



NMHS Board Update

July 2022

This update highlights key discussions from the NMHS Board meeting held on 29 July 2022 in the Noongar Season of Makuru via MS TEAMS.

Board Members present

Chair Professor David Forbes AM
Deputy Chair Ms Rebecca Strom
Ms Paula Rogers
Mr Steve Toutountzis
Prof Paul Norman
Ms Angela Edwards

A cause for celebration

- *Modular Ward opening by the MfH at Osborne Park Hospital in June 2022. Thank you to everyone involved. This represents an important health innovation.*
- *GEM Awards – reflected on the amazing group of people nominated this year. The board really appreciate being involved in the awards and enjoy celebrating the nominees and winners.*
- *The acknowledgement and celebration of NAIDOC week across NMHS. We look forward to continuing this important journey to improve Aboriginal health in WA*

Our Community and Our People: embedding our values:

“I appreciate what you guys have done” words from a patient we reflected on but we also learned of a less than happy outcome associated with “poor communications from the acute system” Every month reflections on consumer and staff feedback are a focus of the board.

Presentation to the Board:

- Resigning Board Member, Ms Kim Farmer provided the Board with a reflection on her time in the role. She reminded us of the health challenges that our first nations people continue to have and on leaving the board she wants us to keep this front of mind for the way we make decisions. Kim’s legacy will remain as we become ever more aware of Aboriginal opportunities for change in our system. She reminded us that a small girl’s death stopped the health system recently, but we normalise poor outcomes for Aboriginal patients
- The Director General, Dr David Russell-Weisz joined the meeting and provided his 2022 update regarding the priorities of WA Health for 2022/23. He spoke of the focus on the WA Sustainable Health Review as the main driver for WA Health. Additionally, he discussed:
 - Minister for Health Statement of Expectations
 - Emergency Departments and Patient Flow
 - Financial Performance of NMHS
 - Women and Newborn Service Relocation Program (WNSRP)
 - Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce (GRAFT)
 - The need for accurate forecasting by the HSP boards

Board Chair and Chief Executive update:

Updates and discussion focused on the review of current issues,

- Stakeholder update
- Safety and Quality including challenges in meeting Emergency Department demand and the HEART plan.
- Blue SAR, or transition to living with Covid.
- Finance – end of financial year reporting
- COVID update
- Major infrastructure projects: GRAFT and WNSRP



Board Committee Updates:

The minutes of each of our Committees were provided with a precis provided by each of the Committee Chairs:

- Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee
- Finance Committee
- Audit & Risk Committee

These reports highlight the ongoing work of the Committees and the level of demand, staffing, and budget pressures that NMHS is managing while working to maintain safe, high quality clinical care. The challenges, and need for change in management of our outpatient services was emphasised resulting in a request for an Outpatient Reform Strategy.

Board endorsements and strategic discussion:

We reviewed and endorsed –

- NMHS Operational Plan - Quarter 4 report April to June 2022
- NMHS Statement of Intent – Quarter 4 report April to June 2022
- Section 40 Annual Estimates of NMHS Financial Operations
- Draft Mental Health Service Commission Agreement for 2022-23

The next regular meeting of the NMHS Board is scheduled for Friday 26 August 2022.



Makuru season is the season of cold fronts. This is usually the wettest part of the year. The rains replenish inland water resources.



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