

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

**Date:** 17 August 2021  
**Time:** 1300 - 1400  
**Chair:** Prof Bill Brakoulias, Executive Director, Mental Health Services  
**Secretariat:** Michelle Geraghty, Executive Assistant to Executive Director MH  
**Venue:** Skype

# Minutes

Attendance: Bill Brakoulias, Carolyn Fozzard, Geoff Sheargold, Gerard Drinan, Steve Nguyen, Jennifer Humphries, Wade Norrie, Daria Korobanova, Michelle Geraghty, David Holmes, Dominika Nambiar

HSU: Brendan Roberts, Randall Millington, Tamara Wright Mayuri Parmar,

NSWNMW: Nicholas Howson, Veronica Black, Mark Murphy

ASMOF Damien Lee

### Item 1 Welcome and Apologies

- Meeting opened
- Bill Brakoulias welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Main focus of meeting will be on Covid.
- Apologies were received from Frances Cavallaro

### Item 2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Staff Consultative Committee meeting held on April were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting endorsed

### Item 3 Actions from the Previous Minutes

Refer to action log

### Item 4 Update from Industrial Organisations

#### 4.1 Health Services Union NSW

- Brendan would like to suspend agenda and talk about issues and concerns in relation converting Boronia into isolation ward
- Has concerns that report received from an Allied Health staff member that a Waratah patient was a close contact through their access to community and he understands management were notified Friday last week. This person spent over one hour with patient on the Thursday before and it took 12 days for them to become aware and did not have communication from organisation about their status and only found out by chance in a multidisciplinary team meeting. Organisation did not communicate to staff
- This patient in Waratah was contacted by contact tracing team on Friday. Organisation has duty of care to notify and this has not occurred. No members were contacted. How are executive unaware?
- Daria received notification it was at Merrylands Health Centre and was close contact. 2 days prior tested negative and moved to isolation bed Sunday afternoon. Level of exposure discussed with Public Health and advised no surveillance required

- Brendan wants to know why this was not communicated. Communicating is lacking.
- Members are raising concerns of amount of people going through facility. Suggest security at entry points as there is concern that we do not know who is coming in or out.
- Jenni confirmed that it is impracticable to lock external perimeter. Suggested additional signage, routine patrols, but need to inform public if we are going to move not to have public on site.
- Brendan is concerned due to Paringa exposure and understands 50% of security are furloughed, advice coming from members this exposure happened somewhere between admissions building with security involved. Security staff involved were advised about it but told to stay at work and continue using car. Security went to other places with other people in security vehicle. Team showed up for work but sent home this morning.
- Nick said the patient was rapid swabbed at 1pm but test did not come through until about 9.30. In spite of processes, let down by amount of time the swab took and decision made to transfer without a swab result.
- Bill said that it has been noted that rapid tests were getting slower due to more rapid tests being conducted
- Brendan asked what is plan now that 50% of security is furloughed, how are we managing to provide service
- Jenni advised that staffing is covered for next 24 hours and waiting response from Public Health
- All staff were wearing PPE, medical staff and assessment centre staff who assisted with transfer wore full PPE
- Veronica said that there has been confusion around messaging to staff and lack of clarity which causes additional levels of stress and wants to ensure LHD is using guidance from NSW Health risk matrix.
- Daria confirmed the matrix was distributed to all mental health and communication regarding utilisation of mask and PPE
- Wade said that PPE training, education and stock has ramped up and we have ample supplies
- Veronica said there was confusion today with patient coming out of seclusion
- Wade said all staff using full PPE, no concerns with exposure to other staff and patients.
- Nick asked for NUMs to be advised not to lock away PPE, difficult for night shift and casual staff needing stock
- Wade said that he will communicate the need for better access

