



YARRA DRUG AND HEALTH FORUM MEETING - MINUTES

MONDAY, October 3rd 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** Peter Wearne Chair YDHF, Greg Denham EO YDHF, Vera Boston NYCH, Alex Tsiluris Connexions, Barbara Taylor DoH, Susan Gulko CoY, Danny Jeffcote NYCH, Amanda Soogun DoH, Peter Griffith and Chris Blake Convenience Advertising, Maryska Wargenau Salvation Army, Shirley Lancey NMIT, Megan Becke YSAS, Keran Myers Nexus, Andrew Martin Victoria Police, Alison Langstone RCH, Ross Goeman CoY, Felicity Jackson CoY, Kate Ribton-Turner HWS, Miranda Manning Odyssey, Cherry Grimwade CoY, Janette Berry NJC, Pier Moro HepVic, Jenny Kelsall HRV, Alana Schetzer MTW, Christine Sammut BSL, Nick Thomson Nossal, Nicole Turner Nossal, Kerri Felemonow WADS, Morgan Scholz NJC, Vanessa McMillan YCH, Sarah Pant TOE.
- 2. APOLOGIES** - Amanda Gillam St Vincent's Hospital, Kerrie Loveless CoY, Jinesh Wilmot NRCH, Chris Hardy Innerspace, Victor Bilous CatholicCare, Kasey Elmore NRCH.
- 3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.**

The previous minutes were accepted.

4. PRESENTATION:

Mr Jeff Kenneally from Ambulance Victoria made a presentation on the latest data available on ambulance attendances at incidents involving drugs and/or alcohol in Victoria as presented recently at Turning Point. Specific reference was made to call outs in City of Yarra and the implications of this data for drug and alcohol services. will be posted on the YDHF website.

A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues

Yarra Drug & Health Forum
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5. BUSINESS ARISING:

- **YDHF 15 year anniversary event 5-7pm Wednesday Oct 19th FTH:**

The 15th Anniversary Event for the YDHF will now be held on October 19th at the Fitzroy Town Hall from 5pm-7pm. Mr Sam Biondo – Executive Officer for the Victoria Alcohol and Drugs Association will be the key note speaker and his address will be ‘Fifteen years of community action: The critical role of the Yarra Drug and Health Forum in focusing agency attention toward meeting the needs of the most marginalised and vulnerable people in our community.’

There had been a number of RSVPs including local member Mr Richard Wynne, State Member and Parliamentary Secretary for Health Mr Nick Wakeling, Federal Member for Melbourne Mr Adam Bandt and Member for South East Metropolitan Region Mr Gavin Jennings. It is anticipated that there will be 40-50 guests attending. A suggestion was made to invite the Minister for Crime Prevention, Mr Andrew McIntosh, to this event.

Action: EO to invite Minister for Crime Prevention, Mr Andrew McIntosh and report on the outcomes from the Anniversary Event to be provided at November YDHF Meeting.

- **YDHF Community Forum update - Magistrate David Fanning NJC late November:**

Chair reported that it was planned to conduct a Community Forum on ‘Therapeutic Jurisprudence’ with a particular focus on the important role of the NJC in addressing the underlying issues around offending particularly drug and alcohol problems. Magistrate David Fanning from the NJC had been approached and agreed to speak at a date in late November. The EO will meet with Magistrate David Fanning in the near future to discuss the details of the Forum. More information to be provided as the planning process proceeds.

Action: EO to report back on planning process for Community Forum in late November.

- **Concerns over PSOs at Railway Stations:**

Chair had provided information at the previous meeting that several agencies had raised concerns over the recent decision to man railway stations with PSOs who have had limited training and have been given significant powers to detain people. Agencies had been requested to forward their concerns over PSOs placement at railway stations to EO who would follow up with relevant agency about how their concerns were being addressed.

