

# Coordinating Committee: ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance

## MINUTES

9:30am -11:30am, Tuesday 2 July 2024  
Youth Coalition of the ACT: 46 Clianthus St, O'Connor  
Chair: Lee-Anne Rogers

### Attendance:

- Erin Barry, Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Prof Alison Calear, ANU
- Carrie Coghlan, CAMHS
- Lee-Anne Rogers, OMHW (Chair)
- Mahri Henderson, Conflict Resolution Service
- Joan Webb, ACT Education Directorate
- Sam Thomas, Youth Lived Experience
- Shannon Lanza, Youth Lived Experience
- Stephanie Lentern, Capital Health Network
- Vikki Radford, Grand Pacific Health

### Apologies:

- Samantha Gill, Marymead CatholicCare

### Welcome and Introductions

- a. The Chair welcomed members and provided an Acknowledgement of Country and Acknowledgement of lived experience.
- b. Members introduced themselves, noting the new appointments of Carrie Coghlan (replacing Kirsten Stafford), and Mahri Henderson (replacing Yvonne Gritschneider).
- c. The Committee endorsed the actions and minutes of the previous meeting. Members discussed and agreed to provide the previous Minutes on the Alliance website in keeping with the Alliance principles relating to transparency and accountability.
- d. It was noted that some actions were incomplete due to staffing changes / capacity; particularly those related to the update of the Issues Paper.

### Update on Alliance Activities

- a. The lead agencies provided an updated on the Governance Workplan, noting particularly:
  - Key activities completed included the April Alliance Forum, 2 x working group meetings, the website launch, and commissioning consultations conducted by the Youth Coalition
  - The YRG launched their 'Our Say: Lived Experience FAQs' resource
  - Delays in updating the Issues Paper, and delivery of the Community of Practice were noted.
- b. Members provided feedback on the April Forum:
  - Members felt the tone of the Forum was different to the previous one, with lived experience more valued, and a greater emphasis on collaboration. This sentiment was shared by YRG members. Key elements that contributed to this included:



- The format, which commenced with a presentation and consultation led by the YRG; a strong lived experience voice; respectful engagement from service providers; and a post-Referendum context.
- c. Working Group update:
  - Members were provided with a working group update, including an overview of the two key projects: (1) building service readiness to collect and use feedback from children and young people; and (2) improving service and system processes related to information-sharing, privacy and consent.
  - Member observations on the 'service readiness' project included:
    - i. The need to consider this in relation to the client's service journey (e.g. at engagement, during sessions, at the end), and whether the service met their expectations.
    - ii. Discussed the opportunity to engage with the Centre for Mental Health Research regarding related research.
  - Member discussion on the 'info-sharing, privacy and consent' project included:
    - i. This project is more complex: there is a disconnect between the legislation and organisational policy, and how this is implemented at the practice level. Guiding principles for services would be beneficial.
    - ii. Legislative ambiguity sits across sectors, including health, mental health, child and youth, family law, domestic and family violence, etc.
    - iii. There are opportunities to learn from work occurring between universities and Canberra Health Services, regarding service level agreements.
    - iv. Youth voices in this project are very important – young people also don't necessarily know what the legislation is, and what the implications are for service reporting requirements, reporting release requirements, parameters of confidentiality and the consequences of disclosures. This can impact young people's help-seeking and lead them to 'over' self-censor. There is a need to clarify for young people, what the threshold for reporting is, what the consequences are, to provide examples, and give youth-friendly explanatory information to young people (and guidance to clinicians) about what they can consent to and what this means.
    - v. The need for materials that translate the legislation, and provide guiding principles.
    - vi. This was also discussed in relation to incoming referrals; and the need to seek consent from young people to share their information (and which parts) with the next service they are being referred to.

### **Continued delivery of the Alliance in 2024-25**

*Aim:* Discuss the value proposition and continued delivery of the Alliance in 2024-25; and onwards.

*Key discussion points:*

- a. Members discussed the value proposition and continued delivery of the Alliance in 2024-2; and onwards. The Alliance has received 12-month funding for the 2024-25 financial year, including to support project work.
- b. Members discussed the value proposition of the Alliance:
  - The Alliance helps to break down siloing across sectors, and to enable sight of what else is available in the community. It enables better services, connections across services and sectors.
  - The working group provides the opportunity for sector level change that an organisation on their own would not have capacity or time to do. We can do more together than apart, and learn from each other in the process.
  - In order to do high level change, we need many people at the table.
  - Building knowledge and equity across the system.



- We don't otherwise have time to do the thinking necessary – creates an enabling space for this.
  - The Alliance is an initiative that sits within and separate to any organisation.
  - The YRG sits as equal partnership, where stakeholders can go with ideas or to receive information back; that sits outside of organisational agendas.
  - It is not restricted in the way that an organisation may be and there is power in that, but it is also an anchor and central reference point.
  - The YRG Our Say resource is a useful touchpoint for organisations looking for best practice.
  - The Alliance provides a framework for the system to resolve its own problems. The problems will evolve and change, and there won't be a point in time when the Alliance will not be useful.
  - If the Alliance were to end, every service provider and young people will be in the wilderness again and doing things their own way. If services can't take up that opportunity, government will need to do it, which means more work for government.
  - Create economies of scale.
  - Some services have set up their own lived experience groups, and these are valuable, but having a centralised YRG enables a broader view.
  - Introduces standard of lived experience being integrated into the broader process; and sets a standard for other sectors.
  - Before now, there hasn't been a mechanism for everyone to gather in one space. The forums are a real testament to that. Having everyone at the same table being asked to solve the same problems, with a high degree of respect, has to continue.
- c. Members discussed the value of the Alliance being led as a community/government/PHN partnership:
- Driving a shared partnership in recognition that all parties (and their corresponding stakeholders) have shared goals to improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people.
  - Reduces duplication from each sector. If it was not delivered in partnership, representation and commitment would still be required from each group; with potential risk of disconnection.
  - Recognises that each stakeholder group is equally important.
  - Allows each stakeholder group / partner to be greater than the sum of their parts, recognising the limited capacity within each.
- d. Members discussed the broader governance context within the sector:
- There are broader system-level governance challenges due to the different system governance arrangements; the Alliance needs to determine which channels to use when needed.
  - There are multiple levels of governance. Considering the principles that guide who is involved and how we make decisions would be helpful: A governance framework with principles; to guide how to achieve the outcomes we want in the most streamlined way.
  - Moving forward into the future, we need to consider the role of the Coordinating Committee, and the PHN, in the ongoing management and governance of the Alliance.
- e. Development of a Year One Review Report: Agreed to conduct a member survey and host online conversations for members to give feedback verbally.

**Agreement:** Coordinating Committee to consider development of a governance framework with guiding principles at the next meeting.

**Action:** Lead agencies to deliver a survey and conduct online meetings to hear feedback from Alliance members.

#### **Other Business**



No other business was noted.

**Next Steps**

a. Summary of Actions:

- **Agreement:** Coordinating Committee to consider development of a governance framework with guiding principles at the next meeting.
- **Action:** Lead agencies to deliver a survey and conduct online meetings to hear feedback from Alliance members.

Proposed next meeting: November 2024

**Meeting Close**

