



YARRA DRUG AND HEALTH FORUM MEETING - MINUTES

MONDAY, September 5th 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), Barbara Taylor (DoH), Alex Tsiluris (Connexions), Chloe Span (FLS), Cheryl Vickery (NYCH), David Westward (Centrelink), Virginia Moebus (Urban Seed), Meghan Fitzgerald (FLS), Natasha Wolan (FLS), Vanessa McMillan (Yarraspace), Jinesh Wilmot (NRCH), Maryska Wargenau (Bridge), John Peterson (VicPol), Kevan Myer (Nexus), Paul Bowman (DEECD), Susan Gulko (CoY), Claire Murrell (CoY), Michelle Aung Thien (resident), Danielle Gold (YSAS), Cam Gilbey (YSAS), Marilyn Gavaghan (TP)

2. **APOLOGIES** - Vera Boston, Morgan Scholz, Pier Moro, Margaret Hamilton, Paul Kent, Patrick Griffiths, Christine Rampling, Christa Grapentin, Danny Jeffcote.

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.**

The previous minutes were accepted.

4. PRESENTATION:

Ms Cheryl Vickery – NYCH, the role of the Billabong BBQ and other local initiatives to engage with marginalised street based Aboriginal groups with substance use issues.

A community based response to alcohol and other drug issues

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5. BUSINESS ARISING:

- **Licensing issues in Swann Street Richmond and ARC Linkage Grant – update:**

The Chair reported that both he and the EO had met with representatives from University of Melbourne's Nossal Institute for Global Health including researchers Mr Nick Thomson and Professor Nick Crofts along with Mr Matthew Mullins, owner of several licensed premises in Swann Street and Bridge Road, Richmond. At the meeting a number of issues were discussed related to opportunities and potential collaboration to address concerns about patron behaviour in and around the Swann Street Nightclub Precinct. Mr Mullins agreed that many of the licensees were responsible and had concerns about patron behaviour however given the link to several sporting arena in the area it was difficult to control the behaviour of everyone. Mr Thomson indicated that there was interest at the UoM to apply for funding for an ARC Linkage Research Grant into the issues around the Swann Street Nightclub Precinct. The EO also reported that there was still interest at UoM to pursue the research about the role of the YDHF in local problem-solving around complex social issues again with a view to apply for an ARC Linkage Grant.

Action: EO to report back on progress of discussions with UoM.

- **Election of Executive Committee – update – all positions filled:**

The EO reported that all positions on the YDHF Executive Committee had been filled for the period July 1st 2011 to June 30th 2012:

Chair: Mr Peter Wearne - YSAS

Auspice Agency Position: Ms Vera Boston - NYCH

Mr Morgan Scholze - NJC

Mr Jinesh Wilmot – NRCH

Mr Pier Moro – Hepatitis Victoria

Ms Meghan Fitzgerald – Fitzroy Legal Service

- **YDHF 15 year anniversary event – update 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.'

This event will hopefully bring together many of the people who have been influential in the success of the Forum over the past 15 years.

Action: EO to plan and prepare for YDHF 15th Anniversary event and report back on progress.

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

- YDHF 15 year anniversary event – update
- Community Forums – Stephen Bright and Jelena Popovic
- Swann Street Richmond Licensees - update
- Election of Executive Committee
- Good Liver article – posted on website
- Letters to Mr Richard Wynne and Mr Gavin Jennings
- State Government Whole of Government AOD Strategy Submission
- VAADA AOD Sector Consultation Feedback
- Overdose Awareness Day 31st August – Salvation Army Event

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

- BI - CRE Grant Submission - update
- 'Sign on' campaign - update
- Letter to local State member Richard Wynne – update
- ALP Carlton Branch written to Richard Wynne supporting SIF
- HomeGround – offer of support and media release
- Former MSIC employee Steve West – offer of support
- Anex Update – item on MSIC and forward by Marianne Jauncey
- MTW report re increase needle disposal in Carlton
- Channel 9 News Item on Victoria Street drug scene
- Meeting with David White
- Submission to Whole of Govt AOD Strategy Review

8. CURRENT NEWS, UPDATES AND DRUG USE PATTERNS:

- Council's consultation in regards to options to reduce the harm from smoking. Clare Murrell - Consultation and Research Officer City of Yarra
- Services reported a better 'quality' of heroin available at the moment
- Groups of indigenous people more openly injecting in public with a lot more 'newer' faces around
- DoH gave information on the availability of Suboxone film

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

• Concerns over PSOs at Railway Stations:

Chair reported 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. Concerns were raised about PSO's capacity to effectively deal with someone who is intoxicated and/or experiencing mental health problems. Chair suggested that agencies contact YDHF with their concerns in order that the Forum can follow up with the relevant government agency.

Action: Agencies to forward their concerns over PSOs placement at railway stations to EO and follow up with relevant government department to be undertaken.

- **YDHF Community Forum:**

Chair reported that it was planned to conduct a Community Forum before the end of the year. Several suggestions had been made as to what topic and who should speak with interest being received in hearing from Deputy Chief Magistrate Jelena Popovic and Curtin University Researcher Mr Stephen Bright. Other suggestions made included Magistrate David Fanning from the NJC and a representative from the Drug Courts.

Action: EO to source potential speakers for a final YDHF Community Forum to be held before the end of 2011 and report back.

- **VAADA AOD Sector Consultation Meeting:**

EO and Chair reported that they had attended a sector consultation workshop convened by VAADA as a means to consult with drug and alcohol service providers to receive feedback and raise issues about the new service model proposed by the government. The Chair reported back that there were several changes proposed to the current service system with the most significant being a possible reduction in the number of drug treatment service providers and a streamlining of intake service to a more centralised model.

- **Whole Of Government AOD Review submission – LSC and YDHF to submit responses and consultation meeting with Mr Jeff Rich:**

EO reported that he had begun drafting a submission to the Whole of Government AOD Strategy Review on behalf of the YDHF and had also provided input into the City of Yarra Local Safety Committee's submission. The EO also reported that he had attended a consultation meeting with DoH senior advisor Mr Jeff Rich on the same issue and had provided input related to the key drug and alcohol issues impact the City of Yarra.

Action: the EO will post the YDHF submission on the YDHF website once completed and sent.

- **Overdose Awareness Day Event with Salvation Army at Parliament House:**

The EO and Chair reported that they had both attended the Overdose Awareness Day Event at Parliament House on 31st August, thanks to an invitation from Sally Finn from the Salvation Army. Chair reported that the event was well attended and speakers included Ms Mary Wooldridge, Associate Professor Paul Dietze and family members of people who had died as a result of an overdose.

- **Executive Officer invited to speak at Harm Reduction Conference in Mauritius:**

Chair reminded the Forum that the EO had received and accepted an invitation to speak at the 2nd CUT (Collectif Urgence Toxicida), Harm Reduction Conference in Mauritius from 21-23 September. The conference was a great opportunity for the YDHF.

10. WORKER'S REPORT: tabled for feedback/discussion - available on YDHF Website.

11. NEXT MEETING:

Meeting to be held October 3rd at 12.30pm at:

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GUEST SPEAKER: TBC