WA MENTAL HEALTH NGO INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUE 2

Meeting Date: 23 January 2013

Background

The WA Mental Health Non Government Organisation (NGO) Information Development Technical Working Group (TWG) was developed to assist the Mental Health Commission (MHC) in the development of data specifications and implementation strategies that will allow the MHC and NGOs to meet State and National reporting requirements.

The third meeting of the TWG was held at the MHC on Wednesday 23 January 2013. The following key information development activities were addressed by the Technical Working Group.

Endorsements

The minutes from Meeting Two of the TWG were endorsed with no amendments. The MH NGOE State Data Collection Specifications Manual was endorsed as fit for purpose. The minutes and Specifications Manual will be forwarded to the MHC Corporate Executive.

Agreements

Collection Strategy
Members agreed that a web-based approach would be the preferred method of recording and submitting data to the MHC. Key features for an online or web-based data collection tool should include appropriate access and security, an ability to save and submit later, point of entry validation, and basic reporting functionality.

Data Set Specifications
Members agreed that submission of ‘optional’ information should not be considered at this stage as they would not be a part of state or national reporting requirements.

Members agreed to additional codes within the Health Promotion Setting data element to distinguish promotional services delivered to Primary and Secondary schools.

In response to advice from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, members agreed to remove the data elements that did not align with the proposed National Minimum Data Set from service type ‘Counselling, support, information and referral-online’ and ‘Self-help-online’.
Discussions

Client Information System (CIS) model and ‘current episode’ debate

The CIS model was discussed in terms of how well it represents the flow of a client through a service. Members debated the meaning and definition of the term ‘current episode’ as used in the model and how it might fit within NGO service delivery. Overall, members agreed that there was a need for a phrase that described an episode of care and that the CIS model will remain on the agenda to enable its evolution.

Transgender

Current measures for national reporting use a biological based definition of sex. Members discussed defining ‘biological gender’ and ‘self-defined gender’ in terms of how well they capture transgender. A variety of views were expressed and several suggestions put forward:

- Male/female option could be harmful and client less likely to engage with service
- Be sensitive and avoid invasive questioning
- Lead by example and go beyond the binary response
- Governments should begin adapting the collection process
- Consult with TransGender services/reps for their views
- Consult with Sexology Society/Department at Curtin University

Members asked for the MHC to contact the Sexology Department at Curtin University to further develop a data element for transgender.

Spirituality and Religion

Members felt it would be important to capture religion/spirituality in terms of its influence on a client’s recovery. Whilst there is a METeOR definition for religious affiliation, no such definition currently exists for spirituality. It was proposed to consider development of data elements for spirituality that would lead to yes or no responses.

Next WA MH NGO Information Development TWG Meeting

The next Information Development TWG meeting will be held at the Mental Health Commission on the 10th of April 2013.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

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