



MINUTES

MONDAY, 7th February 2011

Meeting held 12.30pm-2pm at:

**Fitzroy Town Hall
The Reading Room
201 Napier Street
(corner of Condell Street)
Fitzroy**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairperson: Peter Wearne (YSAS). There were 35 in attendance: Susan Gulko (CoY), Meghan Fitzgerald (FLS), Janette Berry (NJC), Kelly Eng (ANEX), Jinesh Wilmot (NRCH), Hui Zhou (FLS), Danny Jeffcote (NYCH), Astrid Knowles (Centrelink), Anna McDonald (Centrelink), Steward Park, (Salvation Army), Bernadette Lane (DoH), John Peterson (VicPol Fitzroy), Greg Denham (YDHF), Morgan Scholz (NJC), Nick Crofts (UoM), Barbara Taylor (DoH), Maureen Chesler (DoH), Paul Bowman (DEECD), Shirley Lancey (NMIT), Dot Campbell (ANEX), Victor Bilous (MoC), Kerri Felemonow (TP), Jade Sinclair (NYCH), Saille Creane (Good Shepherd), Marion Sheppard (St Vincents), Lois Foster (YSAS), Clare Lethlean (Hanover), Gaby Cohen (Odyssey), Sian Kennedy (Family Drug Support), Christine Sammut (BSL), Mark Power (CoM), Cerissa Papanastasiou (BI),

2. APOLOGIES:

Mark O'Brien (YPHS), Laura McPhee-Browne (Hanover Southbank), Pier Moro (HepC Victoria), Sally Mitchell (NYCH), Vera Boston (NYCH), Chris Hardy (Innerspace), Sandra Fox (NRCH), Toni Ladanya (WMP), Carolyn Picket (Hanover), Christine Rampling (Bridge Program)

3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The previous minutes were accepted.

4. PRESENTATION:

Morgan Scholze NJC: made a presentation on the outcomes from the Victoria Police strategy linked to 'Operation Elizabeth' whereby police referred people arrested to drug and alcohol clinicians located within the Richmond Police Station. This included a brief overview of the Support Link program.

A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues

Yarra Drug & Health Forum
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5. BUSINESS ARISING:

- Letter to Ms Mary Wooldridge re YDHF Community Forum – Accepted - Invitation to speak at Community Forum – Mary Wooldridge June 21st – EO reported that the letter sent to Ms Mary Wooldridge inviting her to speak at a YDHF Community Forum in 2011 had been responded to via DoH. The aim of Ms Wooldridge's speech will be to highlight the future directions of alcohol and drug services in Victoria under the current government. Fitzroy Town Hall is the venue. The EO has also requested that a private meeting be held with Ms Wooldridge and Chair YDHF to discuss more specific issues related to the work of the YDHF.
Action – EO to report back on progress of organising this Community Forum as required.
- Meeting with Richard Wynne – he has accepted invitation to meet with Chair and EO YDHF – Friday 11th February
Action – Chair and EO to report back to YDHF March 7th Meeting on outcomes from meeting with Richard Wynne
- Worker of the Year – nominations – donations received - Worker of the Year Award Funding – EO reported that funds had been received from the CoY (\$3000), YSAS (\$1000) and BSL (\$1000). There have been two nominations received. Considering the funds received and two worthy recipients nominated EC agreed that recommendation be made to selection committee that both nominees be given \$2500 each. Award will be presented at YDHF AGM March/April – date to be fixed and Oration/Key Note Speaker to be identified.
Action – EO to consult with WoY Selection sub-committee to endorse the award being presented to the two nominated workers.
- Letter of concern to CCP re execution of warrants - Acknowledgement letter received from CCP and will be answered in due course.
- ARC linkage grant update - Prof Nick Crofts will meet and talk to YDHF Exec Com re topics of interest. EO reported that professor Nick Crofts had requested that he approach the members of the Exec Committee to speak to them about possible topics/issues for the ARC Linkage Grant application. Exec Committee agreed that this was acceptable.
Action – progress to be reported back through Executive Committee Meetings.
- YDHF Strategic Planning 2011 – next step in process - Executive Officer and the Chair would identify 10-12 specific outcomes/objectives for the YDHF to achieve in 2011 and then take this back to the YDHF Strategic Planning working group for further discussion and action
Action: Executive Officer to organise a follow-up strategic planning meeting to identify 10-12 specific outcomes for YDHF in 2011.

6. CURRENT DRUG USE PATTERNS, UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS PRESENT:

- **Talking Point presentation 23rd February Louisa Denghart speaking about Cannabis**
- **Lois Foster (YSAS), reported on availability of home based withdrawal service**
- **DoH reported high adherence to OST amongst clients with over 13,400 people now on OST and increased training for GPs available**
- **Increase in availability of diverted Xanax**
- **Innerspace reported number of new clients - a number being recently released**

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

- YDHF Community Forum – March/April – in support of ‘harm reduction and saving lives’ – considering forum on a number of issues related to harm reduction strategies e.g. Naloxone, SIF, expand NSPs etc.
Action – EO to progress this idea and report back at next YDHF Meeting March 7th
- Letter from SR7 Consultants – received letter from Sydney-based lobby group with strong connections to Victorian Government. Have contacted same but no return call. No indication of fees or whether they will lobby for particularly issues or not (e.g. SIF).
Action – EO to write to SR7 Consultants requesting further information regarding fees etc.

8. WORKER’S REPORT: tabled and accepted

9. NEXT MEETING: -

Monday 7th March 2011 at 12.30 pm:

**Fitzroy Town Hall
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Guest Speakers:

'Harm Reduction & Treatment: An Unholy Union?'

A look at service development at Barwon Health (Barwon South-West Region) where a harm reduction program has been integrated into a treatment service, exploring both the benefits and challenges. The presentation will also cover personal perspectives on illicit drugs and harm reduction in Australia.

Presenter: Joseph Kim is a Community Development practitioner who has specialised in the area of harm reduction and is currently in his fifteenth year of working in the sector. Based primarily in Victoria, Joseph has had the opportunity to work in a variety of settings and is currently employed by Barwon Health, where he attempts to process a range of fairly intense experiences for the purposes of making things better for both people who use drugs and the community that they are part of.