

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WA MENTAL HEALTH COVID-19 RESEARCH
PANEL, HELD VIA ZOOM ON 14 APRIL 2020**

ZOOM Link: <https://uwa.zoom.us/j/559040219>

PRESENT:

Professor Sean Hood (University of Western Australia) Chair
Dr Travis Cruickshank (Edith Cowan University)
A/Professor Wendy Cumming-Potvin (Murdoch University)
Dr Caitlin Fox-Harding (Edith Cowan University)
Dr Salam Hussain (University of Western Australia /Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital)
A/Professor Libby Lee-Hammond (Murdoch University)
Dr Sara Hansen (Edith Cowan University)
Dr Judy MacCallum (Murdoch University)
Professor Peter McEvoy (Curtin University)
Professor Vera Morgan (University of Western Australia)
Dr Elizabeth Newnham (Curtin University)
Mr Keith Wilson (Meeting for Minds)

Executive Officer (Leanne Hall)

APOLOGIES:

Previous minutes: amendments to item 2

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members, and noted this is a more informal meeting due to it being a University holiday.

2. CONTACT LIST

Professor Hood List reminded members of the contact list being compiled, including members research interests, ongoing projects and so forth. Please email Leanne or Professor Hood if you want your details added. Please also flag if you have any media interests.

3. DIRECTORY OF MEASURES

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/CIVIC%20study%20COVID%20mental%20health%20measures>

Professor McEvoy gave an update on the database of measures he is currently working on. The database contains a list of Questionnaires, including whether they can form core Measures CIVIC; target population, what it measures, the number of items, and potential research questions. Split into Adult & Children, and Targeted Sample measures i.e: burnout for healthcare workers

Suggested Demographics are highlighted, with those highlighted green already being covered in the CIVIC trial. Children and Adolescents will be captured via Telethon Kids Institute, with Professor Graham Hall currently applying for ethics approval.

Timings: ethics approval is already given via CIVIC for weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 6 months, 12 months and Annual. Aiming to spread measures across the first four weeks, with a suggested frequency to spread out the number of items per week.

Professor McEvoy recommended using Baseline DASS, as it is also being used by the Busselton Cohort and some of the CIVIC trials, so will be useful to track population level changes; however, going forward the PHQ-9 and GAD-7 would be better options.

Dr MacCallum commented on the appropriateness of the context of measures such as resilience, as they were not written for periods of social isolation. Also suggested burnout questionnaires for teachers.

A/Professor Cumming-Potvin queried whether the gender demographics were open-ended or binary, and also recommended surveys that could be useful in the LGBTIQ+ space. Professor McEvoy confirmed that yes the demographics do include non-binary gender questions.

Professor Hood suggested adding a column to the questionnaire tab to clarify the domain each questionnaire covers, in order to assist with selection.

A/Professor Lee-Hammond queried whether there would be any issues regarding accessing data collected via CIVIC, and sharing it for analysis and publication in other studies.

Professor Morgan and Dr Cruickshank queried whether physical exercise/lifestyle factors are being collected. Dr Cruickshank commented that he is working with Dr Fox-Harding to find a suitable short measure to cover these aspects (i.e.: IPAQ, SIMPAQ). Professor Morgan commented that Professor Anna Waterreus was involved with the development of the SIMPAQ, and that it was particularly developed for people with mental illness.

ACTION:

Professor Hood to clarify Data Access with WAHTN / CIVIC
Professor McEvoy to contact Professor Reid to clarify whether Physical Activity measures are already being captured in CIVIC.

4. WORKING GROUPS

Professor Hood has added two suggested Working Groups to the Contact List, with CIVIC being the primary, over-arching group. The second group is Workforce, covering both Health and Education.

A/Professor Lee-Hammond advised members that she is keen to work across campuses/disciplines looking into workforce issues, and is trying to ascertain interest from other members. Professor's Hood and McEvoy, and Dr Newnham all expressed an interest, as well as Dr Cruickshank, whose group is interested at looking at not-for-profit providers and those looking after people with chronic medical conditions in the community. A/Professor Lee-Hammond would also like to explore access to collecting data from indigenous communities.

Mr Wilson flagged peer workforce mental health aspects.

ACTION:

A/Professor Lee-Hammond appointed the Educational Co-Lead of the CoVID Workforce Working group. Dr Lee-Hammond will contact interested/potential members and set up a sub-group meeting, to be held 9.30am each Tuesday after the main meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Professor Morgan mentioned that she, Professor Flavie Waters, and Asst/Professor Anna Waterreus are looking at forming a group to look into people with severe mental illness. Will report back at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

20 April 2020

ZOOM Link: <https://uwa.zoom.us/j/559040219>