

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2020

Attendees	By Zoom: Jessica Nguyen (JN), Stan Chirenda (SC), Lee Steel (LS) In person: Paul Parfitt (PP), Tracey Young (TY), Richard Oades (RO), Amit Banerjee (AB), Rod Astbury (RA), Emily Wilding (EW), Patricia Councillor (PC)	Djeran Room, MHC Thursday, 3 December 2020 08:30am – 11:30am
Chair	In person: Margaret Doherty (MD)	
Secretariat	In person: Caitlin Parry (CP)	
Guests	By Zoom: Amanda Waegeli, Consumer Representative, MHEC and CMC In person: Faith Cheek, Senior Policy Officer – Legislation Team, Mental Health Commission Kerry Hawkins, Carer Representative, MHEC and CMC	
Apologies	Gemma Powell (GP)	
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION LOG
1. Welcome and apologies	MD welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.	
2. Welcome to Country	MD acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and paid respects to Elders past and present.	
3. Acknowledgement of Lived Experience	MD recognised those at the meeting with personal and family lived experiences.	
4. Reflection: Thank you to Rod and Amit on their MHAC tenure	MD acknowledged this is the last meeting for RA and AB as they have completed their tenure on the Council. MD thanked both for their commitment to the Council and the vast breadth of knowledge and expertise they have both shared during their tenure. Their energy, thoughtful input and commitment to the Council has been greatly appreciated. Council members noted the last year has been particularly challenging and that it has been really supportive and helpful to work with both RA and AB as continuing Council members. Council members agreed that they have both brought thoughtful and informed voices to the table. Newer members appreciated the welcome they offered and their willingness to generously share their knowledge and expertise.	

	<p>AB and RA both spoke positively of their tenure on Council and what they had gained from being Council members. They wished members all the best for their future work.</p> <p>AB forwarded this article to Council members for their reflection (https://www.madinamerica.com/2020/10/insane-medicine-chapter-one/).</p> <p>MD also noted it is the MHAC one-year anniversary of the current membership group.</p>	
5. Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts of interest declared.	
6. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes	Endorsed.	
7. Action Log	<p>Completed actions: Action 108: MD has liaised with Taryn re feedback from members. Taryn appreciates that Council is reflecting on the report and discussed possible ways in which the report might be used.</p> <p>Outstanding actions:</p> <p>Action 111: TY to provide sentence of changes to 8 October minutes.</p>	
8. Budget	MD advised Council members she is continuing to monitor MHAC's Budget and track expenditure to ensure it comes in within budget for 2020-21. In line with previous discussion, the November meeting (regional visit) was limited to three hours for members attending online and the December meeting has also been reduced to a three-hour meeting.	
9. Mental Health Statutory Review Briefing	<p>Council members discussed the Mental Health Act 2014 (MHA14) and MD advised Council members that this briefing is to provide information to Council members ahead of the Statutory review of the Act, which will evaluate the overarching operation of effectiveness of the Act and the <i>Mental Health Regulations 2015</i>.</p> <p>The main points of discussion included that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MH Act is an improvement in terms of the law but that there is still a lot to be improved upon in terms of implementation. 	<p>Action 118: CP to invite Chief Psychiatrist, Dr Gibson, and Chief Mental Health Advocate, Debora Colvin, to next MHAC meeting.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in general are more aware of their rights than they once were and that this needs to be reflected in education and services provided to individuals and families who seek to assert their rights. • The question of ‘capacity’ continues to be a source of complexity. • A compassionate and caring approach to care for people referred or detained under the MHA14 is critical. <p>FC gave Council members an update on the MH Act Statutory Review process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As soon as practicable from 5 years of the launch of Act, a Statutory review of the Act and Regulations is required. • FC noted that there has been consistent feedback coming through since the Act started, with some of this information collated as part of the Post Implementation Review (PIR) held after the Act was in operation for two years. The Post Implementation Review report is available at https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/media/2540/post-implementation-review-of-mental-health-act-2014-final.pdf • The review is intended to look at the recommendations of the PIR and inform the MHC if the Act is operational and effective. Council members were advised of the consultation process for the Review and that the next step is to form the Steering Committee for the Review, undertaken consultations and provide the Review to the Minister by the end of 2022. • Council members raised questions re the composition of the Steering Committee and how broader consultations would take place. They recommended that the MHC ensure that a diversity of voices of people who have been subject to the Act and their families, advocates and supporters are well represented in the consultations. • MD noted that the Council would like to be involved and that they would wait to hear from the Legislation team in terms of timelines. MD also noted that the Act is an item on the Council’s work plan. 	
<p>10. Presentation: Consumer and Carer Representatives from MHEC and CMC</p>	<p>Council members and guests conducted a round of introductions, commencing an informal discussion between AW, KH and Council members. MD spoke of the role of Council and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to begin an ongoing relationship with AW and KH as the Consumer and Carer representatives respectively on the Mental Health Executive Committee, Community and Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council, and the Mental Health Leads Leads Sub-Committee, as one of Council’s co-designed values is to ‘hear from the voices most</p>	<p>Action 119: CP to give Council members with the Lived Experience Acknowledgement from the MHC website</p>

