

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2021

Attendees	Andrew Williams (AW), Jessica Nguyen (JN), Lee Steel (LS), Paul Parfitt (PP), Tracey Young (TY), Richard Oades (RO), Emily Wilding (EW), Dr Pauline Cole (PCole), Virginia Catterall (VC), Patricia Councillor (PC)	Mental Health Commission Djeran Room, Level 1, 1 Nash Street Perth WA 6004 and MS Teams Thursday, 8 July 2021 08:30am – 12:30am
Chair	Margaret Doherty (MD)	
Secretariat	Caitlin Parry (CP), Matthew McCoulough-Fry (MM)	
Guests	Jennifer McGrath, Mental Health Commissioner, Mental Health Commission Caroline Heffer, Principal Policy Officer, Mental Health Commission Peta Sands, Principal Policy Officer, Mental Health Commission Sara Walsh, Principal Policy Officer, Mental Health Commission Keisha Calyun, Board Member, Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board	
Apologies	Gemma Powell (GP)	
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION LOG
1. Welcome and apologies	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.	
2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners	The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land and paid respects to Elders, past and present.	
3. Acknowledgement of Lived Experience	The Chair recognised those at the meeting with personal and family lived experiences and acknowledged all those effected by the current environmental problems we are experiencing and that these can be stressors for people.	
4. Reflection: Language and Stigmatising  Reflection on Stigmatising Mental	Council members reflected on the ways that mental health is stigmatised and discussed the importance of being mindful about language used generally and when speaking with, or referring to, people who are experiencing mental health issues.	
5. Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts of interest declared.	

6. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting were endorsed.</p>	
7. Action Log	<p><u>Completed actions:</u></p> <p>The majority of actions have now been completed, with the only exception listed below.</p> <p><u>Outstanding actions:</u></p> <p>Action 148: PP, TY and RO to provide amendments to item 8 of the 13 May 2021 minutes.</p> <p>It was decided that PP and RO would work together to send through amendments to the Mental Health Commission (MHC) Secretariat by 10th July.</p>	
8. Budget	<p>It was agreed that Council members would aim to attend two meetings per year in person as a group. Which meetings these are will be pre-arranged so to ensure as many Council members as possible are able to gather together.</p> <p>Council members discussed opportunities for a regional visit with Geraldton suggested for March 2022. It was agreed that regional visits need to have a clear purpose and outcome.</p>	<p>Action 155: Planning for regional trip to commence.</p>
9. Mental Health Commissioner Update	<p>Mental Health Commissioner (Commissioner), Jennifer McGrath, provided an update on the following MHC projects, noting that these projects are about providing implementable outcomes to make effective changes to the system.</p> <p><u>The Infant, Child and Adolescent (ICA) Taskforce</u></p> <p>It was acknowledged that the current system requires work, but there is positive engagement being made, particularly with staff, to provide information on what is needed in this space. An Emerging Directions document will be released at the end of July, which will provide an overview of the findings prior to the release of the final report in November 2021. This will allow revision to the models of service to better meet the needs of the community.</p> <p><u>The Graylands and Forensics Taskforce (GRAFT)</u></p> <p>The MHC has worked with the Department of Health (DoH) to model what is required in this process, results of which will be provided to State government. Sophie Davison, Chief Medical Officer MHC, is co-ordinating Expressions of Interest for a clinical advisory group and a Lived Experience advisory group for this project. Council members queried what modelling had been used to inform the number of beds required for forensic patients and it was advised that the MHC</p>	<p>Action 156: Invite Sophie Davison to the August meeting to discuss the steering and advisory groups for the GRAFT.</p> <p>Action 158: All Council members to provide any data sources to CP to distribute within the MHC.</p>

and DoH has worked with the Department of Treasury based on useful information from experiences in the Queensland system as well as the information already contained in the WA Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025.

The Roadmap for Community Mental Health Treatment Services, including Emergency Response Services (Roadmap)

The Roadmap is reviewing the current state of community treatment and emergency response services in Western Australia. KPMG have been appointed as consultants on this project. The Minister for Mental Health and the Minister for Health are both actively involved in the Roadmap project, and a Roadmap Steering Committee has been formed and is working well. Models of Service from around the world are being investigated for potential suitability of use in Western Australia. The timeline for this project is to release an interim report in November 2021, with the final report to be delivered in February or March 2022.

Council members discussed the importance of considering all interested parties in ensuring that services and models of care are appropriate to the diverse nature of the population in Western Australia. The Commissioner advised that the outcome of these reports will provide direction to the State government on how the issues in these areas of our mental health system can be addressed in a considered, consistent, and sustainable way.

Council members discussed data gathering, modelling and reporting measures and were encouraged by the Commissioner to forward any information on data sets that they have to the MHC to ensure that the MHC is across all available data.

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<p>10. Workforce Strategic Framework</p>	<p>Caroline Heffer and Peta Sands provided Council members with an update on the Workforce Strategic Framework (Workforce Framework) project.</p> <p>Caroline advised that the Aboriginal and peer workforces have been identified as priority groups for this financial year and sought suggestions from Council members regarding other priority areas. It was clarified that this is about both attracting new members to the peer workforce and supporting existing members in the mental health, alcohol and other drug areas. Council members discussed misunderstandings about supervision, in particular clinical supervision, in the sector and acknowledged that this is a prevalent issue. Education training and ongoing supervision for workers in the sector was identified as key to improving competency and ensuring that the current workforces could work to their maximum scope of practice. The provision of Training and development in differentiating and providing effective and supportive supervision including clinical, peer and case supervision is recommended.</p> <p>It was suggested that the existing peer workforce training scholarship system could be expanded to include a pathway for broader inclusion as there is a disparity between the numbers of consumers and carers accessing the scholarship program and the workforce.</p> <p>Council members stressed the importance of Community Resource Centres, particularly in the regions, and it was noted that these would also be a useful information resource on the needs of the peer workforce and community spaces in the regions for the MHC to gather further knowledge. It was acknowledged that there are people in regional areas who are providing services but may not be registered and thus may fall through the gaps for access to workforce development opportunities. Council members discussed the importance of 'care in place' and capacity building within communities. For young people in Aboriginal communities, it is important to have roles and workers who proactively seek out those in need of assistance rather than waiting for them to come to services.</p> <p>The Community Pharmacy Network was identified as an underutilised resource and if its members were to be provided with training and development in mental health, alcohol and other drugs, they could be another resource in the community, particularly in smaller towns which might have limited resources.</p> <p>LGBTIQA+ representation in the Workforce Framework was discussed and members again expressed concern about the lack of inclusion during the consultation process. Caroline advised that there is a possibility of community supports being implemented that may assist those who are on the long waiting list to access clinical services.</p>	<p>Action 159: Caroline to provide template for assisting organisations to promote workforce development to CP for circulation to council members.</p> <p>Action 160: RO to provide information on the work he is doing on embedding social outcomes in indigenous funding programs to CP to forward to Caroline.</p> <p>Action 161: Council members to provide any other areas for improvement to CP to forward to Caroline.</p>
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<p>11. Mental Health Commission Engagement Update</p>	<p>Sara Walsh provided an update on the Working Together Framework and the Stakeholder and Partnership Engagement Framework (Engagement Framework).</p> <p>It was advised that there is a new Stakeholder Engagement Framework which is designed to support the existing Working Together Framework, not replace it. As a part of the new Engagement Framework, the MHC is establishing Engagement Champions within the MHC, which will run on a rotational basis in order to build the capacity and understanding of engagement and lived experience across the MHC. The Stakeholder Connect component will be the primary communication platform to facilitate connection with stakeholders outside of the MHC and is scheduled for launch in late July 2021.</p> <p>Council members suggested that invitations to Stakeholder Connect targeted at different types of groups should be formatted to provide an appropriate level of information for that group, and that perhaps a recorded information package could also be useful. Council members suggested that contacting professional and peak bodies, student radio stations, the Linkwest network, ConnectGroups, and the Community Pharmacist Network would work well to increase awareness of the platform in those networks, as well as through mental health, alcohol and other drug specific networks.</p>	<p>Action 162: Sara to provide information on the framework and Stakeholder Connect for circulation to council members.</p>
<p>12. Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board Update</p>	<p>Keisha Calyun provided an update on the activities of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board (AODAB) noting that at the AODAB meeting in June, AODAB members received updates on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Unit Price; • Banned Drinkers Register; • Cardiff Violence Prevention Model; and • Volatile Substance Abuse. <p>Council Members discussed their ongoing concerns regarding the implementation of a Minimum Unit Price without careful consideration of the impacts it will have on regional communities and supports that would be required. It was noted that there are many other issues that will be created if access to alcohol is limited, including a reliance on other substances and profiteering among backdoor sellers known as 'sly groggers'.</p>	

<p>13. Discussion on presentations and advice to the Commissioner</p>	<p>Forensic issues to be raised at the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC)</p> <p>Council members discussed the ongoing issue of the inadequate number of beds at the Frankland Centre, noting that this is a common understanding among clinicians, and that the process needs to be looked at because there are no clear guidelines as to how the wellbeing of individuals can be maintained in these circumstances.</p> <p>It was noted that bed numbers are a common issue across the mental health sector, with mental health patients often being discharged to make room for new patients. It was also acknowledged that people under mental health orders in hospital have a right to advocacy under the Mental Health Act 2014, while those detained on remand or sentenced in prison do not. It was agreed that select Council members would work together out of session to formulate a paper to take to the CMC.</p>	<p>Action 163: MD, LS, VC, and RO, to meet out of session to formulate a paper for the CMC.</p>
<p>14. Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further Board Chairs meeting was held on 7th July. This includes the Chairs of the MHAC, Disability Services Commission Board, Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability and is convened by the Carers Advisory Council. One of the issues raised was that over 80% of mental health carers noted that they were under additional stressors due to COVID-19. However, carers generally have not been identified as a vulnerable group either during COVID-19 or for vaccination purposes. It was also noted that a significant amount of the funding previously available for carer respite was rolled into the National Disability Insurance Scheme and is now unavailable to support carers. . • A YHA Australia hostel on Wellington Street, has been re-purposed as a one hundred bed shelter for those experiencing homelessness, managed by two Aboriginal organisations Wungening Aboriginal Corporation and Noongar Mia Mia. It is due to open on 1st August 2021. • The former Rod Evans Community Centre in East Perth has been opened as an overnight safe place for women experiencing homelessness. Citiplace Community Centre is now opening their doors from 10pm to 6am to allow people to shelter overnight. 	
<p>15. Values Representative</p>	<p>Andrew Williams was the values representative for the meeting and noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reflection item provided by Lee Steel today allowed members to consider how they speak with regard to mental health issues which aligns with the value of respecting diversity; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keisha Calyun’s attendance and contribution helped to highlight the intersection of mental health and alcohol and other drugs related issues;• The Commissioner’s presentation on the three major projects encompassed all aspects of the values that the Council is committed to; and• The Engagement Framework discussed by Sara Walsh demonstrated the value of hopefulness.	
Meeting closed at 12:30pm		
NEXT MEETING	Thursday, 12 August 2021 Mental Health Commission	