



## **COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE - MEETING 31 MARCH 2021**

The third meeting of the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC) was held on 31 March 2021. This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting.

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

Key themes emerging from this CMC meeting included the need to improve community-based support and care, prevention, early intervention and primary care initiatives; emerging models for contemporary mental health support and the priorities for progressing and implementing these models, and the importance of integrating and embedding lived-experience in service design and delivery.

### **Increasing and Improving Community Mental Health Supports in WA – Report**

The Report was led by WAAMH and the UWA Centre for Social Impact and included extensive consumer, community and service provider consultation. The Report recommends a range of co-designed models of support for key priority groups and it is acknowledged that local analysis work is needed to ensure the models remain fit for purpose. This is a critically important piece of work and the models need to be disseminated and incorporated into services across the sector. Further work is being undertaken to determine what mechanisms will enable the findings and models in the Report to progress to action on the ground and will be driven by CMC.

### **Supporting people with complex needs in the community**

There continues to be a focus on improving capacity across the system to provide appropriate care and support to people with complex mental health and AOD needs, and to enable patient flow through emergency departments and from inpatient services to the community. While several projects, such as the Roadmap Project (detailed below), will deliver major reform, there is a need to continue to devise and implement immediate and short-term solutions.

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) is working closely with non-government organisations and Health Service Providers to collaborate on initiatives that provide alternatives to inpatient and Emergency Department treatment; support hospital discharge; and promote rehabilitation and recovery in the community. Key projects that CMC received updates on are: Mental Health Transitional Care Unit; Secure Extended Care Unit; Community Care Unit; One Stop Shop Pilot; and Youth Mental Health and AOD Homelessness Service.

### **Roadmap Project- Community Mental Health Treatment and Emergency Response Services**

The Roadmap project will lead to fundamental system reform for public community mental health treatment and emergency response services. The project will deliver an evidence-based, system-wide Roadmap with proposed models of service, commissioning models, referral pathways and governance arrangements. It will include a costed implementation plan and evaluation framework to ensure the services are responsive, accessible, person-centred and seamlessly connected.

The Roadmap project will adopt a phased approach so that interim project findings are made available to inform more immediate initiatives, such as where existing public mental health services can be optimised, reconfigured, enhanced or expanded. This includes consideration of 7-day-a-week service profiles and a shift to focusing on inclusion rather than exclusion criteria.

The Roadmap for services related to infants, children and adolescents will be informed by the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia.

The roadmap project will report regularly to the MHEC and CMC. The steering committee is being co-chaired by a person with lived experience and includes a representative from CMC.

## Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia

On 14 December 2020, Hon Roger Cook MLA, former Minister for Mental Health announced a Taskforce would be formed to address a recommendation that arose from the [Chief Psychiatrist's Review into the Treatment of Ms Kate Savage by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services](#)<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of the Taskforce is to clearly articulate a vision for public specialist mental health services for children and adolescents across WA, by developing a whole of system plan for State Government funded specialist child and adolescent mental health services.

The Taskforce is led by independent chair Ms Robyn Kruk AO and the first Taskforce meeting was held on 11 March 2021. The final report will make recommendations to the Minister for Mental Health with actions and a costed implementation plan. It will be delivered by 30 November 2021. Throughout the course of the project, CMC and MHEC will be kept informed of the progress and consulted as required. Extensive stakeholder engagement and consultation is planned. Further information on the Taskforce, including regular communiques, is available on the [MHC website](#)<sup>2</sup>

### Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Planning

A mental health and AOD workforce that is appropriately resourced with the correct skill mix is recognised as essential in the provision of best-practice care and support that meets the needs of individuals and their carers. The current and mounting pressures on the workforce are acknowledged, as well as anticipated workforce shortages due to significant expansion and commissioning of new public and private services; expansion of community mental health and AOD services, including an increase in people living with a psychosocial disability being participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS); and movement of staff between the non-government, public and private sectors.

Workforce is an urgent issue that needs both immediate solutions and long-term strategies to address staffing requirements across the sector. There is also a need to ensure the skills, capability, capacity and structure of the workforce complements contemporary service models including the development of the peer and Aboriginal workforces.

Informed by MHC's Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2020-2025, the Department of Health is undertaking a mental health workforce planning project to deliver a five-year strategy to support the future expansion of mental health services across the public system. The MHC will convene meetings with key community stakeholders to determine the best way to progress workforce planning for the community sector.

### WA State Priorities Quarterly update

The latest Quarterly Update on all system reform projects currently underway across the sector was endorsed by MHEC and is available on the [MHC website](#)<sup>3</sup>

### Items for Noting

Other topics that were on the CMC agenda for noting included MHC's updated stakeholder engagement framework; commencement of a system-wide data working group; updates on the National Agenda, suicide prevention, and the NDIS; the establishment of the Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce, to inform the Government's planning and investment decisions regarding the Graylands Hospital site and forensics services; and progress towards recommendations from the [Non-admitted Mental Health Services Evaluation](#)<sup>4</sup>, recommendations from the [Mental Health Emergency Response Line \(MHERL\) and Rurallink Evaluation](#)<sup>5</sup>, and an implementation plan for the [Young People's Priorities for Action 2020-2025](#)<sup>6</sup>.

**The next CMC meeting is scheduled for 23 June 2021.** *Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks. Communiques and other relevant documents for the CMC and MHEC are available on the [MHC's website](#)<sup>7</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.chiefpsychiatrist.wa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CP-Targeted-Review-Report-KS-Review-081220.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/about-us/major-projects/ministerial-taskforce-into-public-mental-health-services-for-infants-children-and-adolescents-aged-0-18-years-in-western-australia-the-taskforce/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/about-us/major-projects/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/media/3523/non-admitted-mental-health-services-evaluation-executive-summary-july-2020.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/media/3522/mental-health-emergency-response-line-evaluation-executive-summary-2020.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/media/3489/yppa-young-people-priorities-for-action.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/about-us/sector-governance/>