



MINUTES

MONDAY, 9th November 2009

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 24 in attendance including Danny Jeffcote (North Yarra Community Health), David Silkoff (NYCH), Centre), Morgan Scholz (Victoria Police @NJC), Bernie Lane (Department of Health), Jamie Davis (Centrelink), Pier Moro (Hep C Council), Pravin Ram (Office of Housing), Kerri Felemonow (Turning Point DROP), Victor Bilous (Mary of the Cross) Meghan Fitzgerald (FLS), Jade Sinclair (NYCH YCS), Norman Vella (Hanover), Sandra Fox (NRCH), Dean McWhirter (Vic Police), Sarah Gillett (Yarra Council), Amanda Olle (Good Shepherd), Mark Power (City of Melbourne), Kealy Smith (City of Melbourne), Tony Paynter (The Wellington Centre), Andrew Atkinson (Victoria Police), Ciaran Boyle (Victoria Police), Mark Jacka (Kildonan).

2. **APOLOGIES:** John Beckwith (Yarra City Business Forum), Carolyn Pickett (Brotherhood) Michael Rumpff (Pharmacist), Vera Boston (NYCH), Janette Berry (NJC), Kevan Myers (ST V's), Ben Sacco (Dept of Ed), Dom Ennis (YSAS), Christa Grapin (YSAS), Chris Hardy (NYCH).

3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

4. **GUEST SPEAKER:** Mark Jacka Program Manager Strengthening Families Kildonan to speak about referrals from the AOD sector to Child First and Family Services in the City of Yarra. (See attached Power Point presentation and Referral Form)

5. BUSINESS ARISING

- Letter to Minister for Housing Re: The eviction policy of the Office of Housing. Peter and Joe had a meeting with the Minister on the 30th October. A meeting to be called of interested parties to discuss the support of innocent people evicted owing to a member of the family using the premises for the trafficking of drugs
- Motion sent to City of Yarra:
“That medication for opioid replacement therapy (ORT) methadone and buprenorphine be provided under the Pharmaceutical benefits Scheme. Provision will be dispensed medication and subject to the PBS Safety Net as is any other medication for chronic illness”. The Motion was agreed to by the City of Yarra and placed by them on the agenda of the Municipal Association of Victoria’s Conference seeking agreement to put on the agenda of the Australian Local Government Conference in April 2010 - The Municipal Association Conference endorsed the motion
- Letter to Pharmacy Guild Re Support for Pharmacists giving repeat prescriptions for Methadone & City of Yarra possibly advocating with government – Executive through Angelo forwarded the information above and decided not to pursue this any further for the time being with the Pharmacy Guild.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Report on Current Status of Position Paper. Next SIC Working Group Meeting Tuesday 10th November. The Final draft was received and discussed at the SIC Meeting and referred to the Executive.

A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues

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7. CURRENT DRUG USE PATTERNS

Heroin on the constant rise – YSAS

Heroin & Xanax – Innerspace.

A lot of Heroin around and Ice is not available except at a very high price.

8. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS PRESENT

- Police Operation Elizabeth is currently happening for the next 2 weeks it is covering the 3 suburbs including Smith and Brunswick Strs as well as Richmond High Rise. Dean McWhirter
- Worker from NRCH is being stationed at Richmond Police Station during the Operation to be available to people during the arrest period – Sandra Fox & Dean McWhirter
- New Bill will be before Parliament early next year – Meghan Fitzgerald
- Prior to eviction notice, people who are receiving a large number of visitors on a daily basis and the OoH believe they could be using the premises for trafficking drugs are being visited by OoH Staff with Police and being told that their activities are being watched.
- Collingwood brought a person who was a walking overdose to Innerspace to get over it. Innerspace staff commented on how pleased they were for Police to do this - Danny Jeffcote Innerspace.
- Police are happy to work with Agencies to encourage referral for treatment - Dean McWhirter
- Wellington Centre new program, Mentoring Women Program to mentor/support women who are going to court. Contact Tony Paynter with referrals 9486 9242.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. WORKER'S REPORT

- A Community Forum/Workshop in conjunction with the City of Yarra. The Forum will be on Tuesday 17th November from 12.30pm – 3.00pm at Richmond Town Hall. The Forum will generate discussion and ideas for a City of Yarra - Drug Action Plan 2009 – 2013.

11. NEXT MEETING: - Monday, 7th December 2009 at 12.30 pm in the Meeting Room of Mary of the Cross Centre 7 Brunswick Street Fitzroy. There will be a brief agenda plus a party food lunch.