## 4.2 NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association

### COVID Safety Plans

#### Fit testing percentages / arrangements

#### PPE

#### Community team arrangements

#### Number of suspected COVID consumers

#### Staff in isolation

#### Student nursing arrangements

- Mark asked if Covid safety plans were in place for Bungaribee House – seems no plans are in place
- Bill advised safety plans were circulated in 23 July and were applicable to whole Mental Health service
- Mark requested copy of plans and Bill will resend
- Status update requested for fit testing numbers/percentages.
- Dominika advised doing work around data across facilities and will release data overall
- Bill advised 576 staff fit tested, 90% of cat 1 and 67% of cat 2 staff are fit tested
- Mark said he will get clarification re who is cat 1 and 2 and asked is there anything additional in relation to community teams
- Bill advised 90% of all consultations are via telehealth and seeing patients, wearing full PPE and any assessments occurring in the centres, there is screening beforehand
- Daria said generally try to avoid seeing consumers face to face and if going out they in pairs, thorough screening and masks are offered to consumers and see them outside if possible. They have stopped transporting clients in vehicles and all staff are utilising goggles and face masks in the work place and utilising N95 goggles and gowns when seeing consumers face to face. If consumers turn up unexpectedly, someone sees them outside in full PPE and screened. This has been a very limited number.
- Mark asked about restrictions on nursing students
- Wade said no restrictions and students continuing to be placed as usual

- Veronica said particularly around students in community is it appropriate for them to be carpooling when going on home visits
- Wade said students are orientated and a mass vaccination offered and provided PPE. Vaccination is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. Students are not put into high risk places
- Mark asked if seclusion room in Paringa is occupied, what is the contingency plan if the room is required during the shift
- Wade advised there is a process and protocol to escort patients to other units with seclusion rooms
- Mark indicated that Bill was wearing an N95 mask and asked if that would be adopted by all units
- Wade said that they are happy to support people feeling safe at work and they could be worn if they so wish

**ACTION: Bill will resend copy of safety plans**

#### 4.3 Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation

- Nil

### Item 5 Agenda Items

#### 5.1 Update from Executive Director Mental Health

- Nil further discussion

#### 5.2 Update from Director of Nursing

- Nil discussion

#### 5.3 Update from Corporate Services Manager

- Nil discussion

#### 5.4 Update from Human Resources

- Nil discussion

### Item 6 Work, Health and Safety- Incident Reporting

- Nil discussion

### Item 7 Matters for Escalation to JCC

Nil discussion

### Item 8 Other items

Nil discussion

### Item 9 Business without notice

Nil discussion

### Item 9 Meeting Close / Next Meeting

- Meeting closed at 1304
- Bill thanked everyone for their contribution
- Next meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Mental Health Staff Consultative Committee Meeting – Action Log**

**Date:** Tuesday 17 August 2021  
**Time:** 1:00pm – 2:00pm  
**Venue:** Skype  
**Chair:** Prof Bill Brakoulias, Executive Director Mental Health

**ACTION LOG**

Sr. No.	Subject	Action	Responsible	Due Date	Status
<b>20.04.2021</b>					
4.2	COVID Safety Plans	Resend copy of safety plans to Mark Murphy	Bill B	ASAP	
<b>Ongoing</b>					
4.1	NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association	Allied Health activity space and meeting room in Boronia not suitable. HR to raise issue with NUM	HR	Next meeting	<b>17.08.2021</b> On hold until after red alert period
4.2	NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association	Terminology of use of Code Black to be raised in Emergency Management Committee meeting	Wade	Next meeting	<b>17.08.2021</b> Randall requested copy of minutes of last meeting  <b>22.6.21</b> Last two meetings have been postponed due to lack of quorum – keep on action log
<b><u>CLOSED ACTIONS</u></b>					
4.2	NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association	Use of leave requests on SARA to be circulated to NUMs	Wade	Next meeting	<b>Complete</b>

4.1	Allied Health Staffing	<p><b><u>15.12.21</u></b></p> <p>Omila is gathering information from other LHDs in relation to dedicated health staff and will share information and present at next meeting</p>	Omila Bir	Next meeting	<p><b><u>17.08.2021</u></b></p> <p>Site visits completed PUGs will look at workforce going forward Any learnings send to Carolyn for distribution</p> <p>Close item</p> <p><b><u>22.6.21</u></b></p> <p>Mayuri not in attendance – keep on action log</p> <p><b><u>20.4.21</u></b></p> <p>OT have visited other units and summary to be collated. Mayuri is waiting on a few more dates for hospital visits.</p> <p>Ongoing – hold to next meeting</p> <p><b><u>16.2.21</u></b></p> <p>Omila suggested visiting other LHD's that have a HDU – hold over to next meeting to prepare information</p>
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