

**MINUTES OF THE RUAPEHU COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM
MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 2008 AT THE
TAUMARUNUI SENIOR CITIZENS ROOMS**

PRESENT:	<i>Mayor Sue Morris (Tentative Chairperson), Allan Daniell, Arana Taumata, Frank Holmes, Isabel Roderick, Lorraine Vercoe, Pat Bishop, Pauline Kettle, Ramon Hocking, Ruth Dempsey, Sheryl Kidd, Tepaea Bristowe, Dr Manjur Morshed, Val Edkins, Aurelie Jones, Verna Warner, Pat Bolten, Faye Pattinson and Lyn Jackson</i>
IN ATTENDANCE:	<i>Grant O'Brien – Waikato DHB Representative Amy Thomsen – Waikato DHB Communications Consultant Suresh Vatsyayann (Dr) – Waikato DHB Elected Board Member Bernadette Doube – Project Manager</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	<p><i>Isabel Roderick opened the meeting with a prayer.</i></p> <p><i>The meeting was chaired by Her Worship The Mayor – Sue Morris in the absence of Rhonda Wood.</i></p> <p><i>Chairperson welcomed people to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Dr Vatsyayann Waikato DHB Board Member. Dr Vatsyayann spoke briefly and thanked the meeting for the invitation to attend the meeting. He commented on his previous happy times in Taumarunui as a GP during a time of acute shortage of medical professionals. Dr Vatsyayann confirmed the support of the Board for rural communities and commented on the priority the Board placed on rural health issues.</i></p>
APOLOGIES	<i>Rhonda Wood, Christine Brears and Gloria Barclay</i>
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	<i>Minutes of previous meeting held Friday 20 June were tabled and taken as read.</i>
ITEM 1	<p>HEALTH DELEGATION TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH</p> <p><i>Taumarunui health concerns were taken to the Minister of Health last month as part of the Taumarunui Communities drive for better health services in the region. The Ruapehu District Mayor – her Worship Sue Morris and Rhonda Wood – Chair of