

MEC RAMOKGOPA PLEASSED WITH MENTAL PATIENT TRANSFER PROGRESS

The Gauteng Department of Health has transferred 63 mental patients to date from various NGOs in line with Health Ombudsman recommendations, announced MEC for Health, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa on Wednesday, 08 March 2017.

The Department has appointed two service providers namely Clinix Selby Park Hospital and Life Esidimeni to provide inpatient services to Mental Health Care Users (MHCU) relocated from the NGOs. Both facilities have been licensed to provide a private health establishment in line with Mental Health Care Act. On Tuesday the Department transferred 34 patients -- 28 from Rebafenyi house 3 and six from Kopanong Hospital.

“Of the patient’s families contacted in preparation for the transferred 33 were successfully reached. The social workers report indicated that there was a positive response by families to the relocation due to close proximity of the facilities to their homes,” said MEC Ramokgopa.

A social worker and an administrative assistant were assigned by the project team to work with the general hospital’s medical teams where Life Esidimeni patients are admitted and awaiting discharge.

“The officials that have been suspended are the HOD and the Director for Mental Health. All the other five officials, including the Chief Director of Tshwane District are being subjected to disciplinary processes. The latter is on precautionary transfer to report to the Chief Director of Ekurhuleni District,” added Dr Ramokgopa.

Director for primary Healthcare, Meisie Lerutla is now responsible for District Services in Tshwane. The Chairperson of the Mental Health Review Board has also been suspended and an acting chairperson appointed, Trevor Bogoshi.

“The process of accounting for every patient transferred from Life Esidimeni to the NGO’s is also underway and full update will be provided. We should also add that, 20 Medical Doctors have been recruited in partnership with Foundation For Professional Development(FPD) and additional nurses are being recruited from the project team is exploring the option to strengthen the clinical field teams,” concluded the MEC.

ENDS

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