

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

## MINUTES

3-4:30pm, Tuesday 11 November 2025

Online via Teams

Chair: Stephanie Lentern

### Attendance:

- Alison Caleur, Centre for Mental Health Research, ANU
- Amanda Tagliabue, Health and Community Services Directorate (Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing)
- Erin Barry, Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Cass Tinning, Health and Community Services Directorate (Child and Youth Mental Health)
- Belinda Hill, Education Directorate (*proxy for Emily Brown*)
- Huyen Truong, Health and Community Services Directorate (CYFSP)
- Jessica Turtledove, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (*proxy for Lisa Kelly*)
- Joey Brogden, Health and Community Services Directorate (Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing – YRG Coordinator)
- Natalie Johnson, Health and Community Services Directorate (Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing)
- Ryan McLaughlan, Health and Community Services Directorate (CYFSP)
- Samantha Gill, Marymead CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
- Shannon Lanza, Youth Lived Experience
- Stephanie Lentern, Capital Health Network (Chair)
- Vikki Radford, Grand Pacific Health

### Welcome and Introductions

- Stephanie welcomed members and provided an Acknowledgement of Country and Acknowledgement of Lived Experience.
- September Minutes were endorsed for release on the website.
- Members introduced themselves.
- Apologies: Carrie Coghlan (CAMHS), Emily Brown, Lisa Kelly.

### Alliance Strategic Priorities

- Erin provided an update on the Alliance's activities between September and October:
  - 'Community of Practice' Webinar: Strengthening Service Navigation, 23 October
    - MOST and MindMap presentations
    - Panel discussion – youth lived experience and sector representation
    - This webinar will soon be available on the Alliance website.
  - 'Community of Practice' Trial: Collaboration between the Alliance and the 'Joint Case Review' Program with Families ACT
    - Session 1 in September was fully booked with a waiting list



- 4 of 5 places were booked at the November JCR, which has a disability-focused theme
  - o New publication released: [Systematic Review into PREMs for children and young people](#) (ANU)
  - o Draft Alliance workplan submitted to HCSD
- Forum Planning – 3 December:
  - o Registrations are open
  - o Session topics will include:
    - Social media ban
    - Findings from the project on collecting and using service experience feedback, including presentation from the ANU
    - YRG update and session on 'Our Say' topic
    - Service updates: Youth at Risk Project, Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub
- *Alliance Project #1: Supporting service readiness to collect and use client feedback from children, young people and families, for service improvement.*
  - o Both ANU literature reviews are now complete and available online:
    - [Review on best practice and principles for collecting feedback from young people.](#)
    - [Systematic Review into PREMs for children and young people](#)
  - o Scoping is underway regarding next steps, which may include a PREMs review on parents/carers; developing practical guidance for services.
- *Alliance Project #2: Informed consent, privacy and information-sharing of children and young people's health information*
  - o Literature review on young people's preferences for processes related to informed consent to share information is [available online](#).
  - o Scoping review on legislation is nearing completion. A draft will be available in mid-December.
  - o Potential next steps include translation resources on the webinar; and developed of informed consent processes/guidelines to support services to have conversations with young people about info-sharing decisions.
- Other/ongoing activities:
  - o Update Issues Register
  - o Communications: monthly eBulletins, website review and maintenance
- Members provided feedback on Alliance activities – feedback centred positively on the amount of work that has been completed, including the value of the working group projects, and anticipation to see how these can be translated into practice resources for the sector, and advocacy tools. They described the benefit of projects like these that have a large scale but can be broken down into multiple and manageable steps. Members also provided positive feedback on the uptake of the JCR program. Appreciation for the focus on current issues such as the social media ban.
- Information-sharing: Members discussed how to balance out the need for info-sharing, with having topic-focused sessions within the Community of Practice; and without duplicating information-sharing that occurs elsewhere, such as headspace Consortiums. Members discussed the potential for existing info-sharing mechanisms to better feed into the Alliance, such as through the website and eBulletins as 'live' info-sharing tools. There is a need to differentiate between the aims of all the

different meetings/mechanisms within and outside of the Alliance.

- Erin noted that preclinical interventions / social determinants of mental health had emerged as a priority topic of interest at the last meeting. It was proposed that further thought go into this as a potential Forum topic in 2026, building on the OMHW's ACTing Upstream work.
- Joey noted that YRG members have been working on a resource and paper on the benefits of lived experience inclusion for young people, outside of the YRG. This work may move into the work of the YRG in the future.
- Stephanie noted that the final report into the review of the National Agreement has been released.
- Cass noted that in the future, it would be helpful to discuss with the Alliance, how we continue to work on sector uplift about trauma-informed practice, including in the context of the forthcoming youth trauma service being established within the service landscape.

#### **Alliance Processes:**

- Joey provided an update on the changes being discussed by the YRG regarding representation at the Coordinating Committee, following discussion at the previous meeting:
  - The YRG discussed at their most recent meeting, how the YRG should be involved with the Coordinating Committee. Not all members were there, so discussions are continuing, including via an anonymous survey to enable multiple methods of giving feedback.
  - Main focus of discussion was whether youth-lived experience representatives should be formal representatives of the YRG to uplift different perspectives from within the group or represent only themselves.
  - Initial conversations indicate that the YRG would like formal representation at the Committee, including being able to choose who shares their perspectives. The YRG is not homogenous and there are a range of perspectives – no one person can fully represent all views.
  - Formal processes/structures are being designed to help support and clarify the roles of the representatives appointed to the Committee from the group. Early consensus is that YRG members do not mind how the representatives are appointed; and this may vary between terms, with flexibility within the ToR about appointment processes.
  - If a situation arises in which the YRG are unable to source formal representatives, it may be an option to have YRG members participate as individuals with their own perspectives.
  - Currently, a two-year term is being discussed, with a potential one-year review point.

- Members discussed the broader Terms of Reference and membership processes:
  - Composition of the Committee has changed over the last two years, and the original recruitment and member term length may no longer be fit for purpose. Some members have ongoing organisational roles (e.g. government, education); while NGOs are representing broader sectors, in which there also other agencies not represented on the Committee.
  - Views varied among Committee members. It was noted that it is useful to get different perspectives and support integration of other services across the ACT; and that the term length should be long enough to be useful, but short enough to give all NGOs an opportunity to represent their work. On the other hand, loss of existing members would result in the absence of significant sector knowledge and expertise.
  - Members discussed the possibility of increasing the NGO representation on the Committee, and how this could be managed without the group becoming too big, and also whether guest-organisations could be invited to attend the meetings, or different forms of membership, or natural attrition over time enabling new perspectives.
  - It was thought that an informal process to scope interest could be an initial first step to determine interest from external stakeholders in being involved on the Committee.

*Action:* Lead agencies to informally scope interest from the Alliance membership in the Coordinating Committee.

#### **Other Business**

- No other business was raised.
- The next meeting will be held in mid-February.

#### **Meeting Close**