



Coordinating Committee
for the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance

MINUTES

9:30am – 12:30pm, Wednesday 5 July 2023

Youth Coalition of the ACT: 46 Clianthus St, O'Connor ACT

Attendance:

Erin Barry, Youth Coalition of the ACT
Pauline Gallacher, OMH&W
Natalie Johnson, OMH&W (Chair)
Samantha Gill, Marymead CatholicCare
Sam Thomas, Youth Reference Group
Shannon Lanza, Youth Reference Group
Stephanie Lentern, Capital Health Network
Vikki Radford, Grand Pacific Health
Yvonne Gritschneider, Families ACT

Apologies:

Kirsten Stafford, CAMHS
Prof Alison Calex, ANU

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Natalie Johnson, Chair welcomed everyone to the first inaugural Coordinating Committee and provided an Acknowledgement of Country.
- b. There were no confidentiality and conflict of interest declarations made by members.
- c. Members introduced themselves.

2. Purpose of the Coordinating Committee for the Alliance

- a. The Chair provided clarity on the intended purpose of the Coordinating Committee.
- b. The role of the Coordinating Committee is to provide strategic oversight, advice and governance to the Alliance and inform its activities. The Coordinating Committee will provide advice to the lead partners (the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Capital Health Network, and Youth Coalition of the ACT) to support delivery of the Alliance's activities.
- c. It was noted that the Committee will engage in decision-making about Alliance activities, guided by the underpinning principles and an agreed-upon decision-making framework for the Alliance.
- d. The initial role of the Coordinating Committee will include overseeing the establishment of longer-term processes and protocols for the Alliance.
- e. Through discussion, members agreed that the representatives from the YRG would act in a representative role and conduit between the Coordinating Committee and YRG.
- f. The Committee members reviewed the draft Terms of Reference for the Coordinating Committee and agreed that they were appropriate.

Agreement / Action: Lead agencies to include a 'framing statement' on all Alliance agendas to promote respectful and constructive engagement within the Alliance, across a diverse membership.

3. Governance of the CYMHS Alliance

- a. The Committee reviewed the draft Governance Workplan in relation to the proposed Alliance Terms of Reference; to identify potential opportunities, gaps and constraints.
- b. The Governance Workplan aims to provide an overview of the key governance and operational activities to be undertaken for the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance to support its establishment and continued development. The Workplan will be informed, monitored and reviewed by the Coordinating Committee (CC).
- c. Members discussed eligibility criteria and membership of the Forums and agreed that while anyone can subscribe to be on the Alliance mailing list; invitations for Forums should be provided to a sub-set of the mailing list. It was noted that organisations like SHFPACT could be invited to attend.

Agreement / Action: Lead agencies to create an eligibility criterion for membership to the Alliance, and membership of the Forums.

4. Alliance Decision-making Framework and Issues Register

- a. The Committee reviewed the draft Decision-Making Framework and Issues Register.
- b. The *Framework* aims to support the CYMHS Alliance membership to determine what strategic priorities will be progressed through the Alliance. It is intended to guide discussions and enable strategic decision-making that is informed, transparent, collaborative and achievable. It is to be used in conjunction with the Issues Register. The Framework is informed by and adapts an existing framework developed by the Youth Coalition of the ACT, which outlines an approach to determining strategic priorities.
- c. No further changes were made to the Framework.
- d. The *Issues Register* aims to provide a current overview of relevant issues, constraints, barriers and gaps regarding child and youth mental health / and the service system. It is intended for use by the Alliance, to ensure appropriate oversight of identified issues, identify and monitor emerging issues, and to provide a tool to inform strategic planning for the Network.
- e. Members suggested that a 'dashboard' be provided in the Issues Register to map out current initiatives and activities that are working to address the specified issues. They also noted that the Issues Register is not exhaustive and there are current gaps.

Action: Lead agencies to update the Issues Register to include a 'dashboard' of current activities and initiatives.

5. Determining Approach to selecting Alliance Strategic Priorities: Forum 31 July 2023

- a. The Committee discussed an approach to shortlist strategic priorities at the July Forum using the Issues Register and Decision-Making Framework. It was agreed that they would shortlist some issue for further discussion and prioritisation at the Forum.
- b. Informed by the Decision-Making Framework and knowledge of current work taking place across the ACT sector, the following issues were short-listed:
 - o Children and young people who are neurodiverse
 - o Navigation of the mental health system and shared care / transitions between services
 - o Children and young people who are culturally and linguistically diverse
 - o Children, young people and families' experiences of mental health services
 - o Children and young people with mental health and co-occurring or complex concerns
- c. YRG representatives discussed the possibility of the YRG developing guidelines for services, informed by people with lived experience.

- d. Other items for discussion at the Forum included explaining to attendees what has happened over the last 6 months to progress the Alliance, a YRG update, and a Service Development Working Group update.

Action: Lead agencies to begin promoting Forum to Alliance members, including developing a short paper on the five short-listed priorities.

Action: YRG representatives to discuss the potential development of Guidelines with the YRG.

6. Other Business

- a. No other business was raised.

7. Reflection and Next Steps

- a. Due to time constraints, a reflective activity was not able to be undertaken, however, lead agencies offered to send out a short online feedback survey.
- b. The next meeting was proposed for September or October 2023.

Action: Lead agencies to develop and disseminate a short online feedback survey.

Summary of Actions:

1. Lead agencies to include a 'framing statement' on all Alliance agendas to promote respectful and constructive engagement within the Alliance, across a diverse membership.
2. Lead agencies to create an eligibility criterion for membership to the Alliance, and membership of the Forums.
3. Lead agencies to update the Issues Register to include a 'dashboard' of current activities and initiatives.
4. Lead agencies to begin promoting Forum to Alliance members, including developing a short paper on the five short-listed priorities.
5. YRG representatives to discuss the potential development of Guidelines with the YRG.
6. Lead agencies to develop and disseminate a short online feedback survey.