



MENTAL HEALTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE - MEETING 03 March 2023

The thirteenth meeting of the Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC) was held on 03 March 2023. This communique provides all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this 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 with the Lived Experience perspective front and centre. 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 Implementation of Infant, Child and Adolescent (ICA) Taskforce Recommendations, reform of community mental health treatment and emergency services and the Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce (GRAFT). Addressing the mental health and AOD workforce shortages and building a skilled and sustainable workforce through a suitable workforce plan and appropriate strategies are also a key priority

Implementation of Infant Child and Adolescent (ICA) Recommendations

Three models of care (MOC) were presented to members including complex trauma, support to schools and justice and forensics. The MOC for complex trauma focuses on children aged from 0-17 years of age with complex psychological and behavioural support needs. The MOC for justice and forensics will guide delivery of mental health services for children and young people with mental health needs, who are at risk of offending or who have offended. The support to schools MOC describes how Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) will work with schools to support children in education environments and provide resources to support schools.

MHEC members discussed the models and were interested to understand what the anticipated outcomes would be as a result of the models.

The process to develop the MOCs was endorsed, however members requested additional information before they could endorse the models themselves.

Solution to 16-17 year old cohorts

Members were advised that immediate actions which included funding to enhance emergency departments to create child safe spaces and establishment of acute care response teams to provide mobile crisis or intensive responses for ICA have been supported. As a result, submissions have been made in the 2023-24 ICA budget process to fund these initiatives.

Work is underway in both the Mental Health Commission (MHC) and the Department of Health to address key gaps and to plan the way forward for actions to be progressed. This includes capturing both quantitative and qualitative data to help inform decisions.

Workforce Planning

Julie Argus, the Executive Director Allied Health has commenced with the MHC and is working closely with stakeholders to build the capability and capacity of the allied health mental health workforce with an emphasis on the ICA.

A needs assessment tool and Peer positive training sessions have been developed and are being rolled out to stakeholders while an organisational tool kit will be made available via a dedicated peer workforce website which will be launched in the near future. Further work to map mental health roles and responsibilities and an audit of mental health positions is underway with recommendations around workforce planning to be developed.

Community Mental Health Treatment Services, including Emergency Response Services

Approval to proceed has been granted by Cabinet and work is being undertaken to develop a vision for community mental health encompassing practical recommendations and an implementation plan to identify gaps in services. This work will incorporate a strong governance framework with Lived Experience participation integral to its development.

Key initiatives are underway and include: benchmarking exercise, review of partnerships between HSPs and NGOs, Integration of peer workers into community treatment teams, Broome pilot for Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing and police response, review and streamline processes and documentation, completion of needs based modelling, and progression of a 2023-24 Budget submission.

Consumer representative member for Mental Health Leads Sub-Committee

MHEC members endorsed the appointment of Ms Virginia Catterall as the MHEC's LE Consumer proxy on the Mental Health Leads Sub-Committee (MHLS).

Other Items of note:

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

- Progress of the 'Your Experience of Service' survey results
- Membership updates including the conclusion of a term for a long standing and valuable consumer representative, Ms Amanda Waegeli. Members recognised the importance of Amanda's role and her strong leadership, bravery, and ongoing commitment to the improvement of well-being for all Western Australians. Members were invited to celebrate Amanda's work and achievements at a farewell Morning tea.
- MHEC sub-group meetings with the Minister for Mental Health

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