



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

July 2022 Meeting

This Communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board's Board meeting which was held at Fremantle Hospital on Monday 25 July 2022.

Each month, a Board member is asked to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Board meets and this month, Ryan Atkinson reflected on NAIDOC Week 2022 and the importance of respecting one another's identity. He talked about the spectrum of Aboriginality and how coming together and supporting each other is the most important thing. It was a very moving and thought provoking acknowledgement.

This month, Board members welcomed the Director General of WA Health, Dr David Russell-Weisz, for a discussion about strategic matters, priorities and challenges. While the Chief Executive and I meet with the Director General on a regular basis, this was an excellent opportunity for all Board members to connect with the System Manager in an engaging and positive conversation.

At each Board meeting, members consider patient stories early in the meeting to ensure that the patient is always at the forefront of our considerations. One of the patient stories this month considered a radiation oncology patient who was cared for at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) and the extra support provided to reduce their anxiety during what could have been a very stressful time. Some actions taken by the treating team included booking the patient to be treated on the same radiation machine every day. This allowed the patient to know the staff and feel familiar with the environment; ensuring that the patient waited in an open area before the treatment and not in the main waiting room where the patient felt overwhelmed; scheduling appointments to accommodate family school drop offs and pick ups; providing one point of contact in the Clinical Nurse Coordinator; social work support; and bi-weekly nursing appointments to ensure the patient was able to cope with the side effects of their treatment. The collaboration and communication in this case were excellent and demonstrated respect, dignity and compassion in all elements of the patient's care which are all reflective of the health service values.

One of the items discussed as part of the Board Chair's Report was the first SMHS Kaartdijin Innovation Showcase. The event held on 19 July was attended by Kim Gibson, Deputy Board Chair. The Showcase celebrated some of the SMHS entrepreneurs who have successfully developed and implemented their ideas to transform the way we deliver health care. The Showcase featured innovators whose used digital solutions to help solve complex health issues, including: Virtual Emergency Medicine; Emergency Department Musculoskeletal Diversion Clinic; Virtual Immunology Clinic; mobile apps for patients; mobile apps for staff; and LifeFit-SurgFit. You can watch a recording of the presentations [via this link \(WA Health staff only\)](#). Kim reported that it was an outstanding and inspiring session and looked forward to the board members having further opportunities to hear about the innovative work being led by SMHS staff.



This month's Board meeting included Board reports and discussion of the following items:

- SMHS Strategic Plan 2021-25 update – each quarter, the Board receives an update on the progress against the Strategic Plan. This month, Board members also agreed that the Board committees would take a greater role in providing oversight to the projects within the Plan.
- SMHS emergency and elective recovery project update – Neil Doverty, SMHS Executive Director, Emergency and Elective Recovery provided an update to Board on the project that has commenced to support the system-wide approach to improving emergency access to hospitals as well as reducing elective surgery waiting lists. This is a vitally important piece of work and Board is monitoring progress.
- The Public Sector Commission's Government boards and committees' annual collection – this survey is undertaken each year by the Public Sector Commission to ensure that Government boards and committees are meeting obligations in relation to integrity and ethics.
- Board committees' terms of reference annual update – each year, the terms of reference relating to each of the four Board committees are reviewed, updated and approved at committee-level before being formally approved at Board.

The Chief Executive's report this month included the following:

- An update on the continued management of COVID-19 including staffing matters, emergency department testing, future plans and the recent closure of the FSH testing clinic.
- A progress update on the 30-bed modular ward at Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) which is on track to open in August 2022.
- An update on the new Community Care Unit in Orelia, which is now operational. The CCU is the first of its kind in WA and provides high-level support and rehabilitation services in the community in a home-like environment for adults with severe mental health issues.
- An update from the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Statewide Navigator Service which is run by SMHS. 1 July 2022 marked one year since the VAD legislation was enacted. The SMHS Board and Executive are proud of the compassionate and caring service being delivered for patients and their families.
- Information on the innovation initiatives being delivered across SMHS including the Innovation Showcase mentioned earlier, a Shark Tank event held at RGH to hear from staff about their forward thinking ideas and the new Kaartdijin Innovation Centre recently opened at RGH.



As part of my Chair's report, I welcomed new Board member Karen Brown (left) and congratulated four Board members on their reappointments – Kim Gibson, Ryan Atkinson, Liam Roche and Colin Murphy.

I also thanked Kim Gibson for capably acting as Chair during my recent leave as well as marking former Board member David Rowe's departure with a small morning tea (right).



Chairs and members of the Board Committees provided reports on the issues considered at their most recent meetings and highlighted specific items including:

- The Safety and Quality Committee discussed the recent FSFHG accreditation as well as clinical incidents of concern. The Committee also discussed regular safety and quality reports as well as the emergency and elective access recovery program mentioned above.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and approved the SMHS Annual Estimates for 2022-23.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the audit log, corporate risks, internal audits, the litigation schedule, integrity and ethics matters and the Internal Audit Attestation Statement of Compliance.

The next regular meeting of the SMHS Board is scheduled for Monday 22 August 2022 at Rockingham General Hospital.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service



This Board meeting was being held during the Noongar season of Makuru – the season of fertility. Makuru is June to July, which is the coldest and wettest time of the year.