



Better General Health Program

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Program Primary Care Nurse

(See also:- Drew, Leslie & DeLacy, Fiona 2007 Improving the general health of persons with psychosis. Australasian Psychiatry; Vol 15, No 4; August 2007, pg 320-323)

BGHP Background

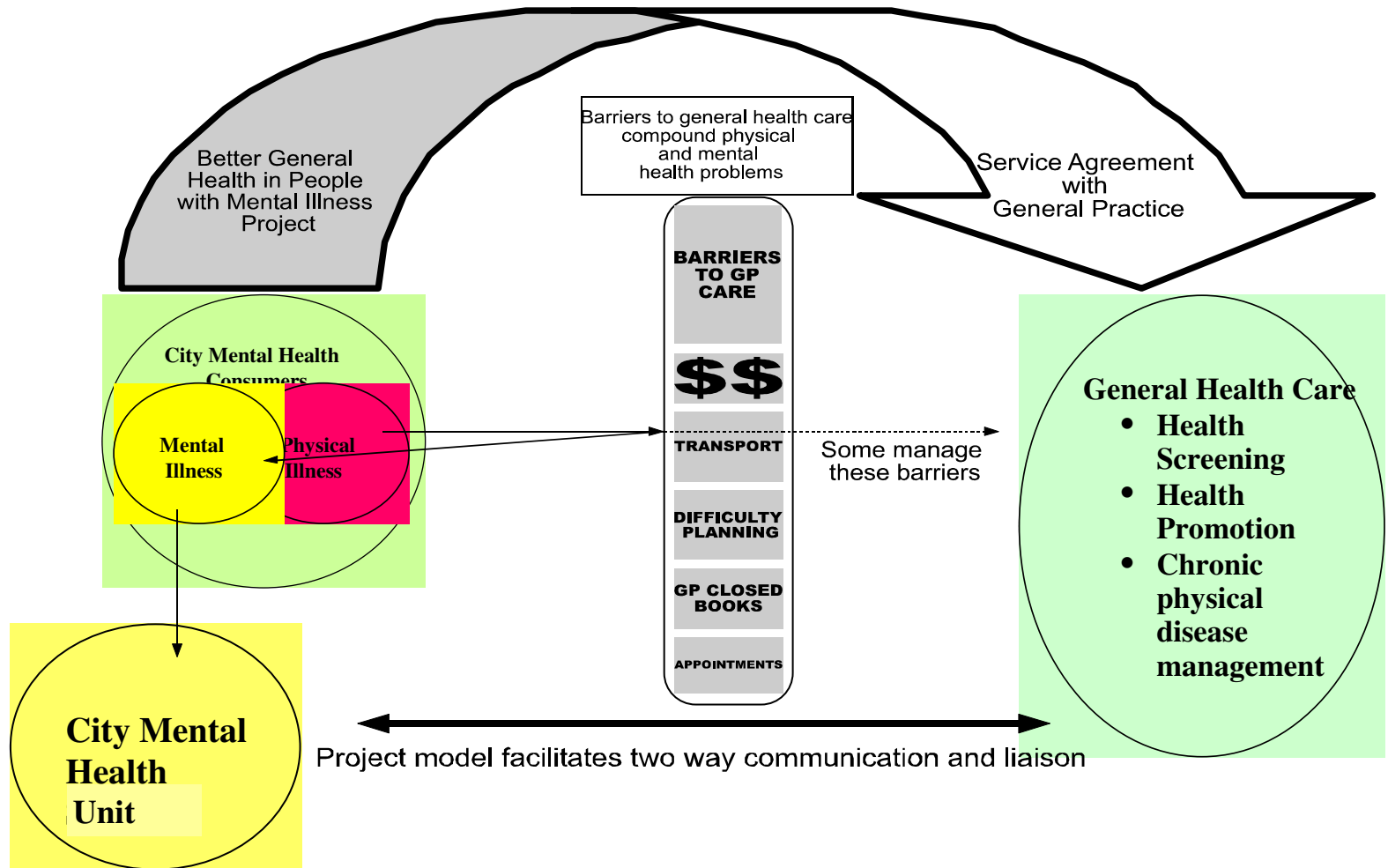
- **Evidence in the Duty To Care Report (Lawrence, Holman & Jablensky 2001), that demonstrates disturbingly high rates of physical illness in people with mental illness and poor rates of health treatment.**

BGHP Background

- **Dr Les Drew at Canberra's City Adult Mental Health Service wanted to draw attention to the plight of the physical health of consumers seen by the City MHS.**
- **The Policy Unit, working with the GP Adviser to ACT Health, proposed a model for a pilot project aimed at improving linkages into GP, supporting improved physical health care.**



Background



Background

- **Primary Care Nurse was employed to implement the model, with a broadly representative, steering committee supporting the role.**
- **General Practices in the City Region were approached.**
- **They were asked to indicate willingness to participate in the new model, for the life of the project.**

