

Mental Health Working Group (MHWG) Minutes

May 2, 2016; 8:00 – 9:00 PM

Present: M. Dawthorne (Chair), M. Cairns, Larry Filby, F. de Lasa, S. Datars Bere

1. The MHWG meeting was attended by Sandra Datars Bere; Managing Director, Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home, for the City of London. She is the lead on the City's Mental Health Initiative identified in the City's Strategic Plan and the Mayor's Poverty Panel report.
2. Sandra provided the MHWG an overview of the City's planned approach. The end outcome is a unified, more consistent approach to coordinated Mental Health service delivery within the city. This plan relates primarily to external service providers providing service to 'their' clients. It would have little impact on direct City of London service delivery.
3. The MHWG had previously identified 3 areas of focus in which to put forward recommendations; Internal city operations, service delivery, and external services. ACCAC's mandate is such that most of our recommendations would fall in the first 2 areas. The City's initiative will focus largely on the third. Throughout the conversation it became apparent both initiatives were working towards similar goals, but from 'opposite ends'. This was seen as a positive as it means things ACCAC could not formally address will not be left unaddressed, nor is ACCAC duplicating work of other city resources.
4. Sandra has agreed to collect information on existing Mental Health related programs, services, training, etc available within the city currently – for staff, volunteers, or as part of any of their services. This information will be shared with the MHWG to review and make recommendations on.
5. Similarly, ACCAC is expected to be a contributing member of the City's initiative as it moves forward.