

- The Joint Executive Directors Sub-Group meetings, including extensive discussions on progressing the youth stream priority.
- The phased opening of the Cockburn Clinic, which includes eating disorders and drug and alcohol withdrawal services for females.



- The renewed focus on Children in Care, together with Department of Communities.
- Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce (GRAFT).

A Project Watching Brief was also provided to the JLG to note key updates and upcoming milestones of the following items:

- Independent Review of WA Health System Governance
- Community Mental Health Treatment and Emergency Services Reform
- Eating Disorders Framework
- Outcomes Measurement Framework
- Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030
- *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*
- *Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023*
- Workforce
- Suicide Prevention.

The next JLG meeting is scheduled for 10 December 2024.