

BRIEF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WA MENTAL HEALTH COVID-19 RESEARCH PANEL, HELD VIA MS-TEAMS ON 22 JUNE 2021 from 0830-0900

PRESENT:

Professor Sean Hood (The University of Western Australia) Chair
Dr Ali Fardinpour (Wise Realities)
Ms Rolee Kumar (The University of Western Australia)
Dr Judy MacCallum (Murdoch University)
Professor Anna Waterreus (The University of Western Australia)
Professor Jo Badcock (The University of Western Australia)
Professor Gary Geelhoed (Executive Director, WAHTN)
A/Professor Peter Wright (Murdoch University)
A/Professor Joanne Dickson (Edith Cowan University)

Executive Officer (nil)

APOLOGIES:

Professor Rosa Alati (Curtin University)
Dr Travis Cruickshank (Edith Cowan University)
Professor Caroline Mansfield (Notre Dame University)
Professor Peter McEvoy (Curtin University)
Professor Andrew Page (The University of Western Australia)
A/Professor Wendy Cumming-Potvin (Murdoch University)
Professor Vera Morgan (the University of Western Australia)
Dr Elizabeth Newnham (Curtin University)
Professor Osvaldo Almeida (The University of Western Australia)
Dr Rhiannon Halse (Curtin University)

Previous minutes: N/A

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members, and introduced new member A/Professor Kristin Naragon-Gainey.

2. WADOH ANNOUNCEMENT OF \$6M FOR COVID RESEARCH & INNOVATION

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/pages/mcgowan/2020/05/coming-together-to-make-covid-19-research-a-priority.aspx>

3 WAMH-CORP RESEARCH PROJECTS – HOW TO COLLABORATE AND STRENGTHEN THESE FOR FUTURE SUBMISSIONS

Ms Wilkie suggested that one step the group needs to be undertaking, in parallel to the project, is communicating with the audiences about the information that the group is working on, i.e.: the people who are going to use the knowledge (industry, government agencies, service delivery, community organisations and so forth), so they can think about how it will impact on their current planning. As an example, the WA Council of Social Services which is working on how COVID-19 is impacting community at psycho-social level, recently held a breakfast with community leaders, heads of government agencies, corporates,

philanthropists etc, and as a result, gained extra funding that covered the shortfall of the Lotterywest funding they recently received.

Advised that any communication should to be issued by Professor Geelhoed as the Executive Director of WAHTN. Also recommend a strong plan of action.

Ms Wilkie offered to work with the group to assist with creating a strategy, and advising on people that would be important to approach.

Professor Page provided an update on a recent meeting he had with Dr Ron Edwards, the Mental Health Commissioner, Ms Jennifer McGrath, and a number of MHC staff to discuss the WAMH-CoRP group's activities, and if there were any questions they would like answered with which the group could assist. Received a positive and encouraging, response, and the MHC will provide feedback with specifics to formulate the questions they would like addressed. They are particularly interested in indigenous health (and the work of Professor Helen Milroy and Professor Pat Dudgeon), and older adults. Youth and youth mental health is already well looked after, so they are looking to other areas.

They would also like to bring together current data with people who have the expertise to analyse the data, and provide evidence for public health policy. Professor Page commented it would be very useful to get more input from Ms Wilkie, including how to approach the various stakeholders.

4 CAPABILITY STATEMENT – WORKING GROUPS/RESEARCH STREAMS

Professor Hood shared with members the capability statement prepared by Ms Dench.

5. DIRECTORY OF MEASURES

Discussion Deferred

6. WORKGROUP UPDATES

a. CIVIC

Discussion Deferred

b. Digital Telehealth

Discussion Deferred

c. Workforce

Discussion Deferred

7. PROJECT UPDATES

a. Severe Mental Illness

Professor Waterreus reported that the group has put together a draft to look at surveying mental health staff working in the community (older adults), to assess what changes have been made because of COVID-19, and what they would like to see continue with their practice. Professor Waters is discussing with NMHS to gauge their interest in progressing. Professor McEvoy suggested aligning with Dr Newnam's work targeting health worker staff at Fiona Stanley, Royal Perth, Sir Charles Gairdner and King Edward Memorial Hospitals. CIVIC could also disseminate to WA Country Health Service.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Dr Fardinpour informed the group that their Lotterywest grant for buying new headsets for The Feel Better community program was successful. Additionally an American company donated a UVC machine for cleaning the headsets. If anyone in the group is interested in

working together on how digital technology can help with mental health improvement, please contact Dr Fardinpour directly.

NEXT MEETING

+ 2 months, date TBC