Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services Transformation

(formerly Mental Health Services Review)

Welcome to the eleventh Information Bulletin about the Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol (MHDA) Services Transformation project.

We are currently working on the planning necessary to identify the detail of the future service mix and the range of community services required to best meet the District's population needs and align with contemporary practice. To do this, the Implementation Steering Committee identified seven key projects, each with a project lead and project reference group. The project leads come together with Meg Simpson, the Project Manager, to form the Services Transformation Project Team.

This information Bulletin focuses on Project 5: Services for people with drug and alcohol related needs.

The Project Reference Group consists of members who have a diverse range of skills and experience combined with a sound understanding of the challenges encountered in the delivery of MHDA services in rural and remote communities.

Project Reference Group 5:
Project lead - Kristine Smith, District Coordinator Drug and Alcohol (D&A)

- Terry Buckerfield, Senior Team Leader D&A Dubbo & Region - Project Steering Committee Representative.
- Dr Lee Nixon – Addiction Medicine Specialist/ Clinical Director D&A
- Helen Gotch - Senior Team Leader D&A Orange & Region
- Deryk Slater – D&A Clinical Leader Orange & Region
- Jacqui Power – D&A CNC Dubbo & Region
- David Moles - D&A Specialist Worker Parkes
- Leon Smith – Regional MH Worker Dubbo & Region
- Melody Cole – NUM Bathurst D&A Program

The purpose of the project is “to make recommendations on the range and volume of LHD delivered community drug and alcohol services required in WNSWLHD over the next 2 - 5 years – within a contemporary model of care”.

It relates specifically to Recommendation 2 of the Mental Health Review: “enhance and strengthen the current hub and spoke approach as its model for the delivery of community services, in order to adequately meet the needs of those population groups perceived as currently being underserviced – people with drug or alcohol misuse”.

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The project is aimed at improving service access and outcomes for people who are affected by issues relating to their drug and alcohol use.

Services within the scope of the project include all LHD funded or provided community based Drug and Alcohol services for youth, adults and older adults excluding the following services which are currently undergoing a state-wide NSW Ministry of Health led review: Opioid treatment Program; MERIT Program and D&A Consultation Liaison Service.

The MHDA Review also excluded all state-wide services based within the District, including the Involuntary Drug and Alcohol Treatment Unit.

The project group has met several times and has developed the first draft of a project plan. The initial stage of the project focuses on the development of this plan which outlines the steps needed to gather the necessary data and evidence in order to be able to make recommendations on the range and volume of the community Drug and Alcohol services required in Western NSW LHD over the next two – five years.

This includes:
- A stocktake of the current level and spread of Drug and Alcohol services available to people across the District (both internal and external)
- Obtain data from other parts of the state for comparison
- Decide on appropriate service levels for the District
- Take steps to progressively address gaps any identified service gaps following a literature review to identify contemporary models of service delivery.

The project group is also working closely with the other MHDA Service Transformation projects to ensure we work towards models of care that contribute to closing the Aboriginal Health gap and improving the MHDA consumer journey.

This project is very exciting and allows for creativity in the approach to embed a contemporary and evidence based service model for Drug and Alcohol in the District. Further it allows for findings of the current state-wide reviews to be embedded in the future service model, and the consideration of expansion of services to youth and older adults who are an expanding target group for Drug and Alcohol services.

If you have any questions about the project or would like to provide some input, please contact us.

**Next Info Bulletin:**
Community service design for infants, children and adolescents with mental health challenges

We welcome your input either through the Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Review email address: WNSWLHD-MHReview@health.nsw.gov.au
Or by contacting Meg Simpson, the Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Review Project Manager: Meg.Simpson@health.nsw.gov.au

**More Information**
[Click here for Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding the purpose and key findings of the Review.
Further feedback and questions can be emailed to WNSWLHD-MHReview@health.nsw.gov.au.
These emails will be answered on a regular basis.
You can also view the “Rising to the Challenge: Mental Health Services Review video presentation by [clicking here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gmJoKZnBYM).