

e-news Healthtalk

1 November 2004

Welcome to
e-news
HealthTalk,
a regular update
on the
amalgamation

Progress Report

Allied Health

During October, the Allied Health Steering Committee held its first meeting. At this meeting, the committee developed a consultation template which includes a series of questions designed to prompt discussion on the short- and long-term options for allied health cooperation and governance.

Using the consultation template as a guide, wide consultation has taken place within each allied health profession. The results of this consultation are being put together and a final report will be released at the end of November.

*CSAHS Allied Health
Director Katherine Moore
SWSAHS Clinical Strategy Director
Patrick Bolton*

Community Participation

During October, SWSAHS acting community participation manager Alice Wood met with CSAHS director of health services planning Dr Peter Kennedy to discuss the amalgamation plan and the role of the Community Participation unit in the new area. SWSAHS pioneered the concept of community participation in 2001.

Community Participation was co-winner, with SESAHS, of a prestigious Baxter Award for the SWSAHS Community Participation Framework Project.

*SWSAHS Community Participation
Acting Manager Alice Wood
CSAHS Health Services Planning Director
Dr Peter Kennedy*

Gastroenterology and Liver Services

Early discussions between these two services has started with a great spirit of co-operation and enthusiasm, thanks in part to a number of friendly dinners.

Progress is low-key but fruitful for the two services. Agreements made to date include:

- Strong support to establish a colorectal

unit at Bankstown Hospital

- Plans to integrate some research projects
- Exploring possibility of conjoint VMO appointment of a general surgeon at Canterbury and Bankstown hospitals.
- A conjoint research project involving circumferential margins has been established between Concord, Bankstown, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden, Fairfield and Manchester (UK) hospitals.

A meeting has been set for February 2005 to look at means of integrating databases.

*CSAHS Gastroenterology and Liver Services
Director Professor Les Bokey
SWSAHS Gastroenterology and Liver
Services clinical co-director Dr Neil Merrett*

Mental Health

The way mental health services have been organised and delivered has been quite different in the two Areas. While CSAHS has had the infrastructure of a large, dedicated psychiatric hospital, SWSAHS has historically, offered a more sectorised service.

During October, staff from many disciplines and varying programs across the two areas met to discuss plans and strategies for amalgamation. The issues discussed at these meetings have been communicated to the two Area Directors.

On October 29 a planning workshop, with facilitator support, of both service Mental Health Executives met to map out a strategy for developing a united Area-wide service for Sydney South West Health. A number of working parties will be established to focus on specific tasks and to report back to the combined Executive Steering Group.

*SWSAHS Mental Health Director
Associate Professor Scott Clark
CSAHS Mental Health Services Director
Dr Victor Storm*

Nuclear Medicine and PET

Medical Imaging Services at RPA and the Department of Nuclear Medicine and PET at Liverpool have been meeting and

collaborating since 2002. They are pleased with the impending amalgamation because it will be mean that patients will be able to receive the same level of service, regardless of their location in the new SSWH.

The links between the two services were established to share expertise soon after the November 2001 Commonwealth announcement of the expansion of PET nationally and the location of the second PET scanner in NSW at Liverpool Hospital. Together, the services have contributed over 50 percent of the data accrued nationwide for the evaluation of PET in patient management.

Monthly clinical care meetings have been held since late 2002 to discuss cases of particular interest, educational links and quality assurance. The two services have already been networking in respect to staff leave/cover and it is anticipated that RPA will supply Liverpool with PET isotopes. Plans for the future include benchmarking clinical indicators between the two centres and the development of collaborative projects using new PET isotopes for clinical diagnosis, management and research.

*CSAHS Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Medical Imaging Services Director
A/Professor Michael Fulham
SWSAHS Liverpool Hospital Department of
Nuclear Medicine and PET Acting Director
Dr Peter Lin*

Minister announces Advisory Council report

The new Area Health Advisory Council (AHAC) for Sydney South West Health will consist of nine members serving an average four-year term.

Health Minister Morris Iemma, last week tabled in Parliament the Sinclair / McCarthy report setting out the key features and terms of reference for the new councils, which replace the former area health service boards.

Four regional health services - Greater Western, Greater Southern, Hunter and New England, and North Coast - will each have an Advisory Council of up to 13 members, to reflect their larger geographical size.

All other health services including Sydney South West Health will have nine members, with the possibility of up to 13 in special circumstances.

Members, who will comprise clinician and community/consumer representatives, will in most cases have to live within their health service boundary. Appointments, by expressions of interest, will be for a maximum eight-year term.

