



# MINUTES      Open - unconfirmed

## TARANAKI DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

11 March 2008

Corporate Meeting Room 1

Base Hospital

David Street

New Plymouth

### Present

John Young (Chairman), Peter Catt (Deputy Chairman), Alex Ballantyne, Kura Denness, Dan Devadhar, Karen Eagles, Flora Gilkison, Grant Knuckey, Jenny Nager, and Tony Ruakere

### In Attendance

Tony Foulkes (Chief Executive), George Thomas (General Manager Finance & Corporate Services), Joy Farley (General Manager Hospital Services), John Doran (Chief Medical Advisor), Kerry-Ann Adlam (Director of Nursing), Christine Henare (Chief Advisor Maori Health), Pamela Hikuroa (PA to Board), Sue Carrington (Media Advisor)

### 391.0 Declaration to Open Meeting

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

### 392.0 Conflicts of Interest

The following Board members tabled a copy of their declaration of interest as presented to the Ministry of Health at the time of their appointment, for inclusion in the Taranaki DHB Interest Register:

A Ballantyne, P Catt, D Devadhar, K Eagles, F Gilkison, G Knuckey, J Nager, J Young

The following new Interests were declared:

Peter Catt	Secretary/Treasurer Taranaki Sub Faculty RNZCGP
Jenny Nager	Daughter-in-law works as carer for Mary Ann Rest Home, Stratford

The following interest was removed:

Flora Gilkison	Director – Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers Registration Board
----------------	--

### **393.0 Deputation**

#### **393.1 Positive Aging Trust**

Mr John Cunningham spoke on behalf of Positive Aging New Plymouth.

He gave an overview of the organisation's activities advising that Positive Aging was the umbrella organisation for a number of groups which focused on the welfare and interests of older people.

Older people wanted to be involved in the planning process for services for older people

Positive Aging develops partnership between the various organisations

Aim is to support and influence stakeholders to prepare for aging population and to be involved in the development of the policies and programmes and have say in the influencing of the decisions. Do not want final say but to be included.

Support increasing for the organisation.

Have relationships with Government agencies and local authorities

Excellent relationship with New Plymouth City Council. Council provide funding and consult with the organisation on number of issues.

Have excellent relationship with WITT through the positive aging centre.

Undertaken research and education for older people, eg report on Living Conditions of Older People in New Plymouth.

Good relationship with Taranaki Regional Council.

Involvement with the DHB through AGEwell action plan. Interested to know where with this plan and how it will be implemented

Involved in the five year health promotion plan for older people.

Also involved in health promotion programmes and initiatives and services for older people and Kaumatua in the Taranaki region.

Organisation's Structure - hold meetings of the Trust monthly followed by larger group for further programmes.

Employs secretary/treasurer with organisation funded partly from grants. Yearly programme formulated.

Hold seminars for older people.

Quarterly formal meetings held with the Mayor

Council also have a Seniors Reference Group made up of 2 people from Positive Aging and 2 councillors. Meet monthly to discuss aspects of aging within New Plymouth.

Propose that Positive Aging furthers its relationship with the DHB perhaps similar to that with the District Council. Propose that perhaps a member of the organisation could be appointed to the CPHAC/DSAC advisory committee.

The Chairman thanked Mr Cunningham for the presentation and advised that the appointments to the Committees were to be discussed in the near future and their proposal would be considered.

### **394.0 Minutes**

#### Resolution

*That subject to the following amendment*

*Finance Audit & Compliance Committee – membership to include Grant Knuckey*

*the Minutes of the Taranaki District Health Board meeting held on 7 February 2008 be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

*Knuckey/Denness  
Carried*

Ms Gilkison referred to the make-up of the committees noting that previously the number of co-opted members on the Disability Support Advisory Committee had been higher than the four due to the various disability issues covered by the Committee and felt that the number of co-opted members on this committee should continue to reflect this situation.

The Chairman noted that this had been considered at the previous Board meeting as a suitable way of running the Committee and that from time to time there would need to be a forum to capture information from a wider group on specific items and the results would be fed through to the Committee and the Board.

General discussion took place with it being noted that previously with the two separate committees meeting there was considerable duplication and the new combined committee would overcome this position.

It was noted that the Chairmen of the Committees and the Chairman of the Board were to meet and it was agreed that Ms Gilkison's view could be discussed further at that time and if considered appropriate the number of co-opted members increased.