- **Letter to Office of Housing re eviction of tenants:**

EO reported that the letter that he had written to the Department of Health requesting that a senior person speak at a meeting of the YDHF regarding the policies of eviction of tenants from Office of Housing premises had not been responded to.

Action: EO to contact the relevant Department of Health person and enquire about the response to the letter.

- **Good Liver Article printed:**

EO reported that the article that had been requested by Hepatitis Victoria had been printed in the latest edition of Good Liver.

- **EO presentation at CUT Harm Reduction Conference:**

EO reported on his recent attendance and speech at the 2nd CUT (Collectif Urgence Toxida), Harm Reduction Conference in Mauritius from 21-23 September. The conference was well attended and a great opportunity for the YDHF to be recognised internationally.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT matters discussed -for information/discussion:

- YDHF 15 year anniversary event – update
- Community Forums – Magistrate David Fanning NJC - update
- Swann Street Richmond Licensees - update
- State Government Whole of Government AOD Strategy Submission
- Letter to OoH re eviction of tenants
- PSO and Train Safety
- Disclosure of sensitive information at YDHF Meetings
- EO presentation at CUT Harm Reduction Conference

7. SUPERVISED INJECTING FACILITY WORKING GROUP UPDATE for information/discussion:

- Next meeting October 4th at NJC
- BI - CRE Grant Submission - update
- 'Sign on' campaign – update
- Meeting with David White – update
- YouTube
- Insite Vancouver – Supreme Court upholds decision to allow to remain open on Human Rights Grounds

8. CURRENT NEWS, UPDATES AND DRUG USE PATTERNS:

- Doh reported that the next AOD Managers Meeting was to be held on October 18th and there would be a report back on the current AOD review process.
- Update on the use of PSOs at train stations – submissions can be made via Liberty Victoria and Legal Aid Victoria websites.
- Drug use locally seems to be focussed around Heroin, benzodiazepines, alcohol and combinations of these amongst clients.
- Youth agencies reporting increase in 'Ice' and poly-drug use amongst clients.
- Participants discussed the prevalence of chronic illnesses such as cancers amongst older drug users which was causing concerns particularly in how the health system could meet the needs of injecting drug users.
- Odyssey House reported that the 3 residential program facilities for families were now completed.
- Update from The Outdoor Experience.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Operation Elizabeth commences November 7th :**

EO reported that it was recently announced that 'Operation Elizabeth' the intensive, street level police operation conducted twice-annually that focuses on illicit drugs will be conducted for a four week period in Richmond starting November 7th. In previous years there had been an arrangement with local drug and alcohol services to provide a worker at Richmond Police Station as a means for referral for those people arrested. However due to the implementation of SupportLink this year there won't be agency workers involved. It was suggested that enquiries be made as to the availability of any data arising from Operation Elizabeth including referrals be reported back to the Forum.

Action: EO to make enquiries with Victoria Police regarding availability of data as a result of outcomes from Operation Elizabeth including referrals to SupportLink.

- **Convenience Advertising alcohol campaign for CoY:**

EO reported that Convenience Advertising had forwarded a submission for funding under the national Binge Drinking Campaign seeking a partnership with YDHF that would focus on an advertising campaign across City of Yarra. Two representatives from Convenience Advertising, Peter Griffith and Chris Blake, spoke to the funding submission and explained the rationale and objectives of the funding application. The proposal fits in well with YDHF's focus on alcohol issues over the next few months and would also complement the work proposed with Nossal Institute looking at the Swann Street Licensing Precinct.

Action: EO to meet with representatives from Convenience Advertising and Nossal Institute to explore collaboration related to alcohol in City of Yarra and report back where required.

10. **tabled for feedback/discussion - available on YDHF Website.**

11. NEXT MEETING:

Meeting to be held November 7th at 12.30pm at:

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GUEST SPEAKER: Mr Stephen Bright, Psychologist and researcher with PENDAP and Curtin University will present his research on the use of the internet to source various substances and the outcomes/impact on policy and law.