



## **MINUTES**

**MONDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Meeting held at 12.30pm in the Meeting Room of  
Centacare – Mary of the Cross Centre 23 Brunswick Street Fitzroy**

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

Chairperson: Peter Wearne (YSAS). There were 18 in attendance Victor Bilous (Centacare – MoC), Janette Berry (NJC), Toni Ladanyi (WMP), Laura McPhee-Browne (Hanover Southbank), Danny Jeffcote (NYCH), Vera Boston (NYCH), Damon Brogan (HRV), Sarah Gillett (CoY), Pier Moro (HepC Victoria), Rebecca Williams (Hanover), Cerissa Papanastasiou (Burnet Institute), Rebecca Williams (Hanover Fitzroy), Sian Kennedy (Family Drug Support), Barbara Taylor (DHS), Greg Denham (YDHF), Kerri Felemonow (TP)

### **2. APOLOGIES:**

Meghan Fitzgerald (FLS), Chris Hardy (NYCH), Bernie Lane (DoH), Kevan Myers (St V's), Amanda Olle (Good Shepherd)

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

The previous minutes were accepted.

### **4. GUEST SPEAKER:**

Greg Denham, the newly appointed Executive Officer for the Yarra Drug and Health Forum, provided some insights into living and working overseas. For over five years Greg worked as an adviser on several major HIV/AIDS harm reduction projects delivered in the South East Asia region and China. The focus of the talk was on advocacy, barriers to service delivery, working with law enforcement and political and cultural challenges faced when working on sensitive issues in developing countries.

### **5. BUSINESS ARISING:**

- Ethan Nadelmann – Drug Policy Alliance – YDHF Community Forum 26<sup>th</sup> November –Ethan to speak about local, national and international illicit drug policy issues.

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

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- Worker of the Year – some funds have been received however more required. No nominations received as yet. May need to ‘ring around’ to obtain suitable nominees.
- Draft letter of concern re execution of warrants – in progress - Greg liaising with Meghan Fitzgerald to develop a strategy/approach whereby concerns raised about police execution of warrants post release from prison will form basis of a letter to Government.

## **6. CURRENT DRUG USE PATTERNS:**

- NYCH – Heroin still the preferred drug of choice amongst clients with 70% using – steroid use is up from 2% to 10% - MS Contin and Oxycontin not being seen
- YSAS – Poly drug use more concerning – most clients are opportunistic e.g. they will use anything available – high volumes of alcohol being consumed with some drinking 15-20 standard drinks per day

## **7. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Media interest regarding legal status of drugs – several members were interested in senior police comments about the need for a community debate about the legal status of drugs
- Damon Brogan informed the meeting that a film night was to be held soon ‘Beyond the War on Drugs’ at the Loop Bar – would send through details for YDHF Update
- Concerns over possible moves at Frankston City Council to limit access to OST in the CBD – a meeting to be held Nov 16<sup>th</sup> involving local agencies would discuss the issue
- Kerri Felemonow from Turning Point provided copies of the report ‘The Range and Magnitude of Alcohol’s Harms to Others’ Produce by Turning Point through AER funding

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- YDHF Planning Day – to be held December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Mary of the Cross Centre from 1-5pm. An invitation will be extended to all YDHF membership and the outcomes will be reported back to the next YDHF meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Brad Pearce from VAADA will facilitate the workshop.

## **9. WORKER’S REPORT:**

The Report was received.

## **10. NEXT MEETING: -**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 12.30 pm in the Meeting Room of Mary of the Cross Centre 23 Brunswick Street Fitzroy. Special end of year lunch will be provided.**

**Guest Speakers: Peter and Greg will report back on the outcomes from the YDHF Strategic Planning Workshop to be conducted on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Mary of the Cross Centre.**