



MENTAL HEALTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE - MEETING 15 March 2022

The seventh meeting of the Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC) was held on 15 March 2022. This communique provides all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting. This meeting was scaled down due to COVID related priorities and a potential peak coinciding with the meeting.

The purpose of the MHEC 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 MHEC works alongside the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC) to ensure system integration and connection of clinical services with the wider mental health and AOD sector.

The key priority projects of the MHEC and CMC continue to be the [Community Treatment and Emergency Response Roadmap](#), [Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents](#), [Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce](#) (GRAFT) and the Long Stay Patient Project. Addressing the mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) workforce shortages and building a skilled and sustainable workforce through a suitable workforce plan and appropriate strategies are also a key priority.

The MHEC is focused on emerging findings of key projects, intersections with existing services and practical implementation for sustained change ensuring that lived-experience perspectives are a priority across the mental health sector.

COVID-19 HSP and Mental Health Services update and Psychiatric Hostels

The Department of Health and Health Service Providers (HSPs) meet regularly to assess and coordinate the response to address Covid19 changing priorities. The key issue for the sector is inpatient bed flow and availability due to impact of Covid related hospitalisations, in response the focus is on keeping people well in the community and reduce unnecessary admissions. Members noted that Covid positive patients in Mental Health Units are being managed well.

HSPs are increasingly integrating Lived Experience representatives and perspectives into front-line and on-the-ground services, work team and advisory groups.

COVID-19 Psychiatric Hostels

Residents of Psychiatric Hostels have been identified at high risk from an infection control viewpoint and house very vulnerable residents. The MHC established a Hostel COVID Contact Point (CCP) in March 2022 to act as the single point of contact for all the 31 private psychiatric hostels. The CCP assists hostels with COVID related issues, ensures cases reported are prioritised and escalated appropriately within the hostel. The CCP also coordinates communication between the relevant hostel, State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC), State Welfare Incident Coordination Centre (SWICC) and Office of Public Advocate. This central point ensures timely, accurate and consistent communication and escalation across agencies, it also provides a forum for information sharing and cooperation amongst hostels.

The MHC has also provided additional grants to expand staffing levels, cleaning schedules, purchase equipment and services to maintain the physical, social and mental wellbeing of residents.

Community Treatment and Emergency Response Roadmap Project

The [Roadmap](#) Project is progressing a draft Discussion Paper which is intended for public consultation. The Discussion paper was developed to describe the challenges in the system and outlines a vision and principles for the future system improvements. The Discussion paper will be progressed to the Minister for Mental Health for consultation. The Roadmap communique is available on the [MHC website](#)

Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants

The Ministerial Taskforce [Final Report](#) into Public Mental Health Services for Infants ([ICA Taskforce](#)) was made public on 15 March 2022. The Final Report and its 32 recommendations provide the framework to transform the mental health system into a contemporary, evidence-informed model of service and models

of care that meet the needs of children aged from 0 – 18 years. The Government is now prioritising work and resources to progress the implementation phase, with the immediate actions being undertaken in the 2022-2023 period. More information is available on the [MHC website](#).

The Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce (GRAFT)

GRAFT informs the Government's planning and investment decisions regarding the Graylands hospital site, forensic mental health services and the nearby Selby Older Adult Mental Health Service. The project is progressing and more information will be included in the [MHC website](#) as it becomes available.

Mental Health Workforce Planning

The current shortage across the public health and community sectors continues to be a top priority and a critical issue across the committees. In the short-term, the Government is working to increase the number of workers across critical areas of care including nursing, medical, community care and peer workers. Members discussed a long-term sector wide objective to review models of care to ensure a sustainable workforce development, including a peer workforce and the services that are needed.

Members reiterated their commitment to ensure that Lived Experience representation is essential to the planning, implementation and evaluation of workforce models [MHC website](#).

Other Items of note:

Other topics that were on the MHEC agenda for noting include:

- National agenda.

The [WA State Priorities Quarterly Update](#) February 2022 on all system reform projects underway was endorsed by MHEC and is available on the [MHC website](#).

The next MHEC meeting is scheduled for 16 June 2022.

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