



Cayman Islands Human Rights Commission

promoting, protecting and preserving human rights

Statement on the World Health Organisation Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems (WHO-AIMS) Report

The Ministry of Health (“the Ministry”) has recently released the World Health Organisation Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems (WHO-AIMS) Report (“the Report”), which the Human Rights Commission (“the Commission”) has subsequently reviewed. The Commission commends the undertaking of the report and found that it was presented in a clear and concise manner setting out information as it relates to the current mental health practices, policies, legislation, financing, services and facilities.

The Commission commends the Ministry of Health, and the relevant stakeholders, for the work that has been undertaken in the area of mental health to date, especially the passage of updated mental health legislation, the creation of the Mental Health Commission (“the MHC”), and added protections for these vulnerable persons.

The Commission, however, continues to be concerned about the lack of services and facilities needed to care for youth, and those who suffer from mental health issues. The Report points out that the Cayman Islands have collected “a lot of research and evidence to support the development of a mental health residential facility” and the Commission fully supports this endeavour.

The Commission is encouraged by the Ministry and the MHC’s undertaking to seek to work with us to develop appropriate human rights trainings for stakeholders in the mental health field. The Commission looks forward to this collaboration.

Further, the Commission is pleased to see that the Ministry recognises the need for a stand-alone Mental Health Policy for the Cayman Islands and looks forward to its development and review.