M I N U T E S Open - unconfirmed

TARANAKI DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

7 June 2007
Corporate Meeting Room 1
Base Hospital
David Street
New Plymouth

Present
Hayden Wano (Chairman), Peter Catt (Deputy Chairman), Alex Ballantyne, Kura Denness, Dan Devadhar, Jan Dunlop, Flora Gilkison, Tom Mulholland, Tony Ruakere and John Young

In Attendance
Tony Foulkes (CEO), George Thomas (GM Finance & Corporate Services), Joy Farley (General Manager Hospital Services), Sandra Boardman (General Manager Planning Funding & Population Health), Christine Henare (Chief Advisor Maori Health), Pamela Hikuroa (PA to Board)

500.0 Declaration to Open Meeting
The meeting was opened with a karakia.

501.0 Apologies

502.0 Conflicts of Interest
The following interest was removed from the register:

Tom Mulholland Locum Registrar Orthopaedics

503.0 Public Comment
The Chief Executive advised that an email had been received from Jenny Nager, Hawera, where she advised that she would have like to attend the meeting but was unable to and had outlined her comment in the email. The comments were predominantly around the functioning and observations of the Hawera Steering Committee and queries around this matter. The Chief Executive advised that if the Board was happy he could respond directly to Ms Nager outside the meeting.
It was agreed that the Chief Executive respond directly to Ms Nager on the points raised.

504.0 Minutes

Resolution

That the minutes of the Taranaki District Health Board meeting held on 7 June 2007 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Mulholland/Catt
Carried

504.1 Arising from Minutes

The Chief Executive advised that he had no further information regarding any decisions by the Taranaki Health Trust in preserving some form of capital base.

505.0 Board Committee Reports

505.1 Hospital Advisory Committee

Resolution

That the Taranaki District Health Board receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Hospital Advisory Committee meeting held 29 May 2007 and notes recommendations contained therein.

Young/Devadhar
Carried

Mr Young advised that for those members wishing to gain an understanding of the joint venture with the Radiologists that the Minutes contained details of the presentation from the General Manager Hospital Services and at a future meeting of the committee the radiologists would be making a presentation to the committee.

506.0 Management Reports

506.1 Chief Executive's Report

Mr Foulkes took report as read highlighting:

- Government announcement of significant additional investment into the health of older people area, particularly residential care and home based support services. Funding targeted towards increasing pay rates for the low paid workers.
- Positive feedback received from National Capital Committee to the DHB's proposed facility redevelopment. Now working on developing the detailed business case with a target date of submitting the case to the August Board meeting for approval and to be considered by the National Capital Committee in September.
- Employment Relations – significant number of agreements being negotiated at inter-district or national level. Challenges around the ability of the DHB to meet the expectations of staff and balance with resources available. Received notice of industrial action relating to the Public Service Association clerical staff, but pleased to advice matter went to mediation and the revised proposed settlement is being discussed by members at present.
- On-going negotiations with Services and Food Workers' Union which in TDHB's case related to cleaners and some orderlies plus our contractor for food services. Negotiations are taking place nationally.

Strategy from the Union around particular type of notice issues is very different to what DHBs have experienced previously with many notices being issued for short periods over consecutive periods of time. Notices are changing daily in terms of when the notice is expected to apply. Optimistic that a settlement will be able to be reached at a national level in near future. Need to be aware that even if DHBs reach agreement the private contractor may not be in that position and strike action may occur. We are expecting our contractor to have contingency plans in place to ensure that service is maintained. The DHB was very keen to maintain good working relationships with all staff at a local level whilst negotiations took place at a regional or national level.

- DAP Feedback – continue to receive feedback from the Ministry. Remain optimistic that all issues will be finalised to enable the Minister to endorse the Plan for the commencement of the new financial year.
- Stocktake of Maori health issues provided together with initiatives underway to try and make long term difference in meeting our capacity to support Maori health gain and support the Maori health sector and improve the health and wellbeing of Maori within the community.
- Financial Forecast – continue to signal a year end better than planned result.
- KiwiSaver – letter from Minister of Health outlining potential implications and preparation required by the DHB with the introduction of KiwiSaver provided for members' information.

Discussion
General discussion around the additional funding going into services for aged care and the viability of this sector in Taranaki. Mrs Boardman advised that the residential sector was paid on a bed occupancy rate and viability was therefore largely dependent on occupancy. Currently there was spare capacity within the aged residential sector in Taranaki. The major area of concern in this sector was pay rates and it was pleasing to see that Government had recognised this and additional funding had been provided. Currently working with the providers on variations to contract to ensure that the additional funding is applied to the wage rates or low paid workers.
General discussion around how the additional funding for Maori health initiatives would be reported.

506.2 General Manager Finance & Corporate Services
Mr Thomas took report as read, highlighting:

- Consolidated operating surplus close to $2.2 million which was an improvement on the previous month
- Hospital services continue to carry deficit within forecast figure.
- Financial Forecast – significant positive movement with the forecast funder position being $6m surplus. Nett position, taking into account provider and governance deficit, is a consolidated surplus of approximately $4 million. Of the forecast result 50% is a result of positive inter-district flows which is not sustainable going forward.

Discussion
There was general discussion around the financial result with the improvement in out sourced services being noted. The General Manager Hospital Services noted that there were still significant vacancies across junior staff which resulted in employment of locums but it was anticipated that the year end result would be an improvement on the previous year.
Discussion took place around concerns raised previously over the likely deficit and the negative impression and concern this raised in the community. It was pointed out that although the forecast position was positive the challenges facing the DHB remained. The current position arose from a funder surplus, 50% of which was due to IDF positive movement which was not sustainable, 25% was due to one off payments relating to prior years which was also unsustainable and approximately $2m contingency against known risks. It must also be noted that the proposed redevelopment of facilities at Base Hospital would require to be funded by the DHB from within existing resources.

Resolution
That the Taranaki District Health Board receives and notes the Chief Executive's Report and management reports for April 2007.

Gilkison/Denness
Carried

507.0 Other Business
507.1 DHB Elections 2007 – Policies
Resolution
That the Taranaki District Health Board approve the following policies:
1. *Election Protocols for Taranaki District Health Board Staff and Members*
2. *Code of Ethics*
3. *Code of Conduct*

Gilkison/Catt
Carried

507.2 Ministry of Health Quarterly Reporting – Quarter 3 Feedback
Discussion took place with clarification being provided around the indicators.
Board members questioned how progress was being measured, for example on smoking reduction in Taranaki and whether the current data was accurate. Mrs Boardman advised that the number of smokers aged 15 was captured annually under an ASH Survey and TDHB could then benchmark against this result. Another project being undertaken was through Venture Taranaki and other agencies for Taranaki to be a smokefree province. The various agencies were working towards achieving smokefree status in their organisations through smoking cessation programmes, promoting smokefree venues and then the project would be moved out into the community.

Resolution
That the report be noted and received.

Mulholland/Catt
Carried

508.0 Next Meeting
The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 5 July 2007 in New Plymouth.

509.0 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 Committee Minutes pursuant to an earlier resolution publicly excluding the item.*
3. *To present Update on Disposal of Surplus Property at Hawera and Stratford 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.*
   - *(h) Enable the DHB, Board or Board Committee holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).*

Denness/Gilkison
Carried

The meeting adjourned at 4.05pm to reconvene at 4.20pm

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Chairman Date