



MINUTES

MONDAY, 2nd August 2010

**Held at 12.30pm in the Meeting Room of
Centacare – Mary of the Cross Centre 7 Brunswick Street Fitzroy**

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Chairperson: Peter Wearne (YSAS). There were 21 in attendance including Vera Boston (NYCH), Morgan Scholz (Victoria Police @NJC), Danny Jeffcote (NYCH), Saille Creane (GSYFS), Jo Sultana (JSS Connexions), Laura Miller (JSS Connexions), Kye Mitchell (YSAS), Angela Lardner (Dept of Health), Kevan Myers (St Vincent's Northern Nexus), Ilana Jaffe (Youth Projects), Meghan Fitzgerald (Fitzroy Legal Service), Kerri Felemonow (Turning Point), Cheryl Harris (Bridge Withdrawal Unit), Christine Rampling (Bridge Withdrawal Unit), Kimberley Banfield (Victoria Police) Karly Redwood (Victoria Police), John Mowat (Yarra PHaMS).
2. **APOLOGIES:** Chris Hardy (NYCH), Michele Lee (Vic Legal Aid), Victor Bilous (Mary of the Cross), Marcelle Kayrooz (Youth Projects), Pier Moro (HepC Vic), Sandra Fox (NRCH), Bernie Lane (Dept of Health), Liz Rowe (YSAS).
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Approved
4. **GUEST SPEAKER:** Belinda Lloyd Team Leader & Shelley Cogger Coordinator of the 'Earlier Identification of Drug Harms Project (EIDHP)' at Turning Point. The project commenced in March 2007 and aims to develop an information collection system that identifies changing drug use and practices in a timely manner in order to prevent and minimise drug related harms to illicit drug users and AOD service clients in Victoria. (see website for presentation)
5. **BUSINESS ARISING:**
 - Free Butterflies and Water through Outreach and Foot Patrol services – A collation of the results was distributed. The Whitehorse Community Health service is following this up with Anex to seek a joint request to the dept of health for further funding so that these and other equipment can be distributed free.
 - Is there an Interim report on the NSP Review? – Information obtained from the Dept of Health is that the interim report is not available. The matter was referred to the Executive to follow up.
 - Are there terms of Reference for the Pharmacotherapy review? – The Dept of Health supplied the following information "The aim of the pharmacotherapy review is to develop feasible options to ensure that Victoria's pharmacotherapy model remains responsive to current and future demands, while improving accessibility for clients and reducing service gaps. The specific focus of the review is Victoria's Opioid Replacement Therapy (ORT) program". Turning Point is organising a number of service provider and consumer consultations.
6. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**
 - Supervised Injecting Centre Working Group Next Meeting date – Tuesday 19th August
 - Meeting with David White, Hawker Britton Lobbyists – There have been two meetings with David White who is assisting us with the next steps towards the establishment of a Supervised Injecting Facility in Melbourne.
 - Eviction of Tenants Letter to Minister Wynne – A reply was received from Minister Wynne that was distributed. Minister Wynne referred us to Mr Andrew Demicoli Project manager Public Housing Client

A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues

Yarra Drug & Health Forum
4 Johnston Street, Collingwood, 3066
Phone: 9468 2819 Fax: 9417 1499 Mobile: 0419 521 075
Email: joe.morris@nych.org.au

Services for clarification of some points in his letter. Joe has written to Andrew Demicoli and is awaiting a reply.

- Motion passed at the National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association Re-Pharmacotherapies on the PBS Safety gap list. The Executive Committee of the ALGA will make a decision as to what it will do at its meeting mid August.

7. CURRENT DRUG USE PATTERNS:

- NYCH – Xanax has become less of an issue there is more Serapax and Valium around.
- Bridge – Also seen less Xanax
- Living Room – An increase in Seroquel and Alcohol usage and Inhalent usage. A non fatal overdose occurred in the City.

8. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS PRESENT:

- New Doctor at Living Room but not prescribing Methadone they also now have psychologist visiting
- Living Room project “Eyes in the Street” using throw away cameras.
- Patient advocacy an issue
- NYCH project on Rights and Responsibilities for themselves and others. Client Education
- Living Room have sourced some Federal Funding to provide training to their clients.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

- EO Position – No one was appointed from the previous advertisement, suitable clients pulled out. The position will be re-advertised

10. WORKER’S REPORT: Accepted

11. NEXT MEETING: - Monday 6th September 2010 at 12.30 pm in the Meeting Room of Mary of the Cross Centre 7 Brunswick Street Fitzroy.

Guest Speaker: Sally Finn (‘Finn’) from the 24hour St Kilda NSP (Health Information Exchange) will speak about the Program which has just received recurrent funding and an enhanced staffing. As well as talking about the normal service she will talk about what happens after all the Outreach/Foot Patrol services have closed down for the night and where people come from to access their services in the ‘wee small hours of the morning’.