

Mental Health Intervention Project – MHIP



Preventing and Responding to Mental Health Crisis
Situations – A Tri-agency Partnership between QPS, QAS
and QH



Aim

To prevent and safely resolve mental health crisis situations through enhanced co-operation, collaboration and understanding between the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Health (QH), and the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)

Overview

QPS

+

QAS

+

QH



Safety

+

Emergency health response

+

Specialist mental health care



Co-ordinated approach to prevent and/or safely
resolve mental health crisis situations

Background

The 2005/06 State Budget provided funding to the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Health and the Queensland Ambulance Service to implement the MHIP.

The MHIP recognises the need to develop:

- improved safety for individuals, mental health staff, police, ambulance and the community
- improved continuity in communication and liaison between the three services
- meaningful information sharing between the three services
- adequate and timely responses
- agreed responses between the three services and individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis
- improved access to a range of services for individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis

Benefits

- Appropriate responses
- Timely and accessible mental health responses
- Improved relationships and cooperation
- Enhanced communication skills and knowledge levels for staff
- Increased and improved community support networks and crisis prevention capacity

Local Implementation

Mental Health Intervention Coordinator role

- Review local protocols
- Incorporate Information Sharing Guidelines
- Review and prioritize local issues list
- Progress reports to Operational Liaison Committee
- Explore options for alternative referral pathways

Mental Health Crisis Situations

“A series of events and a combination of circumstances in which a person appears to be mentally disturbed, impaired in judgement and exhibiting highly disordered behaviours. It is a situation that may involve serious and imminent risk to the health and/or safety of the person or of another person”.

(QH and QPS Memorandum of Understanding 2005, p.3)

Prevention and planning

Crisis Intervention Plan

- Consumers actively contribute to developing treatment preferences in times of crisis
- Relevant aspects of person's illness, behaviour, history, treatment
- Nominated Person and Alternative Person
- Consent to share with police
- Consumer advised that even if no CIP in effect, information can still be disclosed if risk to self or others

Future Challenges

- Current project ends in June 09
- Other vulnerable groups now seeking the same response (e.g. Disabilities; homelessness)
- Coroners recommendations
- Use of evaluation results