



STEERING COMMITTEE - ROADMAP FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT INCLUDING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

COMMUNIQUE – MEETING 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

The sixth meeting of the Roadmap for Community Mental Health Treatment, including Emergency Response Steering Committee (Steering Committee) was held on 21 September 2021 (noting that the Steering Committee met on two extraordinary occasions since the last communique was released). The Steering Committee is co-chaired by Ms Amanda Waegeli, Consumer Representative and Dr Sophie Davison, Chief Medical Officer Mental Health, Mental Health Commission (MHC). This communique has been developed to provide stakeholders with a summary of key points of discussion and outcomes of this meeting.

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide strategic oversight and guidance to the development of the Roadmap to ensure it is fully costed, future proofed, and both implementable and transformational. The Steering Committee includes clinical, lived experience, Aboriginal, and Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC) representation. The Steering Committee works alongside an internal MHC Project Team and appointed consultancy to develop a clear vision for community mental health treatment and mental health emergency response services that will best meet the needs of people in Western Australia of all ages who require specialist community mental health care and/or emergency mental health care. It should be noted that the Roadmap steering Committee is committed to endorsing a rights-based, recovery-oriented, experiential lens where change is intended to be transformational, and should translate at the community level. The Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC), the CMC, and the Mental Health Leads Sub-Committee (MHLS) are fundamental components of the governance structure for the Roadmap Project.

Project Timeline Update and Review

The Mental Health Commissioner has endorsed the time frame for finalisation of the Roadmap to be pushed to August 2022. This will ensure there is adequate capacity for thorough consultation throughout the project across regional and metropolitan areas. This will include lived experience engagement to ensure the experiential lens is captured, alongside engagement with clinicians, health service providers, non-government organisations (NGOs), and other key stakeholders.

Discussion Paper

The Steering Committee and project team are currently working towards completion of the Discussion paper – the first publicly released output of the Roadmap, by November 2021 for Ministerial Media release on 6 December 2021. The purpose of the Discussion paper is to summarise the desktop and literature review, present consultation outputs to date, identify gaps and opportunities, and articulate the case for change. This paper will inform the next stage of consultations and ultimately the final Roadmap, which is due to be completed in August 2022. After being published publicly, a submissions portal will be opened to invite stakeholders to submit feedback on the Discussion paper.

Expert Working Groups

Expert Working Groups (EWGs) have been established, with the first round of workshops taking place in September. These EWGs bring together clinical, lived experience, NGO, and interagency representatives.

The working groups will meet three times between September and November before the joint Steering Committee and EWG workshop in November - the aim of which will be to finalise and endorse the Discussion paper for publication.

Outputs of the EWGs will be consolidated in the Discussion paper, however some of the key messages emerging from the first round of workshops included:

- A system under pressure, where the under-resourced workforce, insufficient care pathways, and inadequate service availability are not aligned with the increasing demand.
- Community based services are focused on exclusion rather than inclusion criteria and are often restrained by limited operating hours.
- Primary responders, including police and ambulance, need to be appropriately trained and equipped to provide support to people, their carers, and families in the event an emergency response is required.
- Aboriginal people should have access to safe, secure and responsive support services.
- Service delivery is currently disconnected and siloed, contributing to inconsistent care pathways, and challenges in funding consistency.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19 October, 2021.

Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks. Communiques and other relevant documents are available on the [Roadmap Webpage on the MHC's website](#).

If you have any questions or comments please email CommunityRoadmap@mhc.wa.gov.au