Mental Health Services Review

Work is now well underway in the next phase of the District’s Mental Health Services Review process. The Implementation Steering Group has been established and initial information sharing sessions about the key findings and recommendations took place with senior managers, clinicians and external stakeholders who were consulted as part of the review on 15 and 16 July 2014. Two additional information sessions have also been held by the Mental Health Drug & Alcohol management team out of Orange and Cowra with videolink to other sites talking around the key findings of the Mental Health review and detailing the next steps going forward. These information sessions will be ongoing and stakeholders are being encouraged to raise any concerns or questions at these forums. The next forum will be held in Dubbo on a date to be advised.

There have been some good ideas and questions raised through a Mental Health review email address and senior managers are having a number of discussions with clinical staff about these ideas. All Stakeholders are encouraged to use this email address - NSWLHD-MHReview@health.nsw.gov.au - to ask questions and share ideas about the Review.

A significant amount of work has taken place over the last month in regards to planning for the implementation of the Review. This includes:

- looking at a review of the MHDA management structure for Western NSW
- continuing the recruitment action for a permanent MHDA Director
- establishment of a working party to look at the formation of crisis houses for mental health patients in the areas of Bathurst/Lachlan/Mudgee/Cowra
- multiple meetings with Western NSW Medicare Local (WML) looking at integrated projects for joint ambulatory client management and some education sponsored by the WML around integrated partnerships.

An important element of the implementation of the Review is the recruitment of a Project Manager who will coordinate the various project groups currently being established to consider the Review recommendations, support the MHDA and Project Teams as they work through and conceptualise the dimensions of this change to service delivery and facilitate any subsequent changes. An advertisement for this temporary full time position has been placed and interviews are to be held in the next few weeks. Project Officer support will also be appointed to work with the Project Manager, Project Teams and the MHDA team as the project progresses. This will be pivotal to work with the newly formed project groups.

The Mental Health Review Steering Committee met again in Orange on August 22. A significant focus of this meeting was planning for the next steps forward, including forming a number of key working parties to look at the major recommendations for the review. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 12 September.

More Information

Click here for Frequently Asked Questions (http://wnswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/UserFiles/files/Hot%20Topics/MHSR%20FAQs.pdf) regarding the purpose and key findings of the Review. 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).

Updates will continue to be provided on a regular basis.

There is also an email address for further feedback which people can ask questions via: WNSWLHD-MHReview@health.nsw.gov.au