



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

REF: WCPP 11/4/9

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Wednesday, 23 September 2022, (at 08:00) Chamber, 6 Floor

PRESENT

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Philander, WF (Chairperson)

Fry, C

Plato, D

African National Congress

Windvogel, R

Additional Members

Bans, AP (ANC)

Baku-Baku- Vos

Economic Freedom Fighter

Xego, M (EFF)

Persons in attendance

Professor Mbombo, N, Minister, provincial Department of Health & Wellness

Ms Dean, C, Director Specialised Hospitals

Ms Goliath, C, CEO for the Valkenberg Psychiatric Hospital

Ms Silence, E, alternate for Ms van der Berg, L- Stikland Psychiatric Hospital

Mr Caesar, W, Lentegour Psychiatric Hospital

Mr Swart, E, CEO, Mitchells Plain District Hospital

Mr. Binza, D, CEO, Khayelitsha District Hospital

Dr, Newman, D, Head of Ministry: Health & Wellness

Ms Stemele, A, Office of the Ministry: Health & Wellness

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed everyone present and allowed for brief introductions.

2. Briefing by the Department of Health on the Mental Health Programmes

Minister Mbombo gave opening remarks on the rising challenge of mental health presented by patients of different age groups in various health facilities across the province. Minister Mbombo indicated that mental health is a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and can contribute to his her or community. She indicated that social determinants such as high unemployment, substance abuse, etc. were the main contributing factors to the mental health challenges in various communities and subsequently to the health system. She indicated that a Whole Societal Approach was needed to address the mental health challenges in various communities. The Minister highlighted that the situation has become particularly challenging since the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a major impact on individual and community mental health. She informed the Committee that there are advanced psychiatric nurses, but the question remained on the mental health status of a community on its own and how this could be dealt with effectively.

Ms Dean proceeded to brief the Committee on the mental health programmes. She reported that the Western Cape Burden of Disease Report found that, in terms of suicides, there has been a worrying trajectory, following an increase since April 2020. About 90% of people who commit suicide have an underlying psychiatric illness. Between 2010 and 2016, suicides were 11% of all injury deaths (1.5% of all deaths) nationally. Suicides were three to four times greater in males, who had more attempts by females. The Western Cape had the highest 12-month and lifetime prevalence of mental illness in SA (39%). Anxiety disorders were 19%, mood disorders 14%, and substance use disorders were 21%. Less than one in four people with mental illness seek care.

The Committee was informed that from 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2021, the Forensic Pathology Services recorded 2 188 deaths due to suicide in the Western Cape. The peak number of deaths each year occurs in December. There was a marked drop in suicides in April 2020, at the time of the lockdown. Despite that, there has been an upward trajectory since April 2020 to date.

The Department reported that R500 million was needed to ensure that facilities serve patients effectively and resources were shifted to provide funding for mental health, COVID-19, and the HIV/AIDS grant. The additional funding will help strengthen the Child and Adolescent MH services, psychogeriatrics, and acute services at the George and Paarl Hospitals. The Department mentioned that Community Psychiatrists have also been appointed to do outreach work in mental services to broaden the focus from those patients who have already been institutionalised. The Western Cape had made mental health a priority even in terms of human resources and infrastructure.

Ms Dean further indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on mental health, along with upstream factors related to socio-economic factors, poverty, and unemployment as strong drivers. The provincial Department requires support from its WOGA (Whole of Government Approach) and WOSA (Whole of Society Approach) partners. The Mental Health Steering Committee for Mental Health, chaired by the HOD of Health, convened with technical support from DOTP and the other WCG Departments, to confirm a WOSA roadmap for the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, a three-pronged approach data-led, evidence-informed and focus on geographic areas and mostly put on youth. The Department reported that there are two pilot sites, Klipfontein and Witzenberg, where mental health mapping would be done with key partners, DOE, DSD, DCAS, etc. The aim is to promote the implementation of WOGA and WOSA.

3. Briefing by the Department of Social Development on social determinants that apply pressure to the health system specifically in Khayelitsha and Mitchell Plain

Mr Z Hewu, from the Department of Social Development, proceeded to brief the Committee on the social determinants that apply pressure to the health system specifically in Khayelitsha and Mitchell Plain. He indicated that the Department was funding an in-treatment centre for substance abuse that

accommodates 30 female adults and the Department was in the process of establishing a facility for male clients. There are in-house Child and Youth Care Centres that provide various awareness programmes for substance abuse in the province. In addition, a youth facility has been established, and it can accommodate fifty children.

