

Coordinating Committee: ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance

MINUTES

9:30am –11:30am, Tuesday 4 March 2025

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

Chair: Lee-Anne Rogers

Attendance:

- Prof Alison Calear, ANU
- Erin Barry, Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Joan Webb, ACT Education Directorate
- Lee-Anne Rogers, OMHW
- Samantha Gill, Marymead CatholicCare
- Sam Thomas, Youth Lived Experience
- Shannon Lanza, Youth Lived Experience
- Stephanie Lentern, Capital Health Network
- Vikki Radford, Grand Pacific Health

Apologies:

- Carrie Coghlan, CAMHS

Welcome and Introductions

- The Chair welcomed members and provided an Acknowledgement of Country and Acknowledgement of Lived Experience.
- The Committee endorsed the Minutes of the previous meeting.
- Apologies: Carrie Coghlan, CAMHS; Joan Webb and Alison Calear were apologies from 10:30am onwards.
- Mahri Henderson has moved away from the ACT and will no longer participate on the Coordinating Committee. The Committee thanked her for her participation.

Brief Update on Alliance Activities

- November Alliance Forum: The Forum was well-attended and included two key consultations – regarding the ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy; and CAMHS exit processes for young people turning 18 transitioning to community-based services.
- Working Group:
 - **Service readiness to collect and use client feedback [Project]:** First literature review completed (Alyssa Morse); additional review underway.
 - **Information-sharing, privacy and consent [Project]:** Contract signed with Ginny Sargent to undertake legislation and policy review over the next four months. Alyssa Morse is also conducting a literature review for this project.
- Alliance Report: Draft has been completed, awaiting finalisation.



- Community of Practice: MOST/MindMap; IART – planning underway for these.

'End-of-Term' Reflections on the Coordinating Committee

- To inform the future delivery of the Coordinating Committee, and to meet the evolving needs of the Alliance, members engaged in a reflective activity to identify (1) what has been most valuable about the Committee, and (2) what the challenges have been (e.g. in purpose, format, and structure). Discussion has been collated in relation to these two key questions.
- *What has been most valuable about the Coordinating Committee?*
 - *System Representation:* The representative diversity of the Committee, representing different parts of the system and bringing different perspectives: community, government, mental health, child/youth/family sector, academic, education, youth lived experience. The Committee creates an avenue for these different parts of the system to understand each other.
 - *Feedback Mechanism:* Acting as a feedback mechanism and sounding board for the lead agencies, in relation to both planned activities, and on events after they have occurred (e.g. Forum reflections). Opportunity for brainstorming and discussion.
 - *Youth Lived Experience:* YRG participation has helped to shape what the Committee discusses and the larger focus of the Committee. Having two YRG members on the Committee is critical to ensure there is shared support between members (see also, Challenges).
- *What have the challenges been (in purpose, format, structure etc)?*
 - *Meeting frequency and structural mechanisms:* The low frequency of Coordinating Committee meetings impacts the ability of the Committee to inform decision-making, where decisions need to be made quicker (e.g. Forum planning); thereby limiting the Committee from providing more substantial direction into the Alliance direction, including having more 'ongoing' conversations. There has not been a clear mechanism or process for members to nominate Agenda items.
 - *Change in Purpose:* Earlier on, the Coordinating Committee was more heavily involved in strategic planning and prioritising. This has shifted away from a strategic focus, as other Alliance components have evolved – i.e. the Forums and Working Group. Subsequent functions of the Committee have been unclear, leading to the Coordinating Committee having limited connection to/oversight of Alliance activities.
 - *Support for YRG members:* The learning curve for YRG members is steep, and compounded by the infrequency of meetings, which can impact participation. Consideration would need to be given to new members regarding a supported transition of information to support handover. Members also discussed limited opportunities for pre-briefing and de-briefing.
- *Other Comments:*



- There was some variation among members regarding their perceived value of the function of the Committee as a 'sounding board' to provide advice and expertise to the lead agencies; with lead agencies doing most of the 'busy' work. Some members feel this has limited their involvement and oversight in Alliance activities and would like to participate more actively in the backbone support work as members of the Coordinating Committee. Other members felt that the lead agencies taking charge of the backbone support facilitates progress, and value the role of the Coordinating Committee in providing input and advice to this work, noting limited capacity among some members to contribute more to the workload.

Future Structure

- Members identified implications/suggestions for the future structure of the Coordinating Committee.
- *Committee Purpose:*
 - Focus on larger strategic picture and systems-focus for the Alliance, including monitoring the larger pieces of work and determining next steps; considering the high-level functions of the Alliance (e.g. how to continue to break down siloes). This also provides a pathway for the Working Group, which is often focused on specific issues, including operational and practice issues. Stronger continuity/linkages/synthesising between Alliance components; facilitating of consensus through the Alliance.
 - Considering core questions/problems: What is needed by young people and the mental health system; and how do we best meet those needs? Identifying the problems/needs/priorities; identifying the most useful tasks for the Alliance to work on, and monitoring what has happened as a result (while ensuring the autonomy and self-agency of the YRG and Working Group is maintained).
 - Sharing high-level information regarding trends, forthcoming strategic initiatives (e.g. review of the Mental Health Act, Commonwealth initiatives), to determine if/how the Alliance should be involved; whether it impacts upon the work we have set out.
 - Setting agendas / informing priorities and questions for Alliance Forums and other activities; acting as a monitoring and feedback mechanism on those.
- *Meeting format and structure:*
 - Frequency and meeting length: Increased frequency of meetings, which may include a combination of longer meeting and short meetings. Increased frequency is reliant on reducing the associated administrative/secretariat workload. This needs to be more in rhythm with other Alliance activities.
 - Delivery: Hybrid is the preferred format, although consideration may need to be given to meeting structure to support engagement. If frequency of meetings is increased, ability to hold meetings in-person is reduced.



- Inclusion of a process/mechanism for members to contribute Agenda items prior to meetings.
- Development of a standing Agenda framed around the Alliance purpose(s).
- Consideration of whether YRG members can access pre-briefing and de-briefing opportunities.
- Exploration of alternative forms of communications between meetings, e.g. a Teams channel.
- *Membership:*
 - Membership of the Committee will be targeted, and expanded with new stakeholders in key community and government positions may be invited to participate, including from the Commonwealth.
 - Existing members will continue representation on the Committee while these discussions are occurring. Consideration will need to be given at a future meeting regarding membership terms, recruitment processes and transition processes.
- The Machinery of Government changes (in which CSD and ACT Health are merging by June 2025) were noted.

Other Business and Next Steps

- Members agreed to meet again (potentially in early-mid April) to review revised processes and Agenda for the Coordinating Committee.

Meeting Close