Background

- **A Service Agreement Payment would be paid to the practice according to the number of consumers engaged with the practice.**
- **The BGHP has received recurrent funding for the City region and to expand to another region in the ACT.**

Highlights/Achievements

- **Currently 12 Practices engaged.**
- **No unmet demand at this point in time..**
- **100 consumers participating.**
- **Number of health screenings on the rise.**
- **Effectively addressing the obstacles for consumers seeking access to general health care.**

Highlights/Achievements

- **BGHP embedded in MHAGIC-assigned team.**
- **Comprehensive protocol into place for physical health screening in PSU, due to the processes of this program.**
- **By default, this programme addresses eight of the outcomes outlined in the National Mental Health Plan 2003 – 2008.**
- **‘Access & Efficiency Award’ at the Quality & Healthcare Awards 2006.**

Activities

- **20 consumers received consultation regarding smoking cessation, QUIT or reduction.**
- **16 consumers received other D&A consultation and/or intervention**
- **8 women had PAP attended and investigated.**
- **17 consumers had sexual health screening.**
- **15 consumers had immunisations**

Other findings

- **Hypercholesterolemia**
- **Hyperlipidemia**
- **Hypertension**
- **Hyperglyceridemia**
- **Diverticulitis**
- **Emphysema**
- **Coeliac Disease**
- **CCF**
- **Osteomyelitis**
- **Hyponatremia**
- **Iron Deficiency**
- **Dental abscesses**
- **Numerous infections**
- **Diabetes, Obesity,**
- **Hearing, Vision and more!**

Partnerships

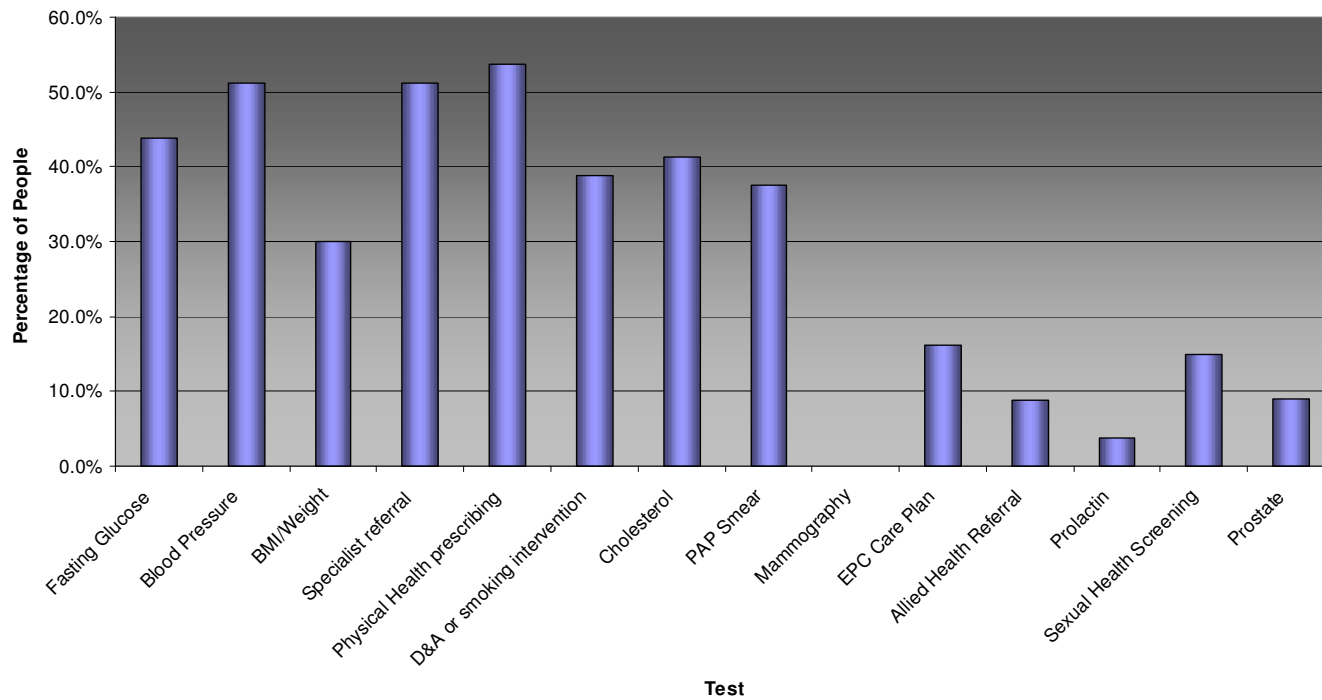
- **Development of effective partnerships between mental health sector & other sectors, including GP's and community organisations. (ACT Mental Health Strategy & Action Plan 2003-2008).**
- **The Program Primary Care Nurse and the Clinical Managers work to support GP access with reminders, planning and organising, as well as assistance with transport to help with the obstacle of 'negative symptoms' and reduce no shows to appointments.**