Arising from Minutes

#### **394.1 Chairman's Report – Subsidiaries and Statutory Committees**

The Chairman advised that one appointment remained outstanding from the last meeting in relation to TDHB representation on Fulford Radiology Services Limited Board. Ms Gilkison's appointment had been confirmed, and it was recommended that Simon Barrett, Group Financial Manager for the DHB, be appointed to replace Joy Farley.

#### Resolution

*That Simon Barrett, Group Financial manager Taranaki District Health Board, be appointed as one of Taranaki District Health Board's representatives on the Fulford Radiology Services Limited board.*

*Catt/Gilkison  
Carried*

### **395.0 Board Committee Reports**

#### 395.1 Hospital Advisory Committee

##### Resolution

*That the Taranaki District Health Board receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Hospital Advisory committee meeting held on 26 February 2008 and notes recommendations contained therein.*

*Catt/Eagles*

*Carried*

In discussing the Minutes Ms Gilkison felt that the discussion on the General Manager's report on ways to assist with the deficit did not provide sufficient detail for Board members to gain a full understanding and felt that as Board members could not abdicate their responsibilities to the Committee it was essential that they were fully appraised of the situation.

The Chairman agreed that responsibilities could not be abdicated to the Committees but noted that all Board members received copies of all meeting papers and could also attend the meetings as observers and it was incumbent on board members to keep abreast of all information contained in the reports.

#### Arising From Minutes

##### Gynaecology & Obstetric Service

The Chairman asked Ms Farley to update the Board on the recruitment issues for this service.

Ms Farley referred to the recruitment difficulties advising that due to a resignation and sickness the service was understaffed.

In terms of covering services particularly in respect of elective surgery the gap was effectively around one specialist.

Endeavours were continuing to recruit to the position.

The current position was that one consultant had withdrawn from one elective list per fortnight and one outpatient clinic, but was continuing with acute and obstetrics work.

#### 395.2 Community & Public Health and Disability Support Advisory Committee

Ms Gilkison, Chairman of the Committees, confirm previous comments about concentrating on DAP strategies. The General Manager Planning and Funding had provided a very detailed report which had been considered in detail and had give a very good setting for the combined committee on how it was intended to work and go forward. A work plan for the year had been approved which would provide a guide to people on the issues to be considered by the committee.

##### Resolution

*That the Taranaki District Health Board receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Community and Public Health and Disability Support Advisory Committee meetings held on 26 February 2008 and notes recommendations contained therein.*

*Gilkison/Nager*

*Carried*

Board members referred to the recent training held for all Midland Region Board members and thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to attend.

### **396.0 Management Reports**

#### **396.1 Chief Executive's Report**

Chief Executive advised that due to the recent issue around Hawera Hospital and interest emerging since writing the report, it was the intention to provide an overview to the Board at this time.

- Highlighted in press reports the vandalism which had occurred at the hospital and equipment and records which remained in the building.
- Noted that the decommissioning of the Hawera Hospital in 2002 had not been completed to the standard he would normally expect and that this was regrettable and lessons had been learnt.
- Facility is private property but significant vandalism and damage has occurred particularly over the last few months.
- Remedial action following that damage had not eliminated risks that private information stored could not be seen by unauthorised people and whilst this was regrettable the risk was relatively small. Evidence suggests that those people who broke into the building did so to steal items such as piping, as opposed to seeking access to information.
- Understand that when the new owners following the tender sale process took over responsibility for the property, trespass notices were affixed to every window. Unfortunately, these had been removed and windows broken over the course of time.
- Asbestos underneath old building and these areas had been clearly marked in line with Health and Safety Regulations.
- Significant money spent last year due to damage by vandalism to improve safety of anybody entering the building.
- At time of decommissioning the equipment was assessed as no longer needed or able to be given to others had been stored together. Not everything was able to be reused due to new regulations etc. The equipment had been strewn around the building by unauthorised people entering the property and parts of the equipment had been removed for scrap metal.
- Over the weekend a team of staff had worked to collate all the different pieces of material and records. All records had been secured and would be assessed and where useable incorporated in appropriate files. Remainder would be disposed of in an appropriate manner.
- The presentation gave the Board an overview of the situation. Clearly with benefit of hindsight acknowledge the moving process and decommissioning had not been completed appropriately and there had been potential for damage and for private information to be exposed to unauthorised persons.
- Last year the tender process had been completed and the unconditional offer from Hawera Village Limited had been accepted. In effect responsibility for the premises now lies with them with final settlement date and transfer of the title effective June 2008. Good relationship exists with Hawera Village Limited and they are clearly

concerned about what has happened and intend to continue to work constructively with us into the future.

