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ANNUAL REPORT THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION 2016



MINISTRY OF
HEALTH & CULTURE
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Advocacy · Growth · Hope · Reframing Mental Illness · Advocacy · Growth · Hope · Reframing Mental Illness

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The forms are reviewed by the secretary to the Commission to determine whether the members need to be notified of any outstanding issues or observations. The Commission received no complaints for 2016.

Human Rights Commission (HRC) Booklet

In October 2016, the Human Rights Commission in partnership with the Mental Health Commission prepared a booklet titled “**Human Rights Essentials: A Guide for Mental Health Practitioners in the Cayman Islands.**” Forty eight copies were delivered by the HRC to the Mental Health Commission and these copies were distributed to the RCIPS, Behavioral Health and Psychiatry Unit (formerly Mental Health Unit) and the Accident and Emergency Department at the Health Services Authority.

World Mental Health Day

This day is celebrated annually on 10th October. The theme for 2016 was “**Dignity in Mental Health-Psychological and Mental Health First Aid for All**”. A number of activities were organized by the staff of the Behavioural Health and Psychiatric Unit at the H.S.A. in collaboration with the Mental Health Commission. These included a church service, a motorcade, appearances on Talk Today, presentations at private high schools, and a symposium on Psychological and Mental Health First Aid presented by a representative from the Wellness Centre. The week’s activities culminated with a movie night.

Mental Health Policy

In November 2015, the Ministry in collaboration with the Mental Health Commission convened a one and a half day stakeholder meeting to develop the Cayman Islands Mental Health Policy. This was possible through the assistance of the Pan American Health Organization. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the finalization of the policy was postponed.

In December 2016, a small stakeholder group, which included several members of the Mental Health Commission, was reconvened to finalise the policy. It is anticipated that submission will be made to Cabinet seeking approval of the policy in early 2017.

Other activities

In February 2016, members of the MHC participated in a seminar put on by the Health Services Authority Ethics Committee focusing on Ethical Challenges in Youth Mental Health Today. Also, in February members of the MHC toured the newly opened Custody Suites, which they found to be quite impressive.

The Ministry and MHC met with the Deputy Commissioner of Police to apprise him of the role of the RCIPS under the Mental Health Law, 2013, and to provide him with a copy of the RCIPS Brochure prepared by the MHC.

Several members/organisations of the community were invited to address members of the MHC during the monthly meetings. Some of the organisations included Caring Hands, Crisis Centre, and Alzheimer’s and Dementia Association. These organisations provided information on their role and purpose in the community, and how we can work together to achieve optimum mental health for all. Kathleen Hickey