Due to the significant problem of substance abuse, communities want such facilities. However, it is simply not possible to have these facilities in every community due to budget constraints. Mr. Hewu reported that community-based interventions are concentrated in the metropolitan area, but they are accessible, as people can be transported to the facilities. This will be taken to IDP forums, and the District Model can assist with this. Mr Hewu mentioned that the Department was currently working on many topics such as mental health, and there is a mental health Steering Committee meeting held by the HODs. There is an inter-sectoral committee where children with disruptive behaviour are discussed. The Department of Social Development, the Department of Health, and the Department of Education all participate in this committee to determine where children end up.

Ms. Goliath, C, CEO of Valkenberg Hospital, Ms. E, Silence, CEO of Stikland Hospital, Mr. Binza, D, CEO, Khayelitsha District Hospital, Mr. E, Swart, CEO, of Mitchells Plain District Hospital, and Mr. W, Caesar, CEO, of Lentegeur Specialist Hospital, gave input during the meeting and highlighted the service pressure in their respective hospital. They indicated that some of the contributing factors to high occupancy in hospitals across the province include chronic diseases, trauma, and alcohol abuse, which contribute to violence and GBV. Familial breakdowns also contribute to mental health. Gang violence, unemployment, and socio-economic factors play out in the mental health spaces quite often. There are backyard dwellers and housing factors also play a role. There is poor adherence to a care plan with patients, which creates the revolving door effect. There could be more rehabilitation spaces. Males are more affected than females. It was mentioned that the Prevention of and Treatment for Substances Abuse Act 70 of 2008, still speaks to substance abuse, which needs to change. The word abuse is what creates a stigma in communities. This can be changed to substance use disorders.

The Committee deliberated on the presentations.

4. Request for information

- 4.1 List of NPOs funded by the Department of Health across the province, information on the programmes/ services they provide and their geographic areas.
- 4.2 Detailed information on the Sash Study
- 4.3 Copy of the 2022 Drug Master Plan.
- 4.4 DSD to furnish the Committee with the number of Social Auxiliary Workers and Child Care Workers in the province and where they are base.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Committee recommended that the Department of Health should approach the Department of Transport and Public Works and request permission to make use of the facilities that are standing empty and not being used, namely, the Swellendam Prison in the Overberg Region and former York High School Hostel to address the challenge of inadequate space for mental health patients in the Overberg and Bitou Municipal area.
- 5.2 DSD should empower and train their Social Auxiliary Workers, Social Workers and Child and Youth Care Workers on mental health.
- 5.3 DSD to engage with Department of Transport and Public Works and get permission to make use of Siyakhathala building next to Lindelani as a safe house.

6. Consideration and adoption of the following Committee documents

6.1 Committee Report on the COVID-19 Stakeholder Engagement in Mitchells Plain on 15 June 2022

The Chairperson tabled the draft Committee Report of 15 June 2022, which was considered and adopted with no amendments.

6.2 Committee Report on the Joint visit of the Standing Committee on Health and the Standing Committee on Social Development to the Overberg District from 22 to 24 June 2022

The Chairperson tabled the Committee Report of the joint visit to Overberg, which was considered and adopted with no amendments.

6.3 Minutes of 29 July 2022

The Chairperson tabled the Minutes of 29 July 2022, which were considered and adopted with no amendments.

6.4 Committee report for the visit to Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain District Hospital District Hospitals on 03 August 2022

The Chairperson tabled the draft Committee Report of 3 August 2022, which was considered and adopted with no amendments.

6.5 Minutes of 05 August 2022

The Chairperson tabled the Minutes of 3 August 2022, which were considered and adopted with no amendments.

6.6 Committee Report for the visit to Lentegeur and Valkenberg Psychiatric Hospitals on 19 August 2022

The Chairperson tabled the draft Committee Report of 19 August 2022, which was considered and adopted with no amendments.

6.7 Minutes of 12 August 2022

The Chairperson tabled the Minutes of 12 August 2022, which were considered and adopted with no amendments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.


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**MS WF KAIZER-PHILANDER, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
DATE:**