



MINUTES

WHEATBELT EASTERN DISTRICT HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

21 April 2021

0930 – 12:00

Merredin Health Service Meeting Room

Attendees Onida Truran (Chairperson & Southern Cross Representative)
 Sandra Waters (Deputy Chair, Kununoppin & Districts Representative)
 Dianne Kelly (Cunderdin Representative)
 Romolo Patroni (Merredin Representative)
 Karen Horsley (Operations Manager Eastern)
 Jacinta Herbert (A/Primary Health Manager)
 Chris Cox (Health Service Manager Merredin)
 Cheryl Dagleish - Secretariat

Apologies Lynne White
 Phillip Negri
 Jannah Stratford (Wyalkatchem Representative)
 Marg Foss (Bruce Rock Representative)

Invitees

1.0	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
1.1	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted
2.0	PREVIOUS MINUTES
2.1	Minutes of the previous meeting held 17th February endorsed as a true and correct record. Endorsed: Romolo Patroni Seconded: Karen Horsley
3.0	ACTIONS ARISING
	Future Services – Specialist, CT, Staff Accommodation
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Accommodation: Karen Horsley reported WACHS has accepted the proposal for Wheatbelt Wide Staff Accommodation Review across all sites and discussions are being held to decide what needs to be kept, and what requires demolition or replacement. The funding however has not been approved as yet with a conservative estimated figure deemed to be around \$A40M for the whole of the Wheatbelt. This proposal will be evaluated but priority will be given firstly to existing properties that require demolition as well as urgent repairs and refurbishment to bring other existing properties back to code; this will be funded through the Operational funds. Romolo Patroni reported the Merredin Shire is currently looking into construction for the sole purpose of accommodation for Hospital, Police and Teaching staff coming to the area. The Council is looking at the possibility of unit construction as this style of accommodation has apparently worked very well for Cunderdin and Southern Cross in the past. Staff accommodation has been identified as being a very difficult issue to resolve and interferes with recruitment processes and placement. Houses or units with three or four ensuited bedrooms with communal living areas have worked very well for staff especially when recruiting the drive in, drive out sector. Agency staff could still be using the existing nursing quarters with DIDO using the more permanent 'share style' accommodation options. Romolo suggested Karen Horsley attend the follow up meetings on this Shire Council project as her input would be greatly valued. Karen agreed to attend and suggested bringing along the Infrastructure Manager, Sheldon Paice. Romolo will advise Karen when the Shire is to hold their next meeting.
	St John's Ambulance Services
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romolo reported Merredin had recruited 20 new EMAs but went on to say they still find it difficult to find available staff. The majority of new recruits do not like working after 8pm or on weekends and this has been an ongoing issue. Members commented that this seems to be a problem everywhere as society has a greater emphasis on work/life balance meaning less volunteering time by members of our communities. We have one



