

MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT PROJECT

COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY, 9 JULY 2021

This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from the Steering Committee meeting on Friday, 9 July 2021.

The external consultant, Jane Forward of [janeforward Consulting](#), engaged by the Mental Health Commission (MHC), presented a proposed project consultation plan. Members reviewed the proposed plan, discussed the methodology and stakeholder list and agreed to endorse the plan as proposed.

This project seeks to work with the MHN Co-Leads, Executive Advisory Group and Sub Networks to build on previous reviews and recommendations to define the unique role of the MHN in the view of the new governance structure. Ultimately the project will provide processes, structures and materials to ensure the MHN program is optimally placed to continue to provide important advice that supports the effective delivery of the Western Australian State Priorities.

For additional information and terms of reference refer to the Project landing page on the MHC website [here](#).

The proposed consultation plan is summarised below:

Two workshops are being undertaken at the end of July 2021 with invitees to include MHN Steering Committee Members, MHN Executive Advisory Group Members (including Mental Health Lead Sub Committee representative), MHC Liaison Representatives and MHC Executive Leaders. Sub Network Steering Committee Co-Chairs are asked to ensure that a balanced mix of consumers, carers, NGO and HSP are included in the representatives they nominate.

A third workshop will be run virtually at the end of August 2021 with the purpose of presenting the conclusions drawn from the consultation process and 'check-in' with consultation participants to ensure that nothing has been overlooked. Expression of interest to attend will be taken during registration at workshops one and two.

The consultation process aims to capture a snapshot-in-time perspective of what is within the constraints of the MHN's existing purpose, value proposition, and the MHN new governance structure and its strategic priorities, focusing on what needs to be repositioned. It is important to stress that this project is not a review, but an exercise of effective realignment.

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) techniques are being applied to the design of the consultation process. AI assumes that there is a solution to be embraced rather than a problem to be solved. The AI approach aims to form a basis to harness a strengths-based authentic approach to the responses gathered at the workshops.

The workshop questions will underpin the design and delivery of the workshops and are offered to the MHN stakeholder groups to support internal discussion so that their representatives can attend the workshop from an informed position. Please remember that each question will be premised within the context of the MHN's existing purpose, MHC strategic priorities and the new governance structure.

Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks.

For further information or if you have any queries, please email mhnetwork@mhc.wa.gov.au.