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Expand

A united mental health service

By GRACE MILLAR Feb. 5, 2015, 8:28 a.m.



Mental Health Community Support Services launch at The Foundry Hotel Care Connect State Manager Client Services Samantha Kolasa. Picture: BRENDAN McCARTHY 040215

REPRESENTATIVES from mental health service providers united in Bendigo to officially launch the Mental Health Community Support Services.

Care Connect partnered with Aftercare and Life Without Barriers to bring the new service.

Care Connect executive officer Paul Ostrowski said the model was outreach focused.

"Our model...means we work with people in their homes and communities, rather than asking them to come to us," he said.

"This creates the advantage of allowing people to access support on their own terms, in an environment where they are comfortable.

"Our team work with people experiencing severe mental illness to assess their needs and goals.

"(They) then develop a recovery plan towards their targets, including providing support in every day tasks, building relationship skills and referrals to other support services.

"Care Connect is delighted to have this opportunity to increase our involvement with the local community and to work so closely with the Department of Health and two experienced providers in Aftercare and Life Without Barriers."

Special projects manager Peter Kennedy said the organisations concentrated on the clients.

He said each client was met at their own homes so they felt comfortable.

"Recovery is not about finding a cure, it is about living life to the fullest with a mental illness," he said.

Aftercare deputy CEO and national director of operations Ivan Frkovic said the organisations had more than 200 years of experience combined.

"Agencies coming together increases opportunity for people to live meaningful lives with mental illness," he said.

RECOVERY IS NOT ABOUT FINDING A CURE, IT IS ABOUT LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST...

- IVAN FRKOVIC

"This also needs to be a partnership with the Department of Health, who are here at the launch today."

Care Connect, Life Without Barriers, and Aftercare are leaders in recovery-oriented practice, providing direct support to the most vulnerable members of our community throughout Australia. If you or a loved one needs assistance, call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

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