

Minutes

Workforce Development Reference Group Meeting
Mental Health Coordinating Council
Rose Cottage, Building 402, Central Avenue,
Rozelle Hospital Grounds, Lilyfield

Thursday 15th November 2007
2:00 to 4:00 PM

1. Welcome

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance:

1. Sandy Watson – Consumer rep
2. Jonine Penrose-Wall – JPW Results (Outcomes Program)
3. Judi Matthews – New Horizons
4. Tina Smith – MHCC LDU
5. Nicole Schlederer – Chair Workforce Development Reference Group, MHCC
6. Sabrina Urrutie – Aftercare
7. Helen Madigan – Co-As-It
8. Evelyn Goodwin – NSW DET
9. Eryn Thomas – MHCC LDU
10. Susan Scowcroft – CSHITAB
11. Chris Ball - RFNSW

Apologies:

1. Pedro Diaz - AfterCare
2. Jo Khoo – NADA
3. Maggie Pressnell – Mission Australia
4. Sue Sterling – Richmond Fellowship
5. Gillian Malins – NSW CAG
6. Bill Gye – SFNSW
7. Chantal Nagib – Uniting Care MENTAL HEALTH
8. Terry Smith – AHC of AH & MRC
9. Wayne Peterson – NEAMI
10. Anna Saminsky -
11. Janet Meagher - PRA

3. Previous Minutes

Accepted as a true and accurate record and seconded

4. Business arising

4.1. Learning and Development Unit – Tina to provide update

- a) LDU activities - Tina Smith provided an update on the activities of the Learning and Development Unit, including:
 - 2007 Stage 1 rollout,
 - 2008 calendar development

- b) Training Reference Group doing Stage 2 course development + feedback. Waiting to reschedule
- c) Eryn – RPL Update + feedback from DET COAG validation.
- d) Info sharing between RTO, LDU + learning participant juggling AQTF requirements with need to support workers & their organisations. Discussing MOUs + looking for an agreement early next year.
 - Judi offered info from her org experience
 - Evelyn suggested DET workshop on RTOs + community organisations partnering together
 - Jonine suggested look at work placement
 - Susan suggested workplace learning toolkit from ITAB or skillsonline.

4.2. Routine Consumer Outcome Measurement

- Jonine invited participants to comment on a draft Continuing Education Program for implementing Routine Consumer Outcome Monitoring (RCOM). This component follows Familiarisation (pre training launches in regions) and Initial Training - the front line workforce one day training.
- This CE component will be posted next week with an outline of the other training components and the component called, Executive Leadership Training in a hot pink box after which she would like to phone members of the Committee for an interview time.
- She wishes to do a formal evaluation of the pack prior to use and will visit for individual feedback. She reminded the committee that the program entailed 9 Modules of self directed learning following what was outlined in the Implementing RCOM Training Mechanism paper approved by the Board earlier in 2007.
- This RCOM training is not tied to the Learning and Development Unit work at this stage but that it is a 4 phase training that is aimed in relevant a one year program for full time staff and 18 months for part timers and is an evidence-based strategy to reinforce Initial Training, based on the evaluations of training that other systems did when trying to implement RCOM.
- A DVD will be produced by and for consumers also as part of the training and a way that consumers and others can become familiar with what is being proposed.
- The program will, with Committee feedback be finalised during December for implementation early 2008.
- Honest critique of the package is vital from NGOs on this Committee.

4.3. Workforce Development Initiatives – all to be launched at MHCC AGM – November 30th

- a) Mental Health NGO Service User and Peer Leadership Project
 - Joint project between NSW CAG and MHCC
 - Sandy Watson prepared a discussion paper. She discussed this at the meeting and summarized that the paper intends to engage debate & discussion around development of consumer participation in service reform.
 - This will be circulated soon, to encourage discussion and further consideration of the issues involved. Additional activity for the project will be determined after feedback from the discussion paper.
- b) Recruitment campaign
 - BRC recruitment update: MHCC has partnered with BRC recruitment to recruit for community mental health workers. It is almost finalized & will be advertised to members as soon as the link is made on the MHCC website.
 - 1 poster is at the printers.
 - 1 other Poster and 1 brochure soon to be completed & printed by Breakout. Drafts were handed out in the meeting and discussed.

- c) VET Sector pocket guide – NOW AVAILABLE! Some were handed out to people that attended the meeting. Can be picked up from MHCC office. Susan Scowcroft mentioned other fields have a similar pocket guide (e.g. AOD & Childcare)

4.4. Review of Community Services Training Package – update by Susan Scowcroft.

- ❖ ISC is holding meetings for feedback (invite only) around the package in December. Draft 2 should be available before Xmas. Feedback on Draft 2 should be due early February, but look at the ITAB website for more info.
- ❖ Draft 2 is the last chance for feedback on learning/training & assessment package until 2013/2015. Stage 3 will be more about implementation, therefore it is critical to have input into this draft.
- ❖ Package will probably include Cert IV & Diploma, but no grad dip.
- ❖ Tina distributed summary of proposed unit of competence titles for the Diploma.

4.5. MHCC AGM – Mercure Sydney, at Broadway on 30/11/07.

5. New Business

5.1. RPL

- ❖ Evelyn Goodwyn raised the issue to strengthening assessment pathways to MH quals through recognition (RPL). There is a need to improve trainers and assessors skills & make sure industry understands what's happening & what candidates can get out of it. There is a need for industry and RTO forums for these discussions to happen.
- ❖ Tina mentioned it is more cost effective for organisations to have their own trainers and assessors for their own staff training.
- ❖ There will be a 1 day forum for this topic with MHCC members, DET, managers & other key workers interested in Cert IV training and assessment. Judi (New Horizons) will be involved in the forum subgroup & maybe RFNSW.

5.2. Strategic Planning Day

- Nicole asked those at the meeting if they thought it would be a good idea to have a strategic planning day to decide on the direction of the WFD work by MHCC in late Feb/March. Everyone agreed it would be, so Nicole will draw up some ideas and present it at the next meeting, or beforehand if there is time via email.
- The BRC employment company should have the mental health employment opportunities on their website soon & there will be a link to it from the MHCC website.

5.3. NSW ITAB website launch: Nov 21, 2007 "Navigating NSW". Website goes live Thursday.

6. Next Meeting

6.1. 3rd Thursday of every 2nd Month Jan – Nov, 2008. To start at 1.30 – 4pm in 2008

- ❖ 17/1/08
- ❖ 13/3/08 (please note: 2nd Thursday in March)
- ❖ 15/5/08
- ❖ 17/7/08
- ❖ 18/9/08
- ❖ 20/11/08