



## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE – MEETING 10 DECEMBER 2020

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The purpose of the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC) 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. CMC works alongside the Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC) to ensure there is system integration and connection of clinical services within the wider mental health and AOD sector.

The second meeting of the CMC was held on 10 December 2020. This communique provides all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting.

### **Roadmap for community mental health treatment and emergency response services**

The Roadmap project is a major reform initiative. The project will develop a system roadmap and implementation plan. It will provide a clear vision of the community mental health treatment and emergency response services that will best meet the needs of people in WA and keep people well in the community. The Roadmap will involve investigating systemic barriers and how current services can be optimised, reconfigured, enhanced or expanded as well as identifying where new services may be required. System partners including people with lived experience will be brought 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. The Roadmap project's expected completion date is December 2021, with an interim report due end of June 2021. Implementation of the Roadmap's recommendations will follow thereafter. However, short term solutions that will assist to also complement and inform the Roadmap will be developed and progressed in the interim. Regular updates will be provided to the CMC on this project.

### **Patient flow**

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. People with mental health problems are spending long periods in emergency departments waiting for inpatient beds, and some people are in hospital beds for lengthy periods of time because they can't get the level of support they need in the community. A number of immediate initiatives are underway to assist relieving the pressure and ensuring people get the treatment and support that is right for them.

### **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. The Minister for Mental Health has emphasised the importance on the State Priorities and transparency for the community on what the state is doing to address these. A Quarterly Update on all system reform projects underway across the sector was endorsed by CMC and is available on the MHC website at <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/about-us/major-projects/>.

## **Presentations**

The CMC 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.

## **Items for Noting**

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

- An update on culturally safe care for Aboriginal consumers of Health Service Providers and plans for a building and supporting the Aboriginal workforce;
- An update on The Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2020-2025;
- 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;
- Rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme for people with psychosocial disability in WA; and
- 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.

The next CMC meeting is scheduled for 31 March 2021.

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