



## MINUTES

MONDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009

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

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Chairperson:** Vera Boston (NYCH)

Danny Jeffcote (North Yarra Community Health), Barbara Taylor (DHS), Maureen Chesler (DHS), Victor Bilous (Mary of the Cross), Andrew Atkinson (Victoria Police), Chris Hardy (NYCH), Kyle Brennan (Turning Point), Alison Clarke (City of Yarra) Anna McDonald (Yarra & Yarra Access Centrelink) Sharon Smith (Neighbourhood Renewal Collingwood), Lorrinda Hamilton (Homeground) George Tambassis (Tambassis Pharmacy), Carolyn Pickett (BSL), Chris McDonnell (VAADA), Katrine Harper (NYCH), Kevan Myers (NEXUS), Louisa Tenace (Hanover Southbank), Virginia Moebus (Urban Seed), Bernie Lane (DHS), Norman Vella (Good Shepherd)

**2. APOLOGIES:** Pier Moro (HepC Vic), Michael Rumpff (Pharmacist), Inspector Dean McWhirter (Victoria Police), Le Tuananhle (NYCH Pharmacist), Monika Schwarz (NRCHC), John Beckwith (Yarra City Business Forum), Peter Wearne (YSAS), Elyse Maurelli (BSL Coolibah Club), Morgan Scholz (NJC), Bobbi Cheetham (Wellington Centre), Mayor Cr Amanda Stone (City of Yarra), Sally Mitchell (NRCHC).

### **3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

**4. GUEST SPEAKER:** Angelo Pricolo, Community Pharmacist in Brunswick and PSA Pharmacist of the Year 2008 spoke about providing pharmacotherapy and introduced the film "Fighting the Dragon With Luck" about the advantages of going on Methadone. (Link [www.resolutionmedia.tv](http://www.resolutionmedia.tv)).

In discussing the lack of doctors who prescribe Methadone and the need for people to keep going back to their Doctor for a new prescription, the subject was raised that hopefully Pharmacists may be licensed to provide repeat prescriptions so making the process more streamlined and easier for the person to continue on the program. Rather than open up this possibility for all repeat prescriptions which the AMA would be very much against, maybe it could be opened for just this narrow field.

Angelo pointed out that both Methadone and Buprenorphine should both be on the PBS list so that the Pharmacist can receive adequate payment for dispensing

If the YDHF supported this idea, George Tambassis asked the forum to consider writing to the Pharmacy Guild as they need to know that the community not just pharmacists supported it.

The email address for George Tambassis is [george.tambassis@vic.guild.org.au](mailto:george.tambassis@vic.guild.org.au)

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*A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues*

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## 5. REPORTS

- **Executive Committee**

- ***Supervised Injecting Centre Working Group Position Paper***

- The Expression of Interest has been sent to 4 potential Research groups and will close on the 29<sup>th</sup> May

- ***Council briefing 20<sup>th</sup> April***

- The Briefing was very successful. Danny from Innerspace, Peter from YSAS, Sally from NRCHC and myself attended. Some Councillors expressed an interest as to whether or not they could lobby the federal Government around the issue of funding for Pharmacists to dispense Methadone and Buprenorphine.

- ***Community Forum – BBVs, Drugs Overdoses and People exiting Prison***

- This Community Forum will be on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June as a part of Drug Action Week. The title will be Post-Release Health Services for Prisoners Who Use Drugs.

## 6. CURRENT ISSUES

- **Current drug use patterns**

- There have been 7 overdoses in Richmond in the last month, Anecdotal information is that the price of Heroin has gone up; DHS are following up on the problems associated with the misuse of Xanax.

## 7. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS PRESENT

Healthy Living Clinic at Innerspace for HepC on Tuesday and Thursday call for an appointment

Turning Point Pharmacy is now open until 1.00pm

The GP Forum about Maximising Revenue.... Has been cancelled.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

- **YDHF Website**

- The suggestion has been made that YDHF could benefit from having a Website as could many other people as YDHF has so much useful information. Danny Jeffcote from Innerspace/NYCH offered to set it up.

- **Changes to Worker of the Year requirements**

- It has been suggested that there should be some amendments to the requirements for the Worker of the Year Award. The addition being that applicant is required to give some indication in the application "*as to how the award funds would benefit their professional development and the AOD sector in the City of Yarra*" and "*present a report on the professional development achieved with the award and how this will contribute to the AOD sector in the City of Yarra*"

## 9. WORKER'S REPORT for April

The Report was received

## 10. NEXT MEETING: - Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 at 12.30 pm in the Meeting Room of Mary of the Cross Centre 7 Brunswick Street Fitzroy.

**Guest Speaker:** Kay speaking about the use of Steroids and the Steroid Outreach Program.