- The site remains private property and is signed posted highlighting the risks of entering but unfortunately, in some cases these warnings are ignored.

General discussion took place with a question being raised on whether the Privacy Commissioner would be informed of the breaches. The Chief Executive advised that the matter was being assessed and if warranted the Privacy Commissioner would be informed.

The question of financial loss to the Board was raised. Mr Thomas advised that the DHB had incurred costs relating to damage caused by vandalism but that any damage following the sale process lay with the current owners.

Discussion continued around whether management should have foreseen the issue of vandalism and put in measures to prevent. It was noted that significant efforts had been put in to secure the building but break-ins had still occurred. Liaison with the police and new owners was ongoing.

#### Report Contd

The Chief Executive took his report as read and answered questions of Board members.

Board members noted the Chief Executive's involvement in various DHBNZ initiatives. The Chief Executive advised that he only undertook work where there was a value to the DHB and his involvement was regularly discussed and reviewed with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

The Chairmen also noted that it was important for the DHB to carry out its share of the work in the sector along with other DHBs.

Discussion took place around the Mental Health underspend in the NGO sector. The Chief Executive advised that funding was not being withheld and the majority related to timing issues.

Ms Gilkison referred to collective procurement and questioned whether individual DHBs contributed to decisions in these areas. The Chief Executive advised that all DHBs had input into the initiatives.

Board members questioned whether the current negotiations with the NZRDA would address locums, with the Chief Executive advising that the national issue was an item for discussion but it was unlikely to be resolved through this process.

#### Taranaki Health Trust

The report from Dr Matthews, Chairman of the Trust, was noted.

#### Resolution

*That the Taranaki District Health Board receive and note the Chief Executive's Report and attachments and request the Chief Executive to express the Board's thanks to Dr Matthews and the Trustees for the work undertaken by the Trust.*

*Gilkison/Catt  
Carried*

## 396.2 General Manager Finance & Corporate Services

Mr Thomas took report as read highlighting

- Financial Forecast showed slight reduction in the deficit as a result of movement in funder forecast of \$800k.
- Financial forecast will undergo monthly reviews as more information comes in and year end provisions and accruals in light of more information.

### Discussion

Clarification was sought on whether a very conservative approach had been taken to the provisions for year end. The General Manager advised that the provisions for the hospital services were as realistic as possible, but for the DHB funder a conservative approach had been taken.

It was noted that \$27k of unbudgeted capital expenditure had incurred for purchase of satellite phones. Mr Thomas advised that these were a requirement for emergency preparedness.

Further discussion took place around the financials with the General Manager Finance and Corporate Services offering to meet with the three new Board members if they wished, to go through the financial reports in more depth to enable a better understanding of the reporting system.

### Resolution

*That the Taranaki District Health Board receive and notes the General Manager Finance and Corporate Services Report for January 2008.*

*Gilkison/Ballantyne  
Carried*

## **397.0 Other Business**

### 397.1 Allied Laundry

Ms Gilkison referred to her time as a Board representative on Allied Laundry and thanked the Board for the opportunity. She wished to highlight one issue which was being considered by Allied Laundry and that was a proposal by Hawkes Bay to look at replacing their barrier gowns with disposables. Taranaki DHB use cotton, but during discussions the Allied Laundry Board does not even consider that cotton as an option. Ms Gilkison felt it was important for TDHB to be aware of this move and that when considering the issue it was important to also consider the environmental effects of such a change.

Ms Gilkison also advised the Board that the joint venture was an excellent example of collaboration between DHBs.

### **398.0 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 10 April at the MultiSports Centre, Stratford.

**399.0 Exclusion of Public**

Resolution

*That the Taranaki District Health Board exclude the public from the meeting on the basis of the following matters:*

- 1. To present Taranaki District Health Board Minutes pursuant to an earlier resolution publicly excluding the item.*
- 2. To present Minutes of Committee meetings pursuant to an earlier resolution publicly excluding the item.*
- 3. To present draft District Annual Plan 2008/9 in that the public conduct of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to:  
(g) Enable the DHB, Board or Board Committee holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.*

*Gilkison/Nager  
Carried*

The meeting adjourned at 4.10pm to reconvene at 4.20pm

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date