



MENTAL HEALTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE – MEETING 7 DECEMBER 2020

The purpose of the Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC) is to lead the continuous development of a mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) system that is efficient, sustainable, recovery-focused, consumer-led and integrated. The MHEC works alongside the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC) to ensure there is system integration and connection of clinical services within the wider mental health and AOD sector.

The second meeting of the MHEC was held on 7 December 2020. This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting.

Mental Health Leads Subcommittee

A Mental Health Leads Sub-Committee (MHLS) has been formed to support and advise the MHEC and assist in driving and operationalising system-wide improvements and reform in mental health services. The MHLS has been meeting monthly since September 2020 and a formal quarterly update on their activity was provided to the MHEC.

MHEC acknowledged the work progressed by the MHLS, noting that a number of items being led and discussed through the MHLS were on the MHEC agenda. In particular, key priority areas for both Committees relate to improving patient flow across the sector and addressing under-utilisation of available supported accommodation community beds; improving culturally safe care for Aboriginal consumers; and a Roadmap for community mental health and emergency response services (the Roadmap). Further detail on these key priority areas are provided below.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the MHLS were endorsed by the MHEC, and depict the reporting and communication relationship between the Minister for Mental Health, MHEC and MHLS. The MHLS ToR is available on the MHC's website at <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/about-us/sector-governance/>.

Roadmap for community mental health treatment and emergency response services

The Roadmap project is a major reform initiative to develop a system roadmap and implementation plan that provides a clear vision of the community mental health treatment and emergency response services that will best meet the needs of people in WA. It will involve investigating how current services could be optimised, reconfigured, enhanced or expanded as well as identifying where new services may be required. This will assist in keeping people well in the community by bringing system partners together to design and implement responsive and connected models of community based mental health treatment and emergency response services that reduce the reliance on emergency departments and inpatient treatment. This project is in its development stage, with a project plan to be developed following the MHEC's approval on the Roadmap's ToR and project governance. Regular updates will be provided to the MHEC on this project.

Patient flow

There continues to be a crisis in the system with people with mental health problems spending long periods in emergency departments waiting for inpatient beds. Some people are stuck in hospital beds for long periods of time because they can't get the level of support

they need in the community. There continues to be a need to improve capacity in the system to enable patient flow through emergency departments and between Health Service Providers and the community sector. A number of immediate initiatives are underway to assist relieving the pressure and ensuring people get the treatment and support they need.

Culturally Safe Care for Aboriginal Consumers

The MHEC acknowledged that a system-wide approach with local solutions was needed for improving culturally safe care for Aboriginal consumers in accordance with the *Mental Health Act 2014* in response to a report by the Chief Mental Health Advocate. This is an important project that needs to be co-designed with Aboriginal people and co-led by an Aboriginal person/organisation, with an understanding of how to build and support the Aboriginal mental health workforce across each of the Health Service Providers and address the systemwide issues raised in the Chief Mental Health Advocate's report. An action plan is to be developed and progress will be reported to the Minister for Mental Health.

Presentations

The MHEC received presentations on current activities across the sector:

- The MHC's Alcohol and Other Drugs Crisis Intervention System Service Model and its associated links to the East Metropolitan Health Service's Walk with Me project. Both of these projects resulted from the Methamphetamine Action Plan and its associated recommendations to develop alternative AOD crisis intervention options and fill the current gaps in service.
- A recent report on increasing and improving non-clinical community mental health supports in WA, which was led by the WAAMH and the UWA Centre for Social Impact. This project included extensive consumer, community and service provider consultation, and the report recommends a range of co-designed models of support for key priority groups.
- WAPHA Regional Plans are under development and seek to formalise the working relationship and responsibilities between the Commonwealth Primary Health Networks and local Health Service Providers within the Perth metropolitan and country WA regions. These plans are a 'first priority' area in the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan that aims to reduce the impact of mental illness, alcohol and other drug use, and suicidal behaviour by linking local area based services and supports, and developing area based service initiatives.

WA State Priorities Quarterly update

The *WA State Priorities Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs 2020-2024* outline the WA Government's immediate priorities to reform and improve the mental health and AOD sector over four years. The Minister for Mental Health has also emphasised the importance on the State Priorities, which are to be owned and driven by all MHEC members. A Quarterly Update on all system reform projects currently underway across the sector was endorsed by MHEC and is available on the MHC website at <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/about-us/major-projects/>.

Workforce Strategic Framework

The Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2020-2025 aims to guide the growth and development of an appropriately qualified workforce that will provide individualised, high quality mental health and AOD services and programs for the WA community. The Framework was recently released by the Minister for Mental Health on 28 October 2020 and the implementation of the Framework requires commitment from a broad

range of stakeholders. There are a lot of new services coming into effect in the next year and as a result, there is a need to ensure they are appropriately staffed with the correct skill mix. The MHEC and MHLS will collaborate on the most effective approach for implementing the Workforce Strategic Framework for mental health services, acknowledging that each Health Service Provider may have their own unique solutions and local approaches.

Items for Noting

Other topics that were on the MHEC agenda for noting included:

- an update on the WA Suicide Prevention Framework implementation;
- Emerging Drugs Network of Australia (EDNA), an initiative being developed locally at Royal Perth Hospital;
- Sustainable Health Review Strategy 2 activities;
- Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Project- formation of an internal steering committee to address planning for the Graylands site and future expansion of forensic services;
- Outcomes Measurement Framework and the work underway to enable a system-wide view of the mental health and AOD system;
- National mental health and AOD agenda and the release of the Productivity Commission's Final Inquiry Report into Mental Health; Interim Advice of the Suicide Prevention Taskforce; development of a National Natural Disaster Mental Health Framework; feedback from the Safety and Quality Partnership Standing Committee; and
- the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme for people with psychosocial disability in WA.

The next MHEC meeting is scheduled for 17 March 2021.

Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks. Communiques and other relevant documents for the MHEC and CMC are also available on the MHC's website at <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/about-us/sector-governance/>.