

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WA MENTAL HEALTH COVID-19 RESEARCH
PANEL, HELD VIA ZOOM ON 7 APRIL 2020**

ZOOM Link: <https://uwa.zoom.us/j/559040219>

PRESENT:

Professor Sean Hood (University of Western Australia) Chair
Dr Jacquita Affandi (Curtin University)
Professor Rosa Alati (Curtin University)
Professor Osvaldo Almeida (University of Western Australia)
Rebecca Anglin (University of Notre Dame)
Dr Bahareh Badrian (University of Notre Dame)
Dr Danielle Bartlett (Edith Cowan University)
Dr Bec Bennett (Ear Science Institute Australia)
Ms Sue Critchley (Curtin University)
Dr Travis Cruickshank (Edith Cowan University)
A/Professor Wendy Cumming-Potvin (Murdoch University)
Ms Evenda Dench (University of Western Australia)
A/Professor Joanne Dickson (Edith Cowan University)
Dr Rob Eikelboom (UWA/Ear Science Institute Australia)
Dr Caitlin Fox-Harding (Edith Cowan University)
Ms Maria Halphen (Meeting for Minds)
Dr Salam Hussain (University of Western Australia /Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital)
Ms Rolee Kumar (University of Western Australia)
Dr David Lawrence (University of Western Australia)
Dr Libby Lee-Hammond (Murdoch University)
Dr Justin Manuel (WA Country Health Service)
A/Professor Dorit Maor (Murdoch University)
Dr Judy MacCallum (Murdoch University)
Professor Peter McEvoy (Curtin University)
Professor Vera Morgan (University of Western Australia)
Dr Elizabeth Newnham (Curtin University)
Professor Andrew Page (University of Western Australia)
Professor Christopher Reid (Curtin University)
Professor Suzanne Robinson (Curtin University)
Dr Jessica Tearne (Royal Perth Hospital/Fiona Stanley Hospital)
Professor Anna Waterreus (University of Western Australia)
Professor Flavie Waters (University of Western Australia)

Executive Officer (Leanne Hall)

APOLOGIES:

Keith Wilson (Meeting for Minds)

Previous minutes: name change suggestion for CIVIC was 'comprehensive' not 'complementary'.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members.

2. ESTABLISHING WAMH-CoRP WORKING GROUPS

Professor Hood invited members to suggest potential sub-groups/working groups that could be formed related to COVID research, and to advise of those already convened i.e.: the CIVIC Study.

Following discussion a number of areas were identified:

- Frontline Educational Staff/Childhood Education (including hospital schools)
- Frontline Health Workers (including country health services)
- Older adults
- Children & Adolescents (including children with disabilities/learning difficulties)
- Impact on chronic health conditions
- Secondary Mental Health Issues

Dr Cruickshank informed members that his team is interested in looking at the mental health and wellbeing of individuals living with chronic medical conditions, particularly cancer and neurological conditions. They are also looking at the utility of lifestyle interventions delivered as telehealth to combat adverse changes to physical and emotional wellbeing as a result of COVID-19.

Professor Morgan raised the matter of the impact of COVID-19 on people who already have severe mental illness, such as psychotic illness.

3. CONTACT LISTS

Compiling a list of contact details for members, including information on research interests, research groups, collaborations, and current studies/projects.

The list will be distributed by email on a weekly basis; anyone interested in adding their details can either complete the spreadsheet, or email Leanne via leanne.hall@uwa.edu.au.

4. CIVIC STUDY

Professor Reid provided an update on the CIVIC study (Cardiopulmonary and health implications of coronavirus (COVID-19) exposure in the community). CIVIC is a modular based series of surveys and questionnaires, with an opportunity to target specific groups.

Current entry streams into the study include:

Hospitalised and discharged patients following COVID-19 admission
COVID-19 testing clinics
Busselton Study cohort

More information on the study can be found on the WAHTN website.

5. MEASUREMENT HARMONIZATION

Professor McEvoy is collating list of measures that can be used to track mental health and wellbeing, with a view to consolidating these across the COVID-19 research response. Validated questionnaires and versions.

The list will be made available via an online repository (Dropbox). Professor Reid suggested this could also be made available on WAHTN clinical trials site.

6. LONGITUDINAL TRAJECTORIES OF ACUTE STRESS AMONG WA HEALTHCARE WORKERS RESPONDING TO COVID-19

Dr Newnham informed members of a study her team is implementing to evaluate the care plan in place for hospital healthcare workers during the pandemic response. The study is being conducted in partnership with Royal Perth Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and King Edward Memorial Hospital. The cohort will encompass staff across the healthcare spectrum, including medical nursing, midwifery, allied health and auxiliary staff.

7. “COVID-19 AND YOU: MENTAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA NOW” SURVEY

Professor Waters referred members to a number of general, broad population surveys, in particular a survey being conducted by Swinburne University into depression, anxiety, and impacts on quality of life.

In the UK Young Minds released the results of a survey investigating the mental health impact of COVID on young people, including loss of social connections, and their ability to access to interventions.

8. EAR SCIENCE INSTITUTE PROJECT

Dr Eikelboom informed members that the Ear Science Institute Australia is looking at the impacts of COVID-19 on older Australians, in particular the effects of hearing impairment and social isolation having a negative impact on access to services.

ESIA is encouraging audiologists to provide frontline services, and are working on moving to a telehealth model.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms Halphen mentioned that the role of Meeting for Minds is to assist people with lived experience of mental illness to meet with researchers, and also to communicate research. If members are agreeable, Ms Halphen would like to share information on the COVID-19 research response in WA via Meeting for Minds, in order to connect with others internationally. May also invite someone to join the WAMH-CoRP group.

NEXT MEETING

14 April 2020

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