Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services Transformation

(formerly Mental Health Services Review)

Welcome to the thirteenth 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 1 - Service design for adults and older people with mental health conditions and high support needs.

Project lead: Ian Rawson, District Clinical Coordinator, Specialist Mental Health Services for Older People (SMHSOP)
- Sue Bonar, Mental Health Worker, Rehabilitation and Partnerships
- Michelle Coore, Allied Health Manager, Orange Health Service
- Jenelle Crow, CNC Mental Health Rehabilitation
- Bronwyn Hyde, Senior Social Worker, Bloomfield
- Jeanette Lymbery, NUM, Endeavour House, SHIPS
- Gabrielle McNamara, Occupational Therapist, Mental Health Rehabilitation Services, Bloomfield
- Zita Spicer, Early Intervention and Partnerships, SMHSOP
- Dr Ivan Srzich, Clinical Director, SMHSOP
- Kristen Szulik, Social Worker, SMHSOP

The purpose of this project is to make recommendations on the range and volume of adult and older adult non-acute inpatient, residential, community support, assertive community clinical treatment and continuing care services required in Western NSW over the next 2-5 years – within a contemporary model of care. This project relates specifically to Recommendation 1 of the review: that the LHD moves to a more contemporary model of care by decreasing inpatient care and increasing community services and residential services for adults with non-acute mental health conditions and older people with non-acute mental health conditions.

The project reference group has been meeting regularly and has developed two draft project plans - one for adults with high support needs, and the second for older people with high support needs. These plans outline the key steps required in order to be able to make recommendations on our future service models for this population group.

These include:
- Estimating the level of demand for services (both inpatient and community) for adults and older people with mental health conditions and high support needs... continued page 2
• Engaging in thorough clinical needs assessments for all people who have spent, or are predicted to spend more than six continuous months within the in-scope services (both inpatient and community mental health residential)
• Arranging external clinical reviews to identify the groups of people who use the Bathurst Panorama unit and the Dubbo Rehabilitation and Recovery unit, and the degree of alignment between the models of care offered within these services and contemporary models of care for these groups
• Gathering information on contemporary models of community-based clinical and support service delivery for adults and older people with mental health problems and high needs
• Developing preliminary recommendations regarding service types, configuration and volumes for the spectrum of non-acute inpatient and community-based residential services, including which services could be delivered by the LHD and which could potentially be delivered by other services such as NGOs.

This project group is also working closely with the other Mental Health Drug & Alcohol Service Transformation projects to ensure that we work towards models of care that contribute to closing the Aboriginal Health gap and improving the Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol consumer journey.

If you have any questions about the project or any of the others or want to provide input, please contact us.

DON’T FORGET: We welcome your input 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).