



MINUTES

MONDAY, 5th October 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: Peter Wearne (YSAS). There were 44 in attendance including Danny Jeffcote (North Yarra Community Health), Vera Boston (NYCH), Centre), Dawn Stark (Bridge Withdrawal Unit), Adam Tilley (Richmond Pro-active Unit, Victoria Police), Kasey Elmore (NRCH), Monica Schwarz (NRCH), Carolyn Pickett (BSL), Chris Hunter (BSL), Scott Strickland (BSL & Resident) Morgan Scholz (Victoria Police @NJC), Bernie Lane (Department of Health), Louise Tenace (Hanover Southbank), Michele Lee (Victorian Legal Aid), Chris Hardy (NYCH), Jamie Davis (Centrelink), Pier Moro (Hep C Council), Chris Povey (Homeless Persons Legal Clinic), Pravin Ram (Office of Housing), Paul Acreman (Office of Housing NWMR), Damon Brogan (Harm Reduction Victoria), Jenny Kelsall (HRV), Marcelle Kayrooz (Youth Projects). Kerri Felemonow (Turning Point DROP), Deidre Boaz (Fitzroy Learning Network), Kirsty Baird (JSS), Ben Righetti (Neighbourhood Renewal – Yarra), Belinda Lo (Fitzroy Legal Service), Hui Zhou (Fitzroy Legal Service), Melanie Field-Pimm (VACRO), Simon Conway (IEMHSA), Victor Bilous (Mary of the Cross).

2. APOLOGIES:

John Beckwith (Yarra City Business Forum), Michele Lee (Victorian Legal Aid), Meghan Fitzgerald (Fitzroy legal Service), Barbara Taylor (Department of Health) Sarah Gillett (City of Yarra), Renate Uzubalis (Reckitt Benckiser),.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The previous minutes were accepted

4. GUEST SPEAKER:

Pravin Ram Housing Services Manager Strategic Inner Metro East who will briefed us on the Policies etc around the eviction of tenants who are trafficking drugs from their Office of Housing homes.

Pravin outlined the process stating that all residents were informed of the security enhancement project that warning letters were sent out in community languages, that target properties were sent information in English stating interpreters were available. Target residents with interpreters had interviews with housing officers. That 11 evictions through VCAT had occurred and about 10 cases were currently in the pipeline that 3 target residents had left of their own accord. That evicted residents were referred to NJC for supports, referred to Homeground for Housing and DHS Protective Services if Children were involved (there was no suggestion of child abuse). According to Office of Housing Legal services the process meets with the Human Rights and Responsibilities legislation. The question was raised regarding referral of families to local services and Pravin stated that community services are not always available when needed particularly after hours and at weekends. (more notes from Pravin attached)

A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues

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5. BUSINESS ARISING

- Letter to Minister for Housing Re: The eviction policy of the Office of Housing particularly as it affects families and children if they also are evicted with the person alleged to be trafficking drugs. Letter will be sent asking for a meeting to discuss this.
- Motion sent to City of Yarra for their approval and to be raised at the Australian Local Government conference: "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"
- Letter to Pharmacy Guild Re Support for Pharmacists giving repeat prescriptions for Methadone & City of Yarra possibly advocating with government – (We have been awaiting Information from Angelo Pricolo prior to sending the letter – Information attached). The Executive will follow this up.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Report on Current Status of Position Paper. Next SIC Working Group Meeting Tuesday 13th October. The literature review of the Position Paper will be discussed at the ANEX conference and opinions sought about a Supervised Injecting Centre and attached mobile units in Melbourne.

7. CURRENT ISSUES - Current drug use patterns

- Overdoses appear to be on the rise with a few at North Richmond including 2 deaths and 2 deaths of YSAS clients.
- The Coroner's reported an increase in overdoses
- Turning Point reported they have seen a number of dirty hits
- YSAS are still seeing an increase in young people using heroin

8. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS PRESENT

- People reported that the ANEX conference was excellent particularly the Alex Wodak address. It was also reported that a straw vote was taken at a plenary session about having NSP's in Prisons and that the vote was 369 Yes and 1 No.
- People were invited to the Dr Norm Stamper presentation on Wednesday 14th October. He will be speaking about the decriminalisation of drugs.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. WORKER'S REPORT (No Report as EO was on Sick Leave)

11. NEXT MEETING: - Monday, 9th November 2009 at 12.30 pm in the Meeting Room of Mary of the Cross Centre 7 Brunswick Street Fitzroy. (NB. This is a week later due to Cup Weekend). This is also the last YDHF Official meeting for the Year.

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