Benefits

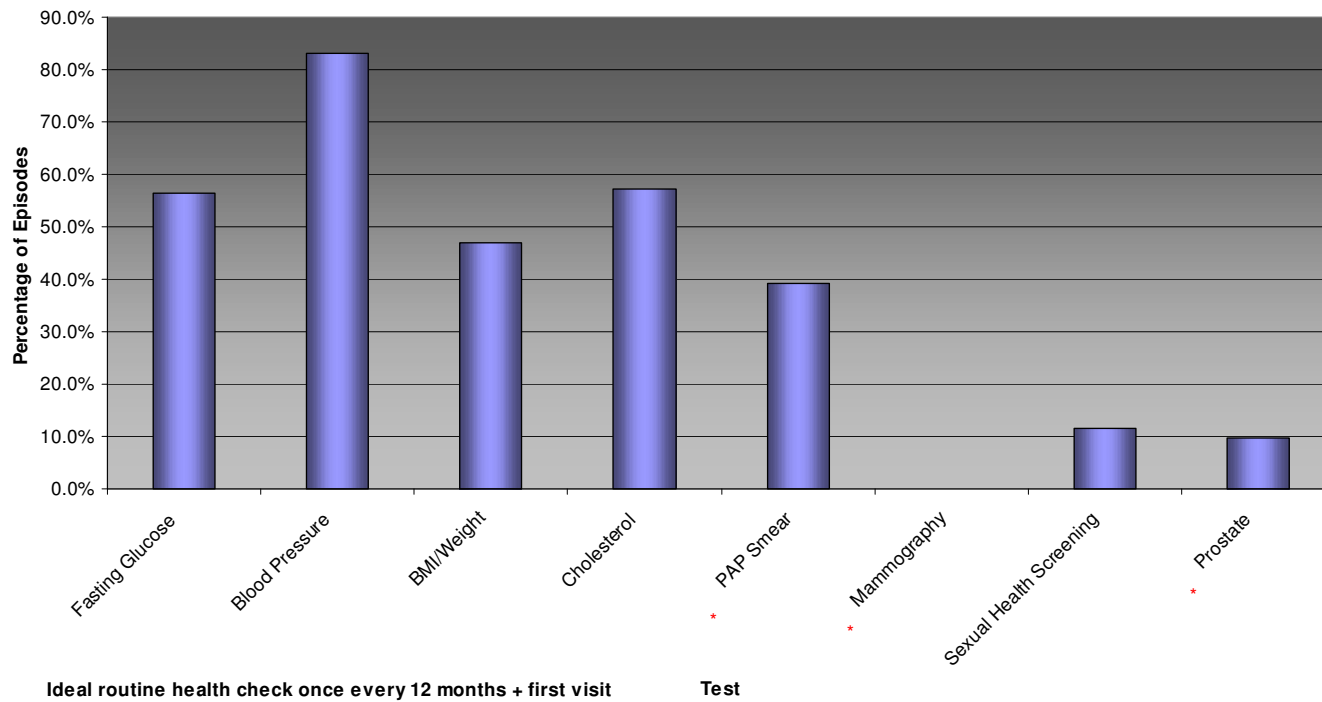
- **Improved GP – CMHT liaison, supported continuity and coordinated care.**
- **Networking with other health services (dental, allied health, sexual health), at both national and international levels.**
- **Collaboration and liaison with ACTDGP and with General Practice Nurses**

Research and Evaluation

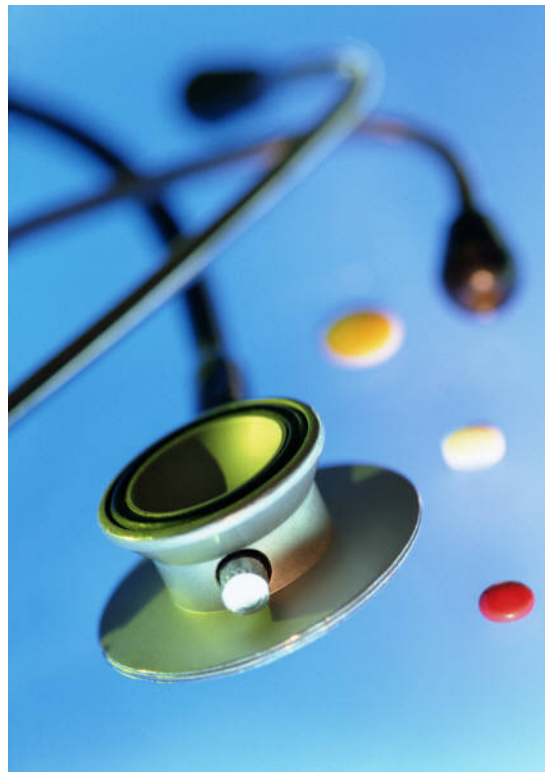
People with at least one intervention between Feb 2006-July 2007



Research and Evaluation



Questions or Comments?



Thankyou for your interest.
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