Peer Led WRAP Groups



PIR Agency:	Open Minds		
Date:	June 2014 – October 2015		
Key issue(s)	To provide people living with mental illness in geographically isolated areas with the opportunity to access recovery focused mental health support in their local area.		
Main Objective(s)	 Identify any already existing recovery programs Collaborate with the local community to build sustainable solutions for responding to those experiencing mental health challenges. Train community members with the skills to facilitate WRAP to ensure sustainability and to provide work opportunities for those living with a mental illness. Enhance opportunities for those with a lived experience of mental health challenges 		
Summary of Impact or Result			
Context			

Why Wrap was identified:

CKBAMHSS had already successfully facilitated WRAP groups in the Caboolture area.

North Brisbane has an existing WRAP facilitators network that is not affiliated to any organisation and so is sustainable

WRAP is a practical recovery focused tool that everyone can use- it's about WELLNESS WRAP challenges stigma

Stakeholders/Partnerships

Key partnerships initially with CKBAHMS lead to partnership with Kilcoy Connection Point, Kilcoy Interagency Network, and Kilcoy Out of the Shadows project.

Project Management

Description of Activities

June 2014- 1 PiR SF& 2 CKBAMHSS volunteers/peer workers who identified as having lived experience of mental illness attended WRAP® facilitator training

July 2014- CKBAMHSS lost much of its funding and needed time to consider its position and capacity to continue to offer services to the local community.

August 2014- CKBAMHSS advised they were unable to collaborate with PiR to facilitate WRAP® in Kilcoy & Bribie & trained PiR SF left PiR

September 2014- Additional PiR SF attended WRAP® facilitator training

October 2014- Venues booked, Flyers distributed, Groups commence 22/10/14 Bribie & 24/10/14 Kilcoy

December 2014 – Kilcoy & Bribie Groups Completed, with co-facilitation from trained volunteers

March 2015 - Caboolture WRAP planned with co-facilitation from trained volunteer

May 2015 - Caboolture WRAP Completed

August 2015 – Additional community peer trained to be a WRAP Facilitator August 2015 – October 2015 – PIR supported experienced peer worker to set up ABN so that he could be

brokered to lead next WRAP group.

August 2015 – October 2015 WRAP group successfully organised and completed in Caboolture. Facilitated by paid peer facilitator and volunteer peer facilitator with admin support from PIR.

Project Impact

Identify existing recovery programs – Collaboration with existing recovery focused community service – CKBAMHSS, through discussion with long standing local service PIR was able to identify programs that had already worked and those which had not as well as gaining knowledge of what was currently available in the local area so as to avoid double up.

Once WRAP was identified, PIR was able to research the availability and cost of training and it was found that this would be accessible within the budget allocated.

To train community members with the skills to facilitate WRAP to ensure sustainability and enhance opportunities for those with a lived experience of mental health challenges – PIR was able to invite applications from community members, peers, volunteers & other Mental Health organisations to take part in facilitator training. A wide scope of attendees completed the training including members of the community with a lived experience.

Collaborate with the local community to build sustainable solutions for responding to those experiencing mental health challenges. At the end of the training each attendee is provided with the materials required to facilitate WRAP groups and a certificate to indicate that they are an accredited WRAP facilitator. This ensured that trained people would be able to deliver WRAP without the need for PIR involvement going forward

To provide work opportunities for those living with a mental illness – PIR has successfully pulled back from facilitating WRAP and now brokers WRAP facilitation from an experienced peer in the community. This particular peer has set himself up as an independent facilitator of WRAP and advertises his services across the community.

Lessons Learned

What were the key barriers and challenges and limitations which hindered effective implementation of the system reform project?

CKBAMHSS losing funding

Loss of trained PiR facilitator

Geographical/ transport issues

Lack of mental health services in the area leading to potential low referral rates

Time/ workload was challenging to manage

People outside of the mental health field having limited awareness of WRAP program

People fearing the stigma associated with identifying as having a mental illness

Room for improvement:

Improving communication across the WRAP network to develop a calendar of WRAP groups across the wider Brisbane North Area.

Develop a 'pool' of WRAP facilitators that network members have access to, to improve relationships and provide increased opportunity for co-facilitation and collaboration.

Appendices
