Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services Transformation
(formerly Mental Health Services Review)

Welcome to this 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 2 – Service Design for People Acutely Unwell/In Crisis

Project lead: Sharon McIntyre – Campus Nurse Manager, Bloomfield Hospital

- Helen McFarlane – Acting Director of Nursing, Bloomfield Hospital, Steering Committee Member
- Kath Smith – Staff Specialist, Dubbo Inpatient Unit
- Dannielle Nobes – RN, ED Cowra Hospital
- Kylie Gregory – Coordinator, Family and Carers (Orange)
- Kaye Crawford – RN, Brewarrina Community Mental Health
- Therese Lajter – CNC, Acute Inpatient Services, Orange
- Anne Ind – CNC, Acute Inpatients, Orange
- Sharon Buxton – Psychologist, SMHOPS Inpatient
- Anne Lindsay – NUM MHEC

The project purpose is to make recommendations regarding the range and volume of acute inpatient and community-based acute services required in Western NSW over the next two to five years within a contemporary model of care.

The services within scope of the project include:

- Orange Adult Acute Inpatient Unit
- Orange Intensive Care Inpatient Unit
- Orange Sub-Acute Inpatient Unit (Amaroo)
- Dubbo Adult Acute Inpatient Unit
- Orange Older Persons Acute Unit
- MHEC-Rap (crisis/acute care component
- SHIPS crisis/step-up services
- Community-based after-hours crisis/emergency services
- Mental Health Services provided in declared emergency departments

The Mental Health Review recommended that the LHD needs to move to a more contemporary model of care by decreasing inpatient care and increasing community services for adults who are acutely mentally unwell.

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This project will reflect the Health District’s strategic priorities:

- develop a coherent system of care, support high performing primary care,
- close the Aboriginal Health Gap,
- live within our means, and
- improve the patient’s experience.

To date the main focus for the Reference Group has been developing the draft project plan, looking at ways of communicating about the Services Transformation Project and commencing the literature review for the project.

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

Reference Group Project Plans

All the Project Reference Groups have been working on developing their draft project plans, which have now been endorsed by the Implementation Steering Committee. The Chief Executive should be in a position to endorse the plans in January, and it is planned they will be available on the intranet in early February.

The Implementation Steering Committee also considered the recommendations from Project 6 Reference Group in regard to the sites for the MHDA Rural and Remote Integrated Pilot Projects. The Reference Group made recommendations in regard to a number of rural and remote sites based on:

- Interest and capacity of
  - MHDA staff to support a project
  - Other LHD staff/services to support the project
  - Primary Care / Medicare Local / NGPs to support the integration
- MHEC- RAP/MHROS capacity to support integration, including tele-health access
- Learning from these sites could be applied to other sites
- Site consistency with LHD priorities for integrated care
- Capacity to align with key Review goals including Closing the Gap

The Implementation Steering Committee endorsed Cowra as the Rural site and Brewarrina as the Remote site.

MHDA Contemporary Practice Workshop

The first in a series of Participatory Workshops on Key Themes of MHDA Contemporary Practice for Western NSW LHD staff was held on the 1st December at the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, Bloomfield Campus in Orange.

Adrian Fahy, Acting Director MHDA and Meg Simpson, Project Manager, welcomed the participants - members of the Project Reference Groups and the Implementation Steering Committee who came together for the first time and trialled a participatory workshop approach.

Those in attendance workedshopped issues related to contemporary care and systems change, heard presentations from the recent World Congress on Integrated Care and shared ideas about future workshops and how best to engage staff and stakeholders in the Transformation Project.

The workshop was a partnership with the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (CRRMH) and was jointly facilitated by Meg Simpson and David Perkins, Director CRRMH. 45 people attended and actively participated. On a scale of good, average or poor over 70% rated the day as good.

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=3gmlcKZnBYM).

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