	new ambulance in process of being purchased but difficulty sourcing stretchers for fitout.
4.0	NEW BUSINESS
4.1	<p>Wheatbelt Cancer Strategy Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandra Waters has written a letter to which there was no reply. Karen Horsley to investigate and forward on to Russell Cockburn Regional Director of Nursing.
4.2	<p>Wheatbelt Mental Health Consumer Advisory Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cunderdin Advisory Group March Newsletter circulated to members.
5.0	STANDING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
5.1	<p>Operations and Regional Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theatre still working to completion date of June/July. Commissioning to take a further two months before everything is ready to go. Start-up date still expected to be around September/October. The theatre will be run by regional team base theatre nursing staff mostly from Northam or Narrogin with a revolving timetable of operation so all sites work in with one another. It was confirmed we have our specialist doctors on board and they are eager to commence with their surgery lists once the theatre is operational. WACHS Strategic Plan: Actions will be site based as each site has different needs and issues. The Site Operation Plans will also be open for community engagement around key actions pertinent to each site. Initial meeting, starting with a Merredin team, to be scheduled for next week. DHAC - Karen Horsley has been asked where we are at with our work plan. This issue was discussed at the end of the meeting. As our plan has been derailed by Covid issues Jacinta Herbert is to update us at the next meeting and we can continue with the proposed plan.
5.2	<p>Medical and Nursing Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Cox reported recruitment process continuing with new staff expected to commence on 9th May. We are still using Agency staff but the plan is to decrease usage as staff recruitment improves. Recruitment for 2 CNs, 2ENs and 2 RNs is currently underway and we are down on senior staff. We are also looking at registered RN Grad nurses as well as a Staff Development Nurse to nurture and oversee graduate nurses; Grads require steady support especially during high levels of activity in the ward and ED. Chris commented that in addition to dealing with staff shortages, the ED and Ward numbers as well as the complexity of presentations has significantly increased over the last twelve months, and these numbers are continuing to increase. Number of ED patient transfers out for CTs and other more complex examinations has also increased. The GP in Bruce Rock is leaving the area and the Shire is currently interviewing for a suitable replacement. Aged Care – needs are being met. Merredin has four external Service Providers: Baptist Care, Avivo, Catholic Care and Right at Home. CHSP continues as service provider and numbers are stable. Steph Welsh has stepped into the role while Gail Keamy is on long service leave. Nursing home is at full capacity. Members asked about provision in the Wheatbelt for Indigenous Aged Care. It was agreed there is no specific Indigenous Age Care facility available. The Indigenous communities in general tend not to make use of aged care, instead choosing to remain with their families for support and care until high level care is needed. In Merredin the main focus seems to be providing Palliative Care for the Indigenous community, where cultural values and needs are understood and met for both the patients and their families, and the feedback from the Indigenous communities has been very positive.
5.3	<p>Primary Health Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacinta Herbert reported a rise in concerns around mental health in the youth. Romolo Patroni reported ambulance call outs for young people with injuries from self-harm was reaching an alarming rate in the Wheatbelt. Placing services into Beacon and Bencubbin every Wednesday – drop in clinics to create a safe space for community members to come forward to discuss Mental Health issues within their community. There will be another space created here in Merredin. Next meeting Staffing - multiple staff vacancies in Allied Health. One new Physiotherapist recruited and will start 24th May. Currently recruiting for Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology, Dietetics and Social Work. Also recruitment in Aboriginal Health to help increase the size of that department. Primary Health Manager Position has just been advertised for the Eastern Wheatbelt as a permanent position.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 vaccination re-calibration as things changed recently bringing Pfizer vaccine back into the programme for the under 50s. Using the Commonwealth Program we are still delivering vaccinations to 1A and 1B (Frontline Health & Emergency Services) and this is being carried out by (WA) State Clinics. • GPs are now receiving stock and they are delivering Astra-Zeneca to some of the Commonwealth priority areas being over 70s and people with disabilities or chronic disease. • Pfizer clinics to be run in Northam and Narrogin over next couple of weeks. • Clinic numbers in general are low as community showing hesitancy with the changing information about vaccines.
5.4	Bruce Rock Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
5.5	Cunderdin Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Di Kelly reported Chris Johnston settling into new role now Helen Lundy has retired. • LHAG has had one meeting mainly because Helen Lundy was away. • Palliative Services walk-through on 19th May. A number of invitees are not able to attend. • Official Opening still being decided • Seniors Day attendance 64 (from Merredin, Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Meckering and Cunderdin). Chris Johnston gave an information talk on Covid-19 vaccinations roll out and answered a number of questions. AdvoCare representative spoke about elders' rights, abuse and legal issues (Power of Attorney etc.). Next Seniors Day 19th July Cunderdin Rec. Centre themed 'Christmas in July'. Flyers will be circulated closer to the time. • Accommodation in Cunderdin – Cunderdin Cottages has only one single bedroom unit vacant.
5.6	Kellerberrin Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
5.7	Kununoppin & Districts Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up after cyclone with issues with loss of communication. • Kununoppin/Bencubbin Fete to be held 9th October. • A&E activity high • WACHS Cyclone Alerts were good and district kept well informed. No warnings from Shire. General community ill-prepared for the cyclone.
5.8	Merredin Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 Medical Students from Curtin and Notre Dame University and it was very successful. • Shire still trying to engage CEO. • Ambulance – transport to Northam for CT wait and return not working well. Meetings being held and this is issue will be on the Agenda. • New ambulance – unable to finish fitout as unable to source stretcher. • Looking at Community 7 day triage • Members discussed Merredin not meeting Mental Health issues – ambulance officers finding it difficult dealing with MH cases. • Accommodation – all 26 units full. Marrickville 2 x single units vacant.
5.9	Narembeen Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
5.10	Quairading Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
5.11	Southern Cross Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing doing well and we picked up a Grad this week. • 6 Residents leaving 2 beds free, 1 for respite giving an average of 2 respites a month. Feb/Mar there was 9 acute, 40 Ed presentations for February and 47 for March. There were 77 out patients for February and 218 Covid Swabs in February. There have been 914 swabs since November, 2020. • CHSP accreditation been postponed until later in the year. • Mental Health Suicide Alertness half day workshop planned for 3rd June • There is planning for an Aged Care Day at Senior Citizens Centre to be held on 12th May • CHSP - 12 needing domestic assistance, 8 using gardening and 4 using MOW.
6.0	STANDING ITEMS FOR NOTING
6.1	Correspondence



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
6.2	Site Compliments & Complaints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
6.3	DHAC Chairpersons Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Waters attended a Zoom Meeting, Patient Experience and Consumer Engagement (PECE) and a one day Inpatient Procedure Survey. • Mental Health addressed at the Forum and Wheatbelt has a Suicide Prevention Plan and Support in place. Interest in Mental Health First Aid courses which there is no funding for. Members suggested looking for funding within the community to help run these courses. Difficulty recruiting members of the community to become involved in these courses. • What is in the areas for Mental Health – what does the Wheatbelt have to offer? We don't seem to have enough happening. Further discussion next meeting.
6.4	Wheatbelt Mental Health Consumer Advisory Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
7.0	OTHER BUSINESS/LATE ITEMS
7.1	DHAC Member attendance at Eastern Management Team Meetings (EMT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHAC members to advise C Dalglish if attending 26th May EMT at Wyalkatchem
7.2	Wheatbelt Safety & Quality Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHAC and Jacinta Herbert to organise Work Plan • Jacinta to brief us at next meeting. Work Plan from 2020 provided to Jacinta. • Raise profile of DHAC members – personal photograph of each member and list of LHAG member names to be sent to Cheryl Dalglish. • Information Board with DHAC information for community awareness.
8.0	NEXT MEETING
	16 June 2021, Merredin Health Service Meeting Room

Meeting closed at: 12:00

Minutes endorsed

Onida Trurun

Date: 05/04/2021

Chairperson