

Minutes of District Joint Consultative Committee (DJCC)

DATE: Tuesday 22 February 2022

VENUE: Skype for Business

PRESENT: Michael DiRienzo (Chief Executive) - Chair, Kim Nguyen (Executive Director – Workforce & Allied Health), Ramsey Awad (Executive Director – Infrastructure and Planning), Kevin O’Malley, (Senior HR Manager Corporate), Brendan Flynn (Executive Director - Mental Health Services), Sue Buckam (A/Director of Nursing and Midwifery), Karen Kelly (Executive Director - Greater Metropolitan Health Services), Susan Heyman (Executive Director – Rural and Regional Health Services), Paul Craven (Executive Director – Children Young People and Families), Leanne Johnson (General Manager Greater Newcastle Acute Network – John Hunter Hospital), Tracey Gaddelin (HSU), Nola Scilinato (NSWNMA), Ashley Dobozy (NSWNMA), John-Paul Marx (NSWNMA), Kim Plazier (NSWNMA Representative), Gwenny Asimus (HSU), Steph Clarke (HR Officer - Corporate).

APOLOGIES: Tony Gilbertson (Executive Director – Finance), Matt Byrne (Senior HR Manager Industrial Services), Trish Davidson (Executive Director – Medical Services, Elizabeth Grist (Director – Clinical Services, Nursing and Midwifery), Samantha McMaster (NSWNMA Representative), Scott Grant (NSWNMA Representative), Damien Lee (ASMOF), Greg Luxton (NSWNMA Representative), Jeff Knee (HSU Representative), Donna Riley (HSU Representative),

ITEM NO.	TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY (TIMELINE)
1.	<u>Attendance / Apologies</u>	As Above.		
2.	<u>Declaration of Conflicts of Interest and Confidential Items</u>	Nil.		
3.	<u>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</u>	Minutes of meeting held on 9 November 2021 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.		
4.	<u>Presentations</u>	Nil.		
5.	<u>Business Arising from Previous minutes / Outstanding Actions</u>	Mr Nguyen and Mr O’Malley confirmed a report will be set out to individual Associations. The report will list the current advertised positions relating to the Associations members. Ms Plazier requested role vacancy reports be provided to the Reasonable Workload Committee.	Recruitment vacancy report to be sent to Associations ASAP Ms Johnson confirmed she will provide a role vacancy report to Reasonable Workload Committee	Mr Kevin O’Malley, Senior HR Manager Ms Leanne Johnson, Executive General Manager John Hunter Hospital

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6.	<p><u>General Business</u></p> <p>6.1 Infrastructure update</p>	<p>Dr Awad provided an overall update on the Health Districts infrastructure programs which are at varying stages. The PowerPoint presentation has been provided with the minutes.</p> <p>Ms Dobozy asked about plans for Cessnock hospital. Dr Awad confirmed the Health Districts intention would be a brand new hospital.</p> <p>Ms Plazier asked about Maitland Hospital's capacity to provide relief to John Hunter Hospital.</p> <p>Mr DiRienzo confirmed Maitland Hospital has been commissioned and services transitioning and will provide relief where required.</p> <p>Mr DiRienzo confirmed there are cost considerations that need to be deliberated very carefully when considering increasing Maitland's service capacity.</p> <p>Ms Scilinato requested an update on the Forster Health Services. Mr DiRienzo confirmed at this point there had been a \$20m commitment, the Health District now have to present options to the Ministry for proposed service plans.</p> <p>Ms Scilinato requested a timeframe for Manning Hospital. Dr Awad confirmed the likely finish date for this project is early 2025. Some non-clinical staff will need to be relocated onsite and appropriate office spaces have already been located.</p>	<p>Dr Awad to provide an infrastructure update to the committee twice per calendar year.</p>	<p>Dr Ramsey Awad, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Planning.</p>
7	<p><u>Standing Items</u></p> <p>7.1 Budget Update</p>	<p>Mr DiRienzo spoke on behalf of Mr Gilbertson to provide the budget update.</p> <p>To the end of January 2022 HNE unfavourable to budget. This is comprised of expense and revenue being unfavourable.</p> <p>The financial result continues to be impacted by COVID related expenditure, as has been the case for the last 2 years of the pandemic. The majority of the reported expense unfavourability relates to COVID incremental expenditure (examples include - pathology testing; PPE; vaccination hubs; public health related expenditure) that is funded by the MoH one month in arrears.</p>		

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	7.2 Workplace Health and Safety	Mr Nguyen confirmed the Health District continues to trend down on lost time injury frequency rate. Mr Nguyen acknowledged the hard work staff and management do to prevent injury and return people to work.		
8.	<u>For Information</u>	Mr DiRienzo confirmed the Health Districts commitment to recruiting to hard to fill positions and the importance of permanent positions. Mr DiRienzo also stressed the importance staff retention.	Mr Nguyen and Mr O'Malley to explore with their teams the reasons for temporary appointments	Mr Kim Nguyen, Executive Director of Allied Health and Workforce and Mr Kevin O'Malley, Senior HR Manager
		<p>Ms Scilinato raised a concern that Armidale was recent on bypass due to staff absences.</p> <p>Ms Heyman shared Ms Scilinato's concerns that this occurred and is an increasing occurrence in rural areas. Ms Heyman confirmed unfortunately nursing isn't the only staffing concerns and that the services aim to risk mitigate when faced with this situation.</p>		
9.	<u>Next Meeting</u>	24 May 2022, 10am – 12pm		