	<p>unheard’. These committees are part of the new system governance structure, on which the Council has previously provided Advice.</p> <p>AW and KH spoke briefly of their roles as Consumer and Carer Representatives on the above committees which have often recently been convened.</p> <p>An initial positive achievement has been the collaborative design of the Acknowledgement of Lived Experience which is now on the MHC webpage and will be used at meetings. MD noted that Council will now use this Acknowledgement in lieu of the current one given at meetings.</p> <p>AW provided background regarding the development of the Consumer movement.</p> <p>AW and KH spoke of their priorities which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping the presence of consumer and carer representatives in the mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors; • Promoting a Lived Experience workforce framework (given that the National Peer Workforce Development Guidelines are scheduled to be available in early 2021); • Advocating for different models of care and services such as those co-designed and available in the recently-released WAAMH Community Supports document: https://waamh.org.au/news/increasing-and-improving-community-mental-health-supports-in-wa • Listening to consumers and families-carers to understand their priorities. <p>Finding ways to hear from consumers and families-carers who are not present at sector consultations and are simply struggling to get through life.</p> <p>The ensuing discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to ensure that the voices of grassroots Aboriginal consumers and families are meaningfully included in discussions and decision-making in order to ensure that outcomes are culturally secure. • A strengthened focus on Aboriginal Workforce development, including in the Lived Experience workforce. <p>A requirement for skills and knowledge in Job Description Forms (JDFs) to include accessing local Aboriginal Elders and healers; knowledge and use of inclusive language, cultural understandings and knowledge; supporting robust consumer and carer voices. While different elements would be relevant for every role, all of these requirements would be essential for people in leadership roles.</p>	<p>Action 120: CP and MD to discuss adding WAAHM Community Support doc to the agenda for February as reflection item.</p> <p>Action 121: CP to check back in with Kerry and Amanda in July 2021 regarding coming back to a meeting to provide an update on their role progression.</p> <p>Action 122: Send ‘thank you’ letter to Kerry and Amanda for attending meeting.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance to explore innovation was noted. The recent Pingelly trip was discussed including innovations such as the Virtual Village which are community-led and minimally resourced at this point. <p>MD thanked AW and KH for their time and for sharing and engaging in open discussion with Council members. It was noted that the Council will check back in with AW and Kerry in July 2021 with the intent to come back to a meeting and update the Council at that time.</p>	
<p>Morning tea – MD gave a short thank you to MHC staff for attending the morning tea and for their support over the year.</p>		
<p>11. Discussions about presentation</p>	<p>The Council reflected on the great turn out at the morning tea by MHC staff.</p> <p>MD noted no advice was necessary for today’s discussion with AW and KC however wanted to hear Council members’ thoughts on the discussion. Council members agreed that they would appreciate a greater distinction between the differences of the MHEC and the CMC, and that this may come to light once the two have been further established.</p> <p>The Productivity Commission Report was briefly discussed.</p>	<p>Action 123: Send ‘thank you / merry Christmas’ letter to MHC staff for attending morning tea / working with the Council.</p>
<p>12. Advice to the Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pingelly visit <p>MD has circulated the draft advice to the Commissioner following the Pingelly trip. Council members are to send through their feedback and MD noted some amendments to be made following a brief discussion with LS.</p>	<p>Action 124: Council members to provide feedback on advice back to CP by Thursday, 10 December and CP to update.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<p>12 months on: Members’ reflections on the MHAC and their participation.</p> <p>Council members discussed the past 12 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departing members were again noted for their dedicated contributions to the Council for the length of their tenure. The endurance of the Council was noted, especially given the heightened pandemic period. It is requested that advice put to the Commissioner is published on the Council website to increase the level of transparency to the work the Council does however, it is noted that Advice may be requested and given before the work being commented upon has been made public. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members reflected that being on the Council has given them the opportunity to see how the MHC works and that it has been interesting to those whose work aligns with a different area of mental health. • Council members reflected that their membership has allowed them to develop their skills, knowledge and understandings by being involved in the Council. • Council members agreed that it is invaluable that they're able to access all of the different voices at the table and that all of them have undertaken a lot of different work in their time but how they have all done their best to advocate for the different cohorts they represent or are passionate about. It was noted that the Council table acts as an open space where members are comfortable to discuss their own experiences and opinions without judgement. • It is important to ensure that the language used in discussions avoids acronyms and 'service language' which can be off-putting and exclusionary for anyone not working in the system. Council members welcomed the challenging of this language when used. • Young People Priorities Framework – MD advised that the joint advice had been progressed to the Commissioner and that the next stages of the YPPF will happen in the new year. 	
<p>13. Values Representative</p>	<p>RA was the Values Representative for the meeting.</p>	
<p>Meeting closed at 11:30pm</p>		
<p>NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Thursday, 4 February 2021 Mental Health Commission</p>	