POSTER ABSTRACT

Leadership promoting collaborations at all levels

22nd International Conference on Integrated Care, Odense, Denmark, 23-25 May 2022

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Introduction: The Central Coast Health Alliance (The Alliance) is a formal partnership between the Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECC PHN) tasked with coordination of primary health care delivery based on needs of the local population and the Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD) the key hospital, public health care and community services provider. The Alliance is aimed at creating a one health system mindset between healthcare providers on the Central Coast enabling opportunities beyond the usual organisational boundaries.

Aims, Objectives, Theory or Methods: The purpose of this Alliance is to leverage shared priorities across health and social care to develop and implement collaborative healthcare solutions to improve health outcomes for the Central Coast population. This partnership model proposes focus on priorities where joint collaboration would make more impact together, rather than separately.

In 2021 data and consultation were used to determine refreshed key priorities for the Alliance. The consultation included members from both agencies including specialists, allied health professionals and general practitioners. The action plan has been developed and will be delivered in partnership over the next 3 years.

Highlights or Results or Key Findings: The Alliance recognises that the key to the success is commitment from both organisations and broader, which includes sharing of resources, networks and formation of further partnerships. One of the key successes of The Alliance is the General Practitioner Collaboration Panel (Panel) aimed at connecting care across primary, secondary, tertiary and community care. The Panel helps inform models of care and bring voice from the primary care sector, acting as a point of integration between systems of care.

The Alliance and the Panel focus on working with the broader community and developing solutions for agreed common priorities areas. These include aged care, mental health and diabetes case conferencing. The Alliance developed and implemented a Diabetes Case Conferencing model of care in partnership between endocrinologists, Diabetes Educators and General Practitioners to improve the care of type 2 diabetes in the community.

Conclusions: Primary care and public health organisations are facing similar barriers to addressing healthcare challenges. Barriers at the institutional level include a resource strapped environment and increasing demand. The one system approach provides opportunities for collaboration, pooling of resources and better integrated care for the community.
Implications for applicability/transferability, sustainability, and limitations: Organisational factors, such as having a shared mission and vision, an alignment of goals and objectives, are valuable tools for collaboration.

A vision that includes a one healthcare system mindset is a significant step forward and will result in building new approaches to addressing healthcare challenges, for example collaborative commissioning.