



2018-2019 Annual Report- NEMHSCA North East Mental Health Service Coordination Alliance

Report Provided by Sarah Officer NEMHSCA Project Coordinator

Background-

The NEMHSCA project sought to build on the work of the North East Mental Health Alliance (NEMHA), a longstanding mental health alliance in the North East region led by Banyule Community Health (BCH). In recognition of significant and continued sector reform in the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) and Mental Health sectors, BCH sought resources to continue and expand the Alliance to reflect current need for integration and collaboration across the multiple sectors who are involved in service delivery for this most vulnerable of client groups. Having secured funding from the Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (EMPHN), BCH and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM) sought partnership to renew and reinvigorate the Alliance, to be called the North East Mental Health Service Coordination Alliance (NEMHSCA).

The Role of NEMHSCA-

Is to promote the development, implementation and monitoring of an integrated multi sector service coordination framework that harnesses the knowledge, experience and practice wisdom of representatives from across the North East metropolitan region. NEMHSCA aims to provide a platform to better enhance service integration and communication so consumers, carers and the community can access responsive, appropriate and integrated Mental Health and wellbeing support.

NEMHSCA Project 2019-

In January of 2019 the NEMHSCA project coordinator (PC) role commenced. The PC initiated consultations with local service providers from around North East metropolitan region of Victoria. By June 2019, 20 member organisations had joined the alliance. A Governance Committee and an Expert Advisory Group had been formed. Fundamental key documents, statements and strategies were produced with the input of the Governance Committee, Alliance and the Expert Advisory Group. In 2019 NEMHSCA held four meetings in June, August, October and December. As well as developing and implementing the executive Alliance the NEMHSCA PC connected with the smaller working parties that had been created from the original NEMHA alliance. The NEMHSCA PC and the NEMHA professional development working party (now the NEMHSCA PDWP) collaborated on a North East regional workforce development showcase. Highlighting new and upcoming programs and initiatives and showcasing existing local service providers. 109 workforce members from the NEMHSCA region participated. In late 2019 the NEMHSCA branding process commenced with the PC having two consultations with the designer and giving feedback from the Alliance.

Governance of NEMHSCA-

A Memorandum of Understanding exists between Banyule Community Health and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.

NEMHSCA Governance Committee- Larissa Seymour (EMPHN), Lara Jackson (BCH), Chris Hynan (SVHM), Sarah Officer (NEMHSCA Project Coordinator).

The Alliance-

NEMHSCA Project Coordinator- Sarah Officer

NEMHSCA Co-chairs: Lara Jackson (BCH) and Chris Hynan (SVHM)

Membership-

Austin Health	Mind Australia
Banyule Community Health	Northern Area Mental Health NAMHS
Brotherhood of St Laurence	Neami National
Centrelink (DHS)	Nexus Dual Diagnosis Consultancy Service
CarerLinks North	Nexus Primary Health
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	Orange Door
Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network	Odyssey House
Headspace	Uniting ReGen
health Ability/Carrington Health	Wellways
Hume/Whittlesea PCP	Whittlesea Council

NEMHSCA Strategy-

Vision-For consumers, carers and the communities we serve to receive person centred, timely, flexible and appropriate mental health and wellbeing support from services who coordinate, communicate and integrate through a regional service coordination platform.

Function- The North East Mental Health Service Coordination Alliance is an inter-organisational collaborative platform that advocates, plans and shapes better health and wellbeing service delivery; including improving and enhancing service coordination and integration in the North East metropolitan region of Victoria.

NEMHSCA Priority Areas-

Mental Health and AOD System Reform

Objective- To improve consumer and carer access to person centered, timely, flexible, culturally safe, appropriate and integrated support.

and safety issues and agreed application of service coordination and care pathways between partner agencies.

Safe and Quality Care

Objective- Shared understanding of key quality

Collaborative and Shared Care Planning

Objective- Shared understanding of key issues and

agreed application of service collaboration and shared care pathways between partner agencies.

Workforce Retention and Development

Objective- Maintain and further develop a skilled workforce in the region.

Highlights for 2019

20 Service Providers join NEMHSCA membership.

The formation of an Expert Advisory Group

4 Alliance meetings were held at Banyule Community Health Service

The NEMHSCA Alliance members discussed and designed-

- A Terms of Reference
- 4 Strategic Priority Areas
- NEMHSCA Vision and Values
- 10 Project Deliverables
- Start the design of a project deliverable- Regional Staff Orientation Practice
- Boost the membership of the NEMHSCA PDWP
- Support the growth of the Peer workforce CoP membership

NEMHSCA professional development working party put on a regional workforce development showcase with 109 participants in attendance.

The Alliance contribute to Phase 1 of the design into the official NEMHSCA branding

What's in store for 2020.

The implementation of the EMPHN Workforce development and Capacity Building Strategy funding:

- 1 Regional Forum
- 2 Webinars
- 2 Workshops
- The support, development and expansion of a North East Peer Workforce Community of Practice.
- The development of a staff orientation regional practice.
- Sustaining and building relationships and partnerships within the NEMHSCA alliance.
- New membership to consider Woman's Health in the North, Regional Housing and Homelessness Agencies, Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services.
- The completion of official NEMHSCA branding by Graphics for Good

In conclusion-

2019 was the year of the design and implementation of the NEMHSCA Alliance. Much of the groundwork has been laid and the framework in place, NEMHSCA will soon move into its second year. 2020 aims to see NEMHSCA strengthening and sustaining its platform; creating opportunities for the workforce and continuing to work on project deliverables together. The group will work to improve local service coordination and integration by utilising a shared framework for enacting its vision.