

NHS Clinical Commissioners and RI International Publish Recommendations for Urgent and Emergency Psychiatric Healthcare

Radical change is needed just to make emergency mental health care 'adequate', finds major international report

PHOENIX, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES, October 4, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Phoenix, Arizona – (October 3, 2018) – Care for people in mental health crisis does not adequately address the needs of the community it is intended to serve according to a major international report published today.

The report, “Be the change: Ensuring an effective response to all in psychiatric emergency equal to medical care,” published by NHS Clinical Commissioners, the independent membership organization for clinical commissioners in England, and RI International, a US-based healthcare organization, outlines ten recommendations that would make urgent and emergency psychiatric health care ‘minimally adequate’ and calls on governmental agencies, policy makers and health and social services to take radical action to address inequalities and improve mental health crisis care.

The recommendations were solidified by delegates at an international summit in May 2018 that brought together commissioners, providers and clinicians from both the UK and USA; including primary care physicians, psychiatrists, individuals with lived experience, government employees and first responders such as ambulance workers and police officers. The summit found that despite cultural, system and geographic differences, the challenges faced in both countries were remarkably similar.

The ten recommendations, aimed at government, policymakers and those implementing health and social services, include ending the current fragmentation of care through an integrated, systematic approach to mental health crisis care at the national level and a single national three-digit crisis hub number that drives easy access to care for anyone who calls seeking support.

Dr Phil Moore, chair of NHSCC’s Mental Health Commissioners’ Network, said: “Change is desperately needed in mental health crisis care, but it is possible. The NHS is at a crucial moment of its development, with a tremendous opportunity to impact how we care for those experiencing the most acute behavioral health needs. We need to disrupt the status quo, and make sure services say ‘yes’ at times of behavioral health crisis.”

“Crisis intervention is far more than just triage, referral and ongoing support. Kindness, empathy and safety are at the heart of our recommendations. What is clear is that the health sector



cannot do this alone; it involves police, social and voluntary services. We need national commitment and leadership to coordinate all the organizations that encounter people experiencing a mental health crisis, as well as significant investment from the government to transform crisis care.”

David Covington, President and CEO of RI International, said: “Both the USA and UK have exemplars of innovative crisis care, but largely people in psychiatric distress do not have access to the timely and high-quality response available for medical emergencies. Our aim was to convene different stakeholders from different countries, so we could learn from each other and spark a global effort on crisis care. There is an international network and learning community for the zero-suicide approach and we want to do something similar for crisis care.”

Read the full report at <http://CrisisNow.com>.

A second IIMHL international summit on urgent and emergency mental health care is planned for September 9 – 10, 2019 in Washington, DC in partnership with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD).

About the report: The report presents the recommendations from a two-day summit of 50 sector thought leaders from the UK and USA, which took place in London in May 2018. The summit was a Match Event for the International Initiative Mental Health Leaders’ (IIMHL) event in Stockholm. Attendees of the summit included clinical and non-clinical experts, with experience that included government and law enforcement, and people with lived experience either as a recipient of care or as a family member, from the UK and USA. A full list of delegates is included in the report.

About [NHS Clinical Commissioners \(NHSCC\)](#): the independent membership organization representing clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in England who currently have 90% of CCGs in membership. Their job is to help CCGs get the best healthcare and health outcomes for their patients and local populations. We give CCGs a strong collective influencing voice from the front line to the wider NHS, national bodies, Government, Parliament and the media. Follow us on Twitter @NHSCCPress

About [RI International \(d/b/a for Recovery Innovations, Inc.\)](#): a global organization, offers more than 50 programs throughout the United States and abroad. Our four business units are Crisis, Health, Recovery, and Consulting. Programs and services include urgent care and crisis stabilization (using the Retreat model), counseling, supported housing, peer support services, and training and consulting internationally with key clinical initiatives such as Zero Suicide, Crisis Now, and Peer 2.0. Follow us on Twitter @RI_Internationa

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