



CV Get Together

2 August 2019

Five Community Visitors and five staff members attended the recent Get Together on 2 August 2019.

Much of the discussion focussed on the reduced scope of CVS and Maurice reported that he had been involved in many meetings on this topic and prepared correspondence, including:

- Attendance at a meeting with DHS senior staff and an officer from the Crown Solicitors Office.
- Forwarding a Minute to the Minister outlining concerns with the reduced CVS scope.
- An upcoming meeting with DHS and senior staff from the Attorney-General's Department and the Office of the Public Advocate. This meeting is to discuss the progress in the delegation of powers from the Public Advocate to the CVS that would enable us to visit up to 640 people who are under the Guardianship of the Public Advocate, at a range of sites. Maurice said that he hopes to get all CVs together once the new delegations are finalised to discuss 'where to from here', reporting, etc.
- Meeting with NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission to hand-over specific outstanding issues that need to be followed up. Systemic issues were also flagged. Not all outstanding issues will be within the scope of the Commission.

Other matters to report:

- Maurice has seen an embargoed copy of the Review of Community Visitor Schemes around Australia and expects that it will be released publicly. When this occurs we will forward a copy to all CVs.
- Maurice met with a past colleague regarding homelessness and his team from Hutt street Centre who work with a range of people in the homeless sector and the links it has with Mental Health. Maurice mentioned that hospitals are not meant to discharge patients into homelessness as it's inconsistent with the principals of the MH Service Standards.
- Note: If CVs hear of anyone being discharged to homelessness from anywhere, please contact the office as a matter of urgency so we can report it to the Chief Psychiatrist.
- The CVS Advisory Committee met in late June and much of that meeting was spent discussing the reduced scope of CVS.
- CVS staff are currently preparing the Annual Report. We endeavour to capture the way policy impacts the people we visit and the way they live so Maurice asked that if CVs can think of any examples of this to please let us know.
- Maurice is extremely proud to see that the CVs and staff are all working with the same will, intent and compassion.

Kate gave an update on the Mental Health stream:

- Following a review into the Inpatient Rehabilitation Service (at Glenside), Maurice was invited to sit on the "Intensive Monitoring and Inpatient Rehabilitation Services Report Recommendation Governance Steering Committee" and has been attending regular meetings. CVs have also been visiting the unit on a frequent basis.
- Maurice and Kate recently visited the Tarnanthi Unit at Glenside. This is a newly opened 10-bed Forensic Mental Health Unit, with clients and staff being transferred from James Nash House. This will be added to the CVS visit schedule in due course.
- Unit 4GP (the Eating Disorders service) at Flinders Medical Centre is undergoing a refurbishment.
- The Review of Mental Health Governance in South Australia has been finalised and the SA Mental Health Commission will be expanded to include Commissioners with lived experience; a full-time Commissioner and two part-time Deputy Commissioners.

- The reporting template for visits to Community Mental Health sites is now available on People Pulse. Kate thanked all CVs for their patience and persistence with the Word template whilst the People Pulse template was being developed.
- CVs have asked which reporting template they need to use when completing a report for an Unannounced visit. There is no difference between the report for the Announced or Unannounced visits – the CVS office keeps track of this data behind the scenes for reporting.

Michelle gave an update on Disability, including:

- An overview of the meeting with the NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission (already mentioned above).
- The reduced number of disability houses we can visit means that we will need to ask CVs to travel a little bit further than we would have in the past and hope that CVs will continue to support our Scheme during this reduced visit time

Rondelle gave an update on Recruitment and Training:

- Appointments since our last get together:
 - Karen Rogers
 - Janice Clark
 - Dana Alexander
 - Amalia Azis
 - Greg Fulton
 - Angela Jheun and
 - Elizabeth Megaw.
- Sadly in that same Cabinet Submission we also lost:
 - Jim
 - Bryn
 - Sara
 - Ron
 - Angela K
 - Chan
 - Shipra
 - Nike and
 - Lia.
- Acknowledgement of the Premier's Certificate of recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service.
- August training for new CVs has been cancelled as we wait to see what happens with the Public Advocate delegations.
- With our recent losses in Whyalla and the Riverland, we need more CVs in these areas so CVs were asked to please spread the word amongst their networks. They were also asked to let us know if they would be happy to do a day trip to Berri, Whyalla or Mt Gambier.
- New Working with Children Checks commenced on 1 July 2019 however existing DCSI / DHS Working with Children Clearances are valid until their expiry so there's no need for CVs to take any action at this stage. Rondelle will be in touch, with instructions, a few months prior to checks expiring. When a new Working with Children Check is initiated, the applicant will be issued with a Unique ID which is transferable amongst other volunteering organisations so please advise Rondelle if you're issued with this number through another role.
- **The next Get Together is scheduled for Wednesday 2 October 2019 at 3.00 PM** (with Reflective Practice at 2.00 PM).