

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

## MINUTES

9:30am –11am, Tuesday 1 April 2025

Online via Teams

Chair: Lee-Anne Rogers

### Attendance:

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

### 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.
- Joan Webb is on extended leave from the Education Directorate and will no longer participate on the Coordinating Committee. The Committee thanks her for her participation. A new representative from the Education Directorate will be appointed to the Committee.
- Apologies: Carrie Coghlan and Vikki Radford. Alison Calear was an apology from 10:30am onwards.

### Follow-up to February Meeting

- The purpose of the meeting is primarily to review the recommendations developed by the lead agencies, following the feedback provided at the last meeting.
- *Recommendation:* Increase to 5 x 90-minute meetings per year (meetings are currently 3 x 2-hour meetings per year). Combination of hybrid and online-only meetings. To be held in February, April, July, September, November; with Forums in June and December.
  - Outcome: Agreed by members, noting that some fortnights on Tuesday mornings may not suit all members – this will be taken into consideration when booking the next meeting.
- *Recommendation:* Include a formal opportunity for members to formally submit Agenda items prior to the meeting; and development of new 'standing agenda' for each meeting, which provides greater flexibility during meetings to raise discussion items.

- Outcome: Agreed by members, including new agenda.
- *Recommendation:* Consider possibility of trialling a Teams channel, which would require further scoping.
  - There were varying views among members, with some members noting they are unlikely to use a Teams channel and would prefer email. One member expressed they would use this function but if it was not used by all members there would not be much purpose.
  - Members discussed the purpose such a function and discussed that mechanisms like Teams can be useful when collaborating on documents. OneDrive may also be an option for this, although can be problematic for people without Microsoft Office 365 accounts.
  - [Input from absent members after the meeting also noted that a Teams channel may fall flat without broad engagement.]
  - Outcome: Agreed that the Youth Coalition would scope options further, which may take some time due to limited capacity.
- *Recommendation:* that the YRG consider what additional processes may support future YRG members to be 'inducted' into the Coordinating Committee in the future (e.g. overlapping member terms); and opportunities for YRG members to debrief with each other be provided.
  - Outcome: Agreed – the YRG to consider, with advice from Shannon and Sam.
  - Action: Lee-Anne to liaise with YRG Coordinator for further action.
- *Recommendation:* That the composition of the Committee be expanded and altered, to include lead positions for key Alliance components (OMHW, CHN, Youth Co, YRG Coordinator, a potential future CoP convenor/lead role) to support streamlined planning; other members, seeking a diversity of stakeholders who work with or are connected to the Alliance work, youth lived experience (drawing from the YRG membership but not formally representing the YRG). Proposed additional stakeholders include: MHCC, Mental Health Strategic Policy, Office of the Chief Psychiatrist, Department of Health (Commonwealth), Community Services Directorate.
  - Outcome: Agreed, though noting we do not want the size to become too big. Discussed the need to ensure the Committee includes representation from policy, commissioning, service design/delivery, youth lived experience, academia, advocacy.
  - The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist may be better placed to present to the Committee or Forum, rather than be a member.
  - It was noted that roles of the YRG Coordinator and youth lived experience members on the Committee need to be clear in their distinction.
  - As a first priority, MHCC, Mental Health Strategic Policy, and CSD will be invited.
  - Action: Lead agencies to invite new members.
- *Recommendation:* Continue existing members during this period of transition while further discussions occur, noting that future processes will need to be developed. Note the need for the YRG to consider their own processes for facilitating the youth lived experience membership of the Coordinating Committee.
  - Outcome: Agreed.
  - Action: YRG to consider processes for identifying people for the youth lived experience membership to the Committee (e.g. length of time, handover processes, nomination processes). Lee-Anne to liaise with YRG Coordinator for further action.



- Action: Committee to discuss non-YRG membership processes at a future meeting.
- *Recommendation:* Ensure that expectations for member involvement are consistent and sustainable across members, noting that members' availability will naturally vary at different times. The new Agenda is also intended to support greater involvement.
  - Members discussed their preferences regarding the level of involvement on the Committee and varying capacity for involvement, and the difference between equal opportunity to participate, versus consistency of participation.
  - Members preferences were that all members be given equal opportunity to provide input and participate in Committee tasks, with understanding that people will sometimes have limited capacity.
  - It was noted that the intention with the new Agenda is that this will enable greater information-flow at meetings and should not result in too much additional work for members outside of meetings.
  - It was noted that members are also welcome to send through their views to the Committee via email, before and after meetings, if they have not been able to attend or participate.
  - Outcome: All members will be provided with equal opportunities/rights to participate.
- *Recommendation:* Suggested new name – Representative Advisory and Coordination Panel, to reflect the advisory role of the group. Moving towards the new Agenda and functions requires consideration of how to best support active participation and prioritisation processes of members. This could be based on the structured decision-making and planning framework; to use processes that support member participation for prioritising issues/actions, with the agreement of lead agencies.
  - Outcome: New name – Coordination and Advisory Committee. Other recommendations agreed to.
- *Recommendation:* Support stronger continuity/linkages between Alliance components through the revised composition of the Committee (see above). The role of the Committee is to consider where it can take-up and action findings of the YRG and Working Group; and to make suggestions to the YRG and Working Group regarding potential areas for consideration of these groups.
  - Outcome: Agreed, with the addition of the Forum.
- *Recommendation:* Enable sharing high-level information regarding trends, and forthcoming strategic initiatives to determine if/how the Alliance should be involved will be enabled through the new Agenda.
  - Outcome: Agreed.

### June Forum

- Members discussed potential topics for the Forum, tentatively scheduled for 19 June:
  - Ginny Sargent's legislation scoping review for the Alliance Working Group: Ginny may be available to present and/or discuss with Alliance members, the findings of the Review.
  - Office of the Chief Psychiatrist: Has overarching oversight of the Mental Health Act, which will be reviewed; including how elements of the Act are



implemented within the acute mental health system. This may present an opportunity for the Office to provide information about their role, and the review of the Act. It is unclear at this stage what form the review of the Act will take.

- Machinery of Government: Merger between ACT Health Directorate and Community Services Directorate – what this will mean, and the implications for mental health and the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing.
- Commissioning update and/or consultation, if the draft Mental Health Strategic Investment Plan is available.
- Update from CAMHS on the outcomes from the last Forum consultation, regarding improving exit processes for young people turning 18.
- Update from headspace Early Psychosis.
- Members discussed that the December Forum may be a well-timed opportunity to focus on trauma; as the new Youth-At-Risk trauma service will be up and running; and the second cohort will have completed the trauma-informed practice training.
- Members discussed how the YRG could be involved in commissioning and the Mental Health Act review. It was noted that the YRG could participate in the open consultation process when the draft Strategic Investment Plan is released; and could put a submission in or write to the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist to express interview in the review.
- Actions: Lead agencies to follow-up potential Forum opportunities and update Committee members out of session.

#### **Other Business**

- No other business was raised.

#### **Meeting Close**