

MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES NEWS



The Municipal Health Services Strategic Planning Process Newsletter # 1 November 2009

Introduction:

In June this year, Sedibeng District Municipality (SDM) embarked on a strategic planning process for Municipal Health Services in the district.

The overall objective is:

"To develop a Municipal Health Strategy for the Sedibeng Region that will ensure the effective delivery of services by accurately defining what these services are, their objectives, the activities associated with them and their human resource, capital and operational requirements. The strategy will be developed in such a way that it satisfies all requirements of a Section 77/78 study in terms of the Municipal Systems Act".

SDM commissioned KPMG-MC to assist with their strategy development process for Municipal Health Services (MHS).

The process involves a number of phases:

- 1 **Develop a shared understanding of MHS**
- 2 Develop a MHS strategy
- 3 Implement effective public consultation

Progress:

The project is currently nearing the end of phase 1:

Develop a shared understanding of MHS

This has been achieved by the following key activities:

- Setting up a project steering committee including relevant stakeholders from the district and the local municipalities.
- Holding an inception workshop, all municipalities shared their approach to MHS.
- Documenting the current situation in each of the local municipalities (LMs) as well as in SDM – in a Status Quo report.

Results:

Status Quo report

This report has been compiled with the support and input of the district and local municipalities.

The following provides a very high-level summary of the key findings:

1 Service Package

- There is in-depth technical expertise in place in each of the municipalities regarding MHS
- LMs deliver a similar core package of MHS
- Over and above this LMs provide a range of different services
- There are different perspectives on what should constitute MHS
- Service standards in terms of type and frequency of service are inconsistent
- SDM is facing institutional challenges exercising its new powers and functions – to lead and coordinate MHS
- Monitoring and reporting systems with targets and minimum standards need to be developed in order to support management planning, decision making and information sharing between LMs

2 Finance and Assets

- LMs have demonstrated commitment to MHS in covering their own capital costs
- There is a lack of equity in the distribution of funds between LMs due to an historical approach to distribution being used by SDM
- Different levels of MHS equipment available in each LM

3 Human Resources

- There is experienced leadership and good management of MHS in each of municipalities
- Human resource distribution between LMs is inequitable – related to financial distribution
- Staffing in Lesedi and Midvaal is close to national norms. Substantial shortage of staff in Emfuleni
- Management structures and lines of accountability are different
- Job descriptions not entirely comparable between LMs

Enquiries and Comments:

If you would like to find out more about the project, wish to make a comment or have any questions, please contact:

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