


# MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2021

<b>Attendees</b>	Virginia Catterall (VC), Dr Pauline Cole (PCole), Richard Oades (RO), Paul Parfitt (PP), Lee Steel (LS), Emily Wilding (EW), Andrew Williams (AW), Tracey Young (TY), Patricia Councillor (PC)	Mental Health Commission Djeran Room, Level 1, 1 Nash Street Perth WA 6004 and MS Teams  Thursday, 10 June 2021 08:30am – 12:30pm
<b>Chair</b>	Margaret Doherty (MD)	
<b>Secretariat</b>	Caitlin Parry (CP), Matthew McCoulough-Fry (MM)	
<b>Guests</b>	Eamon Ryan, Inspector of Custodial Services, Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services Jane Chilcott, CEO, Linkwest Tash Dale, Assistant Director Strategic Policy (MHC) Emma Timms, Principal Policy Officer, System Development (MHC)	
<b>Apologies</b>	Jessica Nguyen, Gemma Powell	
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION LOG</b>
<b>1. Welcome and apologies</b>	The meeting was opened by the Chair at 08:30am and apologies were noted.	
<b>2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners</b>	The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.	
<b>3. Acknowledgement of Lived Experience</b>	The Chair recognised those at the meeting with personal and family lived experiences.	
<b>4. Reflection</b>	Members reflected on the following video: <a href="#">Johann Hari TED Talk</a> and noted that it is important to remember that people who live with depression are not “a machine with broken parts, they are humans with unmet needs”.  Paul advised that it is common for Aboriginal community members to go back to Country, to clear their thoughts and recover wellbeing. Being with people who share the same ground and language allows people to relax and reconnect.	<b>Action 147:</b> RO to provide details of the book on happiness by Richard Layard to CP for circulation to Council members.
<b>5. Conflicts of Interest</b>	No conflicts of interest declared.	

<p><b>6. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes</b></p>	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting were endorsed, subject to amendments being made to item 8.</p>	<p><b>Action 148:</b> PP, TY and RO to provide amendments to item 8 of the 13 May 2021 minutes.</p>
<p><b>7. Action Log</b></p>	<p><b><u>Completed actions:</u></b> All actions except those noted below as outstanding are now complete.</p> <p><b><u>Outstanding actions:</u></b> <b>Action 144</b> – This action is ongoing. <b>Action 137</b> – The invitation has been drafted for Learne Durrington to attend a future Council meeting. <b>Action 139</b> – Patricia will liaise directly with Jill Rundle to deliver her feedback on the Co-Occurring Capability Tool.</p>	
<p><b>8. Budget</b></p>	<p>The increase in the budget was acknowledged and appreciated by members.</p>	
<p><b>9. Presentation: Inspector of Custodial Services</b></p>	<p>Mr Ryan introduced himself, explained the role of the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services (OICS) and gave a brief history of the work that has been done by the OICS. The OICS was established in 1999 and legislation was passed in 2003 requiring inspections of custodial facilities to be conducted at least once every three years. One hundred and thirty-five reports have been published and tabled in Parliament. Reports are publicly available at <a href="http://www.oics.wa.gov.au">www.oics.wa.gov.au</a>. Of particular relevance is the 2018 Prisoner Access to Secure Mental Health Treatment report <a href="https://www.oics.wa.gov.au/reports/prisoner-access-to-secure-mental-health-treatment/">https://www.oics.wa.gov.au/reports/prisoner-access-to-secure-mental-health-treatment/</a>.</p> <p>Members discussed the inspection and review processes, as well as issues related to assessment, diagnosis and access to clinical mental health care in a custodial environment.</p> <p>Members discussed the need for training of custodial staff, including access to courses such as Mental Health First Aid, Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid, and youth mental health first aid. The impact of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) was also raised as a concern. Mr Ryan advised that the OICS reports often recommend that greater training is required within the prison system, including Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training for people in prison who are peer support workers. In addition, there is a need for appropriately staffed and resourced therapeutic</p>	<p><b>Action 149:</b> CP to invite Eamon Ryan to present to Council again in six months.</p>