Area Chief Executive Officers will be required to personally attend all Area Health Advisory Council meetings and will be required to meet key performance indicators for the way they relate to the Advisory Councils.

"This is about planning and investing for the current and future needs of our health system and ensuring that the broader community has a say in where health resources are placed and the services we provide.

"I am committed to preserving existing health advisory structures including Medical Staff Councils and local community health participation groups," Mr Iemma said.

Mr Iemma said the Advisory Councils would be enshrined in legislation rather than established as purely administrative bodies, in recognition of their importance.

Advertisements seeking expressions of interest will be lodged as soon as Parliament passes the legislation.

Chairs will be appointed shortly after the new Area Health Services are established on 1 January 2005, with other members appointed shortly after.

Chief Executive of Sydney South West Health, Dr Diana Horvath, said she was sure that the new Advisory Council would be a success if it reflected the attendance at the two public consultation meetings held at Liverpool and Concord hospitals.

"I am confident that the Advisory Councils will perform well if the members are as committed and as well informed as the people who turned up to the public meetings held at our hospitals," said Dr Horvath

The Sinclair / McCarthy report is available on the NSW Health website www.nsw.health.gov.au

Planning and investing for the current and future needs of our health system

sydney south west health

CSAHS
CENTRAL SYDNEY AREA
HEALTH SERVICE

sydney south west health





Chief Executive update

It is only just over three months since I was appointed administrator of the amalgamated South Western Sydney and Central Sydney area health services. We have come a long way in that short time in progressing how the new health service will operate from January 1.

First of all I am delighted to announce that I have been appointed Chief Executive of Sydney South West Health and the Government has formally approved the new name of our service.

I have clocked up many miles as I have attempted to meet as many of you as possible face to face. Last week more than 100 staff attended our forum at Bankstown and I found the feedback extremely helpful, as was a forum held at Liverpool in October.

Further staff forums are planned for Bowral, Campbelltown, Camden and Fairfield in November. In addition please check the intranet every fortnight for our amalgamation update *e news Health Talk*. Ask your manager to print you out a copy if you don't have access to a computer.

The Transition Management Team has had its first formal meeting and I have had extremely useful progress reports from managers across both areas who are responsible for reporting on how their departments will work as a single unit across the new area from January 1. Final reports are due to me on November 30 2004.

In South Western Sydney we have started interviews for clinical directors as part of the clinical strategy *SWSAHS The Way Forward*. We have already made some appointments.

Professor Jeremy Wilson has been appointed as executive clinical director. Professor Wilson has been such an effective leader of the Clinical Strategy Group and has brought together a previously disparate set of clinicians into a shared vision submerging parochial interests for the good of the whole service. I know he will continue this marvellous leadership in his new role.

Dr Mark Sheridan has been appointed Surgical Services clinical co-director; Professor Ken Hillman has been appointed

Critical Care Services clinical co-director and Dr Neil Merrett has been appointed Gastroenterology and Liver Services clinical co-director.

How brilliantly did South Western Sydney Area Health Service perform in the NSW Health Baxter Quality awards last week, scooping three of the 10 category awards across the State.

Bankstown Hospital won the *Education and Training* category for its program – *The development and implementation of the Certificate III in Aged Care Work – Nursing Assistant*.

Liverpool Hospital Department of Rheumatology clinical nurse specialist Helene Rickard and Dr Kathryn Gibson won the *Safety of Healthcare* category for its project *Toxic drug monitoring*.

South Western Sydney Area Health Service won the *Consumer Participation in Healthcare Category* for its *Community Participation Framework*, led by Alice Wood.

Well done everybody. What a wonderful, morale-boosting start to our fresh beginning as a new and revitalised area health service.

At Central it was with great synergy that Canterbury Hospital celebrated its 75th anniversary as a district hospital serving the community of the inner west, in the same week as services began to move into Croydon Health Centre.

Croydon Health Centre is Australia's largest purpose built community health Centre and is built on the site of the former Western Suburbs Hospital. The two services reflect our commitment to health planning which is sensitive to the real needs of the local community by providing relevant services where they are needed.



Dr Diana Horvath AO
Chief Executive

How we're working together

- In an increasingly common gesture of solidarity, medical oncologists from RPA stepped in to provide services to Bankstown cancer patients while a senior staff specialist was on extended leave.
- In a return gesture, nuclear medicine physicians from Liverpool Hospital have provided services to RPA, allowing that hospital to better meet its need for nuclear medicine services.