



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

11/4/1/2/11

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Standing Committee on Health on its oversight visits to the health facilities in Worcester on 25 August 2021

The Standing Committee on Health having conducted oversight visits to the health facilities in Worcester on 25 August 2021, reports as follows:

The delegation

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Health included the following Members:

Democratic Alliance

Allen, RI

Botha, LJ

Philander, WF (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Windvogel, R

Additional Member

Bans, AP (ANC)

Apologies

Xego, M (EFF)

Bakubaku-Vos NG (ANC)

1. Background

The Standing Committees on Health conducted oversight visits to the health facilities in Worcester on 25 August 2021.

The purpose of the visits was to determine how the COVID-19 vaccinations were administered and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health services offered by these facilities.

2. Salient points that emanated from the visit to the Worcester Community Health Centre

- 2.1 The Committee visited the Worcester Community Health Centre and Sister Frantz welcomed the Committee in the absence of Sister Olivier, the Facility Manager.
- 2.2 She informed the Committee that the Centre operates on weekdays from 08h00 to 16h00.
- 2.3 This facility offers health services that includes Acute Services, Mother and Child Health, Chronic Diseases Care, Women's Health, HIV and TB Care, Men's Health and Allied Health Care such as Physiotherapy, Mental Health Services and Oral Health.
- 2.4 This facility has a total of 37 health workers that consists of one Operational Manager, 15 Clinical Nurse Practitioners, four Staff Nurses, two Assistant Nurses, and nine resident Doctors who also work in the farms and other facilities. In addition, the Allied Workers visit the facility on specific days to provide the Allied Health Care Services.
- 2.5 On arrival, the Committee noted that there were long queues of patients that were standing outside and inside the facility.
- 2.6 Sister Frantz informed the Committee that there was a Triage Sister who was responsible for fast-tracking frail patients, older persons and persons living with disabilities. There were Community Based Care Workers who were ensuring that patients kept social distancing whilst queuing.

- 2.7 It was reported that the health facility was providing health services to approximately 2000 patients per week.
- 2.8 She informed the Committee that the health facility has an appointment system and a triage system in place to manage the long queues, however, some patients missed their appointments and chose to visit the facility on a different date.
- 2.9 The Committee was informed that sometimes the health facility is not able to attend to all patients due to the high number of patients, however, the facility was prioritising the overflow patients the next day.
- 2.10 Sister Frantz indicated that chronic patients were collecting their chronic medication from a central site outside the facility. In addition, the chronic medication was delivered to patients on request.
- 2.11 The Worcester Community Health Center was not testing for COVID-19 nor vaccinating any persons. It was reported that when the Triage Sister suspects COVID-19, she refers patients to the Worcester Hospital and patients were vaccinated at the Worcester Town Hall.
- 2.12 Sister Frantz accompanied the Committee to a walkabout of the facility, the Committee inspected a card machine scanner at the entrance of the facility where patients scan their cards on arrival. In addition, the Committee also visited the maternity ward, the dentistry section, the wound section and the TB section.

3. Oversight visit to the COVID-19 testing site at the Worcester Hospital

On arrival at the Worcester Hospital, the Committee observed that the screening and testing site was within the yard of the hospital but away from the normal health services. Sister Venter, the Coordinator for the site welcomed the Committee. She reported that the site operates from 07h00 to 15h00 on weekdays, from 09h00 to 12h00 on Saturdays and closed on public holidays.

According to Sister Venter, the site has a dedicated Medical Doctor who was responsible for testing the coronavirus by taking a swab from the throat and nose. The doctor was working with two Medical Interns from the University of Stellenbosch. She further mentioned that the majority of persons that were tested were referred to the site by doctors and health facilities around the Breede Valley Municipality and the surrounding areas. She indicated that the results were available within 24 to 48 hours. During the visit, the site was empty, no persons were being tested.

4. Oversight visit to the COVID-19 vaccination site at the Worcester Town Hall

The Committee visited the Worcester Town Hall, a central vaccination site in Worcester. Sister Daries welcomed the Committee. She reported that the site was vaccinating about 300 to 600 persons per day.

According to Sister Daries, the waiting period was 10 to 15 minutes and the site had three vaccination stations. She mentioned that the majority of people that were vaccinated were walk-ins. It was reported that there was sufficient stock of the Pfizer vaccine and the J&J vaccine was out of stock.

The Committee noted that the flow of people was properly managed and there were no issues with the vaccination process at the Worcester Town Hall.

The Committee thanked officials at the Worcester Town Hall for their hard work and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee successfully concluded its visits.

W. Philander

MS WF KAIZER-PHILANDER, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
DATE: