



DISABILITY SUPPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – PUBLIC

Tuesday 27 March 2007

12.30pm

Corporate Meeting Room 1

David Street

New Plymouth

Present

Flora Gilkison (Chairman), Hayden Wano (ex officio) (Board members), Merle Bendixen, Kathy Glass, Brian Mathieson, David Tamatea, Barry Whakaruru, Marion Wellington (co-opted members)

In Attendance

Peter Catt (Deputy Chairman), Tony Foulkes (Chief Executive), Ruth Smithers (Acting General Manager Planning, Funding & Population Health), Christine Henare (Chief Maori Health Advisor), Pamela Hikuroa (PA to Board)

201.0 Declaration to Open Meeting

The meeting was formally opened with a karakia.

202.0 Apologies

Alex Ballantyne, Tony Ruakere (Board members)

203.0 Conflicts of Interest

The following interest was removed from the Register:

H Wano MW & Associates Limited

204.0 Minutes

Resolution

That the Disability Support Advisory Committee resolve to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2006 as a true and correct record.

Mathieson/Tamatea

Carried

205.0 Arising From Minutes

205.1 Maori Health Plan

In response to a question regarding progress with the Maori Health Plan, Ms Henare reported that positive feedback around the contents of the plan had been received and she was pleased with the way it had been incorporated into the District Annual Plan for 2007/08.

206.0 Management Reports

206.1 Acting General Manager Planning Funding & Population Health

Ms Smithers took report as read and took questions from the Committee members.

Discussion

Questions were raised around the closure of rest homes with Ms Smithers advising that the beds allocated to these rest homes ceased to exist once the contract ceased. Currently Taranaki was over supplied with rest home beds.

The Chairman asked the Chief Executive to provide an update on workforce issues around mental health.

Mr Foulkes advised that in terms of the hospital based services there had been up to 4 psychiatrists vacancies over the past 4 – 6 months which had placed additional pressure on the service. The in-patient ward has been over occupied on a number of occasions in the past months. Locum support had been provided to maintain safe service provision. Hospital Specialist Services were in discussion with Planning and Funding around longer term strategies to be able to help in terms of models of care for the future.

Questions were raised around services provided for adolescents in Taranaki and whether there was a possibility of implementing some form of rehabilitation programme and if this would form part of the Kaleidoscope project.

Ms Smithers advised that the Kaleidoscope project was to explore ways of delivering services for child and adolescents and develop plans for future services. Taranaki DHB was on the reference group and the documents would be coming out for consultation in the near future.

In terms of rehabilitation services for children and young people, Ms Smithers advised that the DHB currently purchases recovery and rehabilitation services but this was provided in the community. Respite beds were also provided in the community and some regional beds were available for alcohol and drug clients. The overall emphasis was to support people in their homes and also working with other agencies for example CYPS and Ministry of Education.

The discussion then moved to the provision of rehabilitation services for young people on remand. Ms Smithers advises that work was underway nationally around forensic services for this area and this activity would flow through into the DHBs' District Annual Plans around 2008/09.

The Chairman requested that the Committee be provided with an outline of the services currently being provided by the DHB for child and youth rehabilitation services and in the mental health area at a future meeting.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the DHB was strengthening its links with the community and four meetings were being held this week as part of the South Taranaki District Council's Community Board meetings. These meetings were to enable feedback to be obtained from the community.

The Chief Executive gave a brief overview of the meetings held and he advised that it was the intention for these meetings to be held on a regular basis and hopefully extended to cover the total province.

Resolution

That the Disability Support Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

Glass/Wellington

206.2 Maori Health Report

Ms Henare took report as read noting

The endorsement of the Maori Health Investment Plan will enable some significant progress in building capacity and capability to address the needs of the Maori community

DHB management had met with representatives of TWPK and outlined their various responsibilities. General discussions were held around how the two organisations could work together to improve Maori health.

Discussion

There was general discussion around difficulties of access particularly for Maori, for after hours health services with it being noted that affordability and access to transport were the main barriers.

It was also noted that another issues facing people in general, particularly in South Taranaki, was the timing of discharge from hospital, this included discharges to rest homes. Difficulties arose when these were made late in the evening as many of the people concerned did not have access to transport.

The Chairman and Chief Executive referred to discussions held with the South Taranaki District Council around this matter and the desire to work together with other organisations to find a suitable solution.

Concern was expressed over the recent newspaper article on Maori health issues and the lack of any positive messages of the positive work underway and whether it would be possible for a media release to be made.

In response the Chief Executive advised that although the article did not outline the work currently underway it did highlight the issues facing the Maori people and the community in general. It was the intention in any future communication to look into ways of spreading awareness of the positive actions being undertaken generally by the DHB. Ms Henare also noted that unfortunately the article focused on a very small part of a long interview she had with the reporter.

Resolution

That the Disability Support Advisory Committee note and receive the report.

Whakaruru/Wellington

Carried

207.0 Other Business

Individual members provided feedback on issues being raised in the community.

The Chairman invited Mr Gibson to address the Committee.

Mr Gibson referred to the additional funding being provided in the mental health area, as outlined in the report, but suggested that one of the ways in which improvements could be made would be by the DHB involving consumers of the services to provide personal support for mental health clients. There was considerable goodwill in the community but people were unaware of how they could provide support and assistance.

In general discussion it was noted that the new Local Government Act and Health and Disability Act looked for community being involved in these areas and there was a view that over the next 5-10 years there would be a move back into communities being more supportive.

The meeting closed at 1.35pm with a karakia.

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Chairman

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Date