



Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group Communique – Meeting 17 December 2024

The fifth meeting of the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) was held on Tuesday, 17 December 2024. This communique provides stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting.

The JLG provides high level, system-wide, collaborative decision-making, and oversight, to deliver a system that adopts a person and family-centred approach and encapsulates whole of system priorities. This includes the transition to more community-based services that provide prevention and earlier intervention, and diversion away from acute in-patient services. The JLG is accountable for the delivery of key reform priorities including those outlined in the overarching system-wide Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030 (when completed) in alignment with the Outcome Measurement Framework (when completed).

Neurodiversity

Members discussed and endorsed a phased approach to better understand the challenges and opportunities in relation to neurodiversity within a public mental health setting. This will commence with a mapping exercise, to understand work focused on adult, and a child and adolescent cohorts.

Youth Stream – services and responses for 16 – 17 year olds

Members noted feedback obtained through the Ministerial Advisory Panel and the Clinical Advisory Group (CAG), with plans to consult with the members of the Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) in 2025. All groups have thus far indicated support for addressing issues which have been well documented and considered. The Mental Health Commission will undertake data analysis, focused on inpatient data, to identify the extent of the current issue, and potential priorities for action, identified through the Joint Executive Directors Sub-Group (JED).

Outcome Measurement Framework

An update was provided on the development of the Outcome Measurement Framework, which is a commitment arising from the Independent Review of WA Health System Governance. Members endorsed the final draft of the system-level Outcome Management Frameworks for the Mental Health, and Alcohol and Other Drugs sectors, noting the ongoing progress to identify data for key indicators, and the development of a service level framework.

Other items of note:

Members received brief verbal updates on the JED, CAG, and the LEAG, which will meet for the first time in January 2025.

A Project Watching Brief was also provided to the JLG to note key updates and upcoming milestones of the following items:

- Independent Review of WA Health System Governance
- Community Mental Health Treatment and Emergency Services Reform
- Eating Disorders Framework
- Outcomes Measurement Framework
- Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030
- *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*
- *Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023*
- Workforce
- Suicide Prevention.

The next JLG meeting is scheduled for 6 March 2025.