

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WA MENTAL HEALTH COVID-19 RESEARCH
PANEL, HELD VIA ZOOM ON 28 APRIL 2020**

ZOOM Link:

<https://uwa.zoom.us/j/559040219?pwd=bJqenFtTEJNNlhNcmRGejVqNVY0dz09>

Or use this link to the same room:

<http://rebrand.ly/wamhcorp>

PRESENT:

Professor Sean Hood (University of Western Australia) Chair
Dr Jacquita Affandi (Curtin University)
Professor Rosa Alati (Curtin University)
Professor Jo Badcock (The University of Western Australia)
Dr Danielle Bartlett (Edith Cowan University)
Dr Travis Cruickshank (Edith Cowan University)
A/Professor Wendy Cumming-Potvin (Murdoch University)
A/Professor Joanne Dickson (Edith Cowan University)
Dr Rob Eikelboom (Ear Science Institute Australia)
Dr Ali Fardinpour (Wise Realities)
Dr Veronica Gardiner (Murdoch University)
Dr Caitlin Fox Harding (Edith Cowan University)
Mr Ben Horgan (Curtin University)
Dr David Lawrence (The University of Western Australia)
Dr Libby Lee-Hammond (Murdoch University)
Dr Judy MacCallum (Murdoch University)
A/Professor Caroline Mansfield (Notre Dame University)
A/Professor Dorit Maor (Murdoch University)
Professor Peter McEvoy (Curtin University)
Professor Vera Morgan (the University of Western Australia)
Dr Elizabeth Newnham (Curtin University)
Dr Michelle Olaithe (The University of Western Australia)
Professor Andrew Page (The University of Western Australia)
Dr Jarrad Paul (St God of John Midland)
Professor Anu Rammohan (The University of Western Australia)
Professor Christopher Reid (Curtin University)
Professor Suzanne Robinson (Curtin University)
Professor Anna Waterreus (The University of Western Australia)

Executive Officer (Leanne Hall)

APOLOGIES:

Ms Rolee Kumar (The University of Western Australia)
Dr Alecka Miles (Edith Cowan University)

Previous minutes: accepted

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members.

2. UPDATE FROM WAHTN COVID19 RESEARCH COLLABORATION MEETING

No meeting on Monday due to the public holiday. Professor Hood will update members next week.

3. WORKGROUP UPDATES

a. CIVIC

Professor Reid updated the members on the CIVIC project. The baseline module developed (DASS-21) is fairly limited - demographics, clinical characteristics, occupation etc. but useful as it made use of previous cohorts.

The State Government is looking likely to invest into a screening program involving schools; being developed with the Telethon Kids Institute (Professor Jonathan Carapetis and Professor Peter Gething). It will form part of the DETECT Group.

The DETECT group is focusing across a variety of occupational groups (i.e.: FIFO, teachers, emergency department personal, paramedics etc) in surveillance, monitoring and early detection of increasing COVID-19 in those populations with the changes to social restrictions. The CIVIC team is in discussion with DETECT around longer-term follow-up of mental health implications, as an add-on to upfront screening and detection. There is a meeting with the Minister of Health this afternoon to discuss the DETECT program, and the opportunity to link to longer term mental health and social outcomes incorporating the CIVIC program.

b. Digital Telehealth

Dr Olaithe advised members that they have discussed which measures to use to assess digital and face-to-face services, and have entered these into the directory. Professor McEvoy has put together a Word document of the measures for prioritization and timing, and would welcome any feedback. (Civic CORE mental health measures v1.docx - <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/fwq9o53t4a6k676loz28j/CIVIC-CORE-mental-health-measures-v1.docx?dl=0&rlkey=w8a24fzfp1zflq15835bsqhh3>)

Have also created a doodle poll to discuss other projects to work on

c. Workforce

Dr MacCallum updated members on the Workforce Working Group. The group meet last Tuesday, and Dr MacCallum has prepared a Google document of potential focus research questions and measures for others to add to. Next questions are where to go from here, and what options for proceeding; i.e.: establishing a set of measures to assess how teachers and health workers adapting, and whether to offer pathways to support based on responses. Also need to explore whether to piggy-back onto CIVIC or start from scratch.

Professor Rosa Alati has offered to co-lead the group with Dr MacCallum.

Professor Hood advised that he has been in conversation with Professor Gary Geelhoed (WAHTN) regarding the activities of the group. Professor Geelhoed is advocating for a collaborative approach and for projects to integrate, to avoid duplication. Professor Geelhoed also indicated he is happy to host the WAMH-CoRP minutes etc on the WAHTN website.

4. DIRECTORY OF MEASURES

Professor McEvoy thanked everyone for their feedback and suggestions for sleep measures. Have decided on a final sequence for sleep; an initial 2 item screener; scores 2 or less lead to a further two brief measures.

Week 2 measures are scheduled to go out next week: PHQ-9, GAD-7, a wellbeing scale, sleep measures, and the Copenhagen burnout inventory (for those employed).

Total of 65 items, with an additional 14 items for those with poor sleep.

Week 4 measures; weight concerns, brief-COPE, behavioural activation, repetitive negative thinking, alcohol use, brief AUDIT, resilience, and prolonged grief (total of 61 items)

Week 6 measures; PHQ-9, GAD-7, wellbeing and sleep, obsessive-compulsive inventory, loneliness scale, emotion regulation, and the Lubben Social Network questionnaire (69 items plus 14 if poor sleep).

Also a number of single item measures covering health service utilisation (telehealth, digital and face-to-face), domestic and family violence, media consumption, and health professional consultation.

5. PROJECT UPDATES

a. Serious Mental Illness

Professor Morgan advised that Professor Waters will be investigating if NMHS is interested in pursuing an audit of staff and patients to explore the impact of COVID-19 on mental health service providers and users. Also considering which questions to address. Will be meeting again later this week and will report back to the group at the next meeting.

Professor McEvoy mentioned that Joondalup Health Campus is conducting a survey of young families.

Professor McEvoy queried whether it would be worth considering measures of perceived benefits of changes, rather than focusing on mental ill-health. A/Professor Dickson agreed it would be useful to include (possibly as a free text question at the end of the survey).

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. WA Guardianship and Administration Amendment (Medical Research) Bill 2020

Professor Hood alerted members to the WA Guardianship and Administration amendment (Medical Research) bill. This is essentially a modification to conducting medical research in WA to align with national policies (particularly in instances where consent is unavailable – i.e.: patients in ICU).

NEXT MEETING

5 May 2020

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<https://uwa.zoom.us/j/559040219?pwd=bJQenFtTEJNNIhNcmRGejVqNVY0dz09>

Password: 768197

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