

Terms of Reference for Women's Mental Health Network

Purpose

To develop a national network of people and organisations with a committed interest in women's mental health issues.

The network will have the following aims:

- To provide a forum for information-sharing and networking among interested parties.
- To advance interdisciplinary and multi-agency collaboration to progress shared aims and goals in the promotion of women's mental health issues.

Scope

The network is intended as a networking and collaborative forum for parties interested in women's mental health issues. Key issues which may fall under this purview include:

- Gender-sensitive healthcare
- Trauma-informed care
- Gender-based violence
- Perinatal and postnatal mental health
- Mental health in later life
- Addiction and dual diagnosis
- Mental health needs of marginalised women
- Impacting socioeconomic factors
- Access and information needs
- Stigma

The network is not intended as a forum for advertising of a corporate nature, for lobbying purposes, or as a representative body.

Network functions and activities will include:

- An information-providing and information-sharing webpage, initially hosted on both NWCi and SPMHS websites
- A mailing list to provide members with updates
- Networking events hosted collaboratively by SPMHS and NWCi

Roles

The network requires the following governing roles – Chair, Secretary, Membership Coordinator, Communications Coordinator. The Chair will sit in the first instance with a founding member from SPMHS. The other roles will be filled by nominated individuals from amongst the other founding members in the first

instance, and where vacancies remain expressions of interest will be sought within the membership.

Membership

Membership is open to any individual or organisation who:

- 1) shares a common understanding of the underlying principles of the network's value statement, and
- 2) whose role or involvement with women's mental health issues aligns with these principles.

Membership is free and can be withdrawn by members at any stage. A list of members with their contact details will be retained by both NWCI and SPMHS founding members. Information for members will be available on a corresponding webpage on both the SPMHS and NWCI websites.

Resources

SPMHS and NWCI will provide necessary resources that arise including meeting or networking spaces and communications support. The network is intended as a low-cost endeavour and where costs arise a shared budget will be agreed, for example catering for networking events.

Review

These terms of reference will be reviewed on a 2-yearly basis via meeting or teleconference, unless more urgent needs arise.

Next review date: January 2021