	<p>units to be created in prisons given the current demand and lack of access to secure beds at the Frankland Centre.</p>	
<p><b>10. National Agreement on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention – Update</b></p>	<p>Natasa Dale and Emma Timms provided information on the National Agreement on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (the National Agreement), including the partnerships with Department of Treasury, Department of Health, and Department of Premier and Cabinet.</p> <p>Emma advised that the \$2.3 billion allocated to mental health over four years in the federal budget is part of the first phase response to the Productivity Commission Report into Mental Health and National Suicide Prevention Taskforce advice. There will be a Mental Health Senior Officials Group who will sign off on what measures are being undertaken and how the funding will be distributed. There will be bilateral negotiations with each jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Members queried how findings or recommendations from the current Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health, the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse, the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide, will impact on the funding pathways. Emma advised that the Victorian State Government has adopted all of the recommendations made by the Victorian Royal Commission and funding was provided through their State Budget. There is a principle at the national level that as many mental health recommendations as possible will be addressed. However, all jurisdictions are at different stages of their bi-lateral negotiations.</p> <p>Members raised concern that the \$2.3 billion will be going through the Department of Health, which has a focus on hospital beds and clinical treatment, rather than supporting the social determinants of mental health. It was advised that Prevention, Early Intervention, Suicide Prevention, Workforce and Treatment are those areas included in this first phase. Poor public transport access and regional differences were noted by members and it was reiterated that regional WA is very different than, for example, regional Victoria.</p> <p>It was advised that the negotiation strategy is still in development and the Mental Health Commission (MHC) would like feedback from members on the second phase investment from the Commonwealth and what the priorities should be for WA. Members suggested that place-based, community funding decisions which are driven by social outcomes should be at the core.</p>	<p><b>Action 150:</b> ET to send a link on the recommendations from the Productivity Commission Review which are being addressed by the National Agreement, to CP for circulation to members.</p> <p><b>Action 151:</b> LS to send through link to the Department of Communities tool for communities to CP for circulation to members.</p> <p><b>Action 152:</b> MD to draft dot point priorities on the National Agreement to provide to ND and ET.</p>
<p><b>BREAK</b></p>		
<p><b>11. Presentation: Linkwest</b></p>	<p>Jane Chilcott provided information on Linkwest and spoke to the attached presentation.</p> <p>Members discussed the independent nature of community based and led groups and acknowledged that this encourages engagement, as opposed to groups that are government-run</p>	

 <p>Linkwest Presentation to MH/</p>	<p>as they tend to be more risk averse. It was noted that the number of people volunteering has declined nationally, and Jane advised that within Linkwest, this may be the case in Board or leadership positions, but not so when it comes to activities. There also seems to be a trend among younger people to want to volunteer for a discrete period or on a project basis.</p> <p>Questions were raised about how the centres cope with receiving members of the public with mental health conditions. Jane advised that there is an Employee Assistance Program in place and staff are being given mental health first aid training. Linkwest centres provide a space for many of the peer or other user groups and some centres also provide counselling services.</p>	
<p><b>12. Taskforce Interagency Group Update</b></p>	<p>Tracey provided an update on the two Taskforce Interagency Group meetings which have been held so far.</p>	
<p><b>13. Discussion on presentations and advice to the Commissioner</b></p>	<p>Council members discussed draft advice and the presentations given by the guests today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice to the Commissioner following the presentations from family members at the last meeting has been drafted and was accepted by members.</li> <li>• The presentation delivered by Eamon Ryan was discussed and it was noted that relevant information will be incorporated in advice being drafted for the Commissioner.</li> <li>• Members discussed the National Agreement and it was decided that Margaret will provide dot-point priorities to the MHC.</li> <li>• It was acknowledged that Linkwest provides a vital point of connection for communities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action 153:</b> Family member advice to be put on template and progressed to Commissioner.</p>
<p><b>14. Values Representative</b></p>	<p>Patricia provided a review of the values as they were represented in the meeting, noting that almost all of the discussion today focused on ensuring that unheard voices are listened to.</p>	
<p><b>Meeting closed at 12:30pm</b></p>		
<p><b>NEXT MEETING</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday, 8 July 2021</b> <b>Mental Health Commission</b></p>	