



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

September 2024 meeting

This communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board meeting which was held at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) on Monday 30 September 2024.



Board members acknowledge the meeting was held during the Noongar season of Djilba – the season of conception. As the days warm up, the first newborns are seen and heard, and the flower stalks of the balgas, also known as grass trees, emerge.

At the beginning of the meeting, Deputy Board Chair Kim Gibson acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Kim reflected on a recent presentation by the South Australian Aboriginal Health Workforce team at a meeting she attended. The team outlined initiatives they have implemented to contend the demands placed on Aboriginal health workers of always being considered as the voice for the wider Aboriginal population, and continually supporting and advocating for community members.

This month, Board members welcomed Ms Leanne Durrington, Chief Executive Officer WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) to discuss current community health collaborations between SMHS and WAPHA, especially in the Peel region, as well as opportunities for SMHS to further engage with primary health stakeholders.

In patient stories this month, Board heard about a patient at Rockingham General Hospital (RGH), whose family raised concerns over the management of the patient's pain levels throughout their admission, and a delay in contacting the Palliative Care team to attend to the patient. The Board noted the significant learnings and remedial strategies undertaken at RGH to empower staff to continue to speak up for patient safety. The Board were also advised of positive feedback from the family of a voluntary assisted dying recipient in relation to their ability to donate their corneas.

Earlier in September, Deputy Board Chair Kim Gibson represented the Board at the final instalment of the Fiona Wood Public Lecture series for 2024, where Dr Nick Lan, FSH cardiology consultant presented on heart conditions and cholesterol (*Pictured below: Dr Lan and Ms Kim Gibson with lecture attendees*)



The Chief Executive's report this month included updates on:

- Positive feedback from families of patients admitted to FSH Cockburn Health which opened in August.
- The Murdoch Medihotel.
- Emergency and elective access across SMHS' sites.
- Acknowledgement of Board members who are attending several upcoming SMHS events.

The Board Committee Chairs provided reports on the issues considered at their most recent meetings and highlighted specific items including:

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a project presentation focusing on the SMHS Digital Mortality register. The project resulted in a significant improvement in the efficiency of the completion of Audit of Hospital Death forms, significantly reducing the average number of days to complete the form. The committee introduced a new standing agenda item, Aboriginal health, and has engaged with the SMHS Aboriginal Workforce Strategy team to pursue the monitoring and improvement of Aboriginal health outcomes through several focus areas. Also considered at September's meeting were a series of quarterly project service reports which outlined the progress of key projects across the organisation.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the financial reports for August including activity and staffing reports, considered the quarterly contract management and procurement KPI dashboard and approved two contract extensions.
- The Audit and Risk Committee reflected on the outcomes of the SMHS and Office of the Auditor General exit meeting held at the beginning of September. The committee also considered the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports, integrity and ethics matters and several internal audit reports.

Following the Board meeting, Board members Dr Amanda Boudville and Liam Roche visited the FSH mental health Mother and Baby unit as part of the Board to Ward program and spoke with staff and patients.

Later in the week, I was fortunate to represent the SMHS Board at the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of Fiona Stanley Hospital. The celebrations included helipad tours with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (below left), tree planting (below right) and makers market stalls. A copy of this Board Communiqué will be going into the time capsule created to mark the occasion and be opened again in 100 years.



(Pictured left: Mr Paul Forden, SMHS Chief Executive; Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health; Adj. Assoc. Prof. Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair; Ms Kim Giddens MLA, Member for Bateman; Sara Pearson, Service Director Allied Health and State Rehabilitation Service, Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG); Mr Neil Doerty, Executive Director FSFHG.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 28 October 2024 at FSH.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
7 October 2024