



DELEGATE'S REPORT

11th December 2007

DR1	MENTAL HEALTH REHABILITATION CARE COORDINATION WORKSHOP	{Folio No. *}
	FILE: 419 CLR JHB	

SUMMARY:

Reporting on attendance at the Mental Health Rehabilitation Care Coordination Workshop conducted at Port Macquarie on Tuesday 27th November 2007.

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DESCRIPTION:

The workshop was arranged by the North Coast Area Health Services and was attended by 41 delegates representing 19 organisations.

Ms Meryl Edwards Consultant NSW Health facilitated the workshop which was designed to;

- develop referral pathways
- develop a clear understanding of existing and new services, including the primary care sector
- provide feedback and comment to NSW State and North Coast Area Mental Health Services rehabilitation planning staff on matters related to the implementation of mental health rehabilitation services

A discussion paper stated;

- the key to rehabilitation care coordination will be client-focussed collaboration between all providers, that enables consumers to gain easy access to optimal support, assistance and participation from the multiple services and organisations around them, including non-mental health specific ones.
- Enhanced coordination will also improve collaboration between services in their delivery of care and assistance to people with mental illness; maximise appropriate use of all services; reduce duplication; share case management workloads; and address gaps in service availability.

Mr David Livingston Acting Mental Health Manager in presenting – Current Local Mental Health Population Profile and Services; admitted his surprise at the number of organisations present that were providing services within the area.

It is essential that cooperation and coordination takes place.

Mental Health is the fundamental responsibility of the Area Health Service and therefore structured collaboration must be facilitated through this avenue; hopefully with the cooperation of all of the service groups.

It should be on the network basis of the Hastings Macleay with the support of Local Government as the political representative of the community.

With major funding made available by both Federal and State Governments it is essential that maximum benefit is gained for our community in the provision of services.

Council's Youth Services could benefit from funding provided for;

- expanding early intervention services for youth (\$28.6m)
- expanding Suicide Prevention Programs (\$62.4m)

in organising a Youth Mental Health Summit for 2008.

On the initiative of Jennifer Colling, Council's Community Services Officer, the respective organisations will be invited to provide a brief description of the services available which will be included in Council's Community Services Directory.

This will be of tremendous benefit to our members of the community seeking assistance.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

N/A

- ***Social***

Community benefit well ensue with the coordination of mental health services.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

N/A

- ***Policy or Statutory***

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That council disbands it's Health and Ageing (Mental Health) Working Party.**

2. That Council advise the North Coast Area Health Service of its support for the proposed Rural Rehabilitation Care Coordination for Mental Health Services on a Hastings / Macleay Network basis.

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COUNCILLOR J H BOWELL