

**Press Release****Review of the National Mental Health Policy (NMHP)**

The State Development Policy Council organised a Review of the policy on “National Mental Health” on 21.01.2021 under the chairmanship of Thiru. C. Ponnaiyan, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, SDPC. In the meeting, the departments viz. National Health Mission, Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services, Government Institute of Mental Health, Chennai, Directorate of Medical Education, Directorate of Public Health & Preventive Medicine which are responsible for the implementation of the policy in the State, experts on mental health and senior officials from the Government departments participated and offered their suggestions.

Thiru Anil Meshram I.A.S., Member Secretary of the State Development Policy Council welcomed the participants and briefly explained the objectives of the meeting.

Following the National Policy on Mental Health, the State is also implementing the TN State Mental Health Care Policy with an aim to promote greater efficiency and coverage with most appropriate interventions that promote social and economic inclusion.

The implementation of the Policy through District Mental Health Programme was explained in detail by Dr.Poorna Chandrika, Director of the Institute of Mental Health. Dr. K.V.Kishore Kumar, Director, The Banyan, a senior Psychiatrist and an expert in Mental Health Services spoke on the care of homeless mentally ill in the State of Tamil Nadu. Dr. Lakshmi Venkatraman, Senior Psychiatrist, SCARF, Chennai, who works on Tele-psychiatry, an alternative way of delivering mental healthcare services stressed on the strengthening of tele-psychiatry network in the state for efficient intervention.

Thiru C. Ponnaiyan, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, State Development Policy Council in his concluding remarks stated that Good mental health enables people to realize their potential, cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively, and contribute to their communities. Tamil Nadu is the first State to cover all districts under District Mental Health Programme. Satellite clinics are conducted by outreach Psychiatrists in all Block PHCs on a fixed day. The Systematic plans of the State Policy need to be implemented effectively that can convert the vision and objectives of the State Mental Health Care Policy into actual reality and deliver comprehensive solutions which would benefit all those affected by mental illnesses, their families and caregivers .

He also assured that the suggestions and the essence of deliberation would be sent to Government for its consideration.

**Member Secretary  
State Development Policy Council**

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