



Meeting Minutes for the Deaf MH&A Advisory Group Meeting – 23rd March 2021

Agenda item:	Minutes
Zoom meeting	Jamie Dowdle, Rachel Coppage, Catriona Sainsbury, Lynx, Kirsten Smiler, Katherine Hickson, Jo Witko, NZSL interpreters (Debbie and Viola).
Apologies	Barbara Disley, Victoria Manning, Alexandra Carr, Shannon Morris, Alison Masters, Kellye Bensley.
Current situation with the Deaf MHA work programme:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current contract is coming to an end at the end of April 2021 and we are currently waiting to hear what the next steps will be. • The group requested an additional meeting to hear what the next steps will be. • Action – a follow up meeting will be held when next steps are known.
MHA system context:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the MoH is consulting on the development of a long-term plan for He Ara Oranga. • The consultation link was emailed out, anyone was welcome to provide feedback • Platform submitted a response that was informed by the engagement and work over the past year. • We are currently waiting for announcements to be made regarding the Health and Disability System Review (HDSR). They are due on 21/4/21. • It was noted that some people from the Deaf community have concerns about this review and upcoming changes. • As far as we know, the HDSR are not consulting at the moment. We are waiting for announcements about what the first changes will be. Platform can share information any information when we hear about the next steps. • The NZSL Board has funded the Superdiversity Institute to develop online guidance for government departments on their obligations under the NZSL Act. The obligations are set out in section 9 of the Act. In short, government departments must be guided, so far as reasonably practicable, by the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (a) the Deaf community should be consulted on matters relating to NZSL (including, for example, the promotion of the use of NZSL); • (b) NZSL should be used in the promotion to the public of government services and in the provision of information to the public; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (c) government services and information should be made accessible to the Deaf community through the use of appropriate means (including the use of NZSL). • As part of the process of developing the online guidance we are consulting NZSL users. The purpose is to gain insights about best practice in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (a) consulting the Deaf community: • (b) using NZSL to promote services and provide information; and • (c) making services accessible to the Deaf community. • Face to face workshops have been held and an online workshop will be held on the 15th April 5-7pm.
<p>Proposed discussion of the principles in Kia Kaha, Kia Māia, Kia Ora Aotearoa: Psychosocial and Mental Wellbeing Plan Dec 2020</p>	<p>-Some members of the group felt the principles within the psychosocial plan were too broad and time would be better spent discussing the Deaf Mental Health Stories research.</p> <p>General points of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -brief discussion about the Wai2575 and Wai2143 on behalf of Tangata Turi. Work is ongoing to try and figure out the parameters of this claim. Kirsten unable to talk further about this as she is involved in undertaking some research in relation to these claims. -future services need to take a 'life course' approach. -data collection and analysis is essential if we are to know if there are improvements or not. Currently not data sets exist so we can't measure need and improvements or lack of improvement. Early intervention and recovery is essential. -MoH in their psychosocial wellbeing plan have recognised the Deaf community as a population requiring different interventions. -we must make sure not to exclude any members of the wider deaf community if there is a focus only on 'Deaf' then people can feel they are excluded from activities. -any activity that fosters community, connection and health promotion is essential. -concepts such as 'Deaf gain' need to consider what Deaf people have to offer. -working together across the deaf communities is important. For example, APODC recently hosted a family/whānau day that whānau from Ko Taku Reo, the kindy, RTDs, first signs. It was very successful and good for families to see all the different organisations working together. -a hub is needed to resources aren't spread all over the place. -concern was raised that many Deaf especially Deaf Māori are asked to do things voluntarily and need to be employed to lead change. -Deaf people have different cultural identities and support needs but there are no mechanisms that bring them together. -Deaf people in prisons was also raised – and their exclusion from support and communication in general. -MHA staff want training. There is a course in Birmingham that could be utilised for this purpose. -the idea of 'collective trauma' was also raised in relation to the fragmentation that exists in the Deaf community, which is common in communities that have experienced abuse and oppression of language and culture.

	The group felt the principles were too broad and time would be better spent going through the Deaf Mental Health Stories research
Cat and Rachel talked to the power point attached.	-Cat and Rachel wanted to focus on the recommendations the Coalition of Deaf Mental Health professionals have developed over time and in response to their recent research. See power points for further information about points.
End of meeting	-Thank you everybody for your time today. I will send out the minutes to everyone and look to put them on the website. - as soon as we have information about next steps I will arrange a final meeting to discuss next steps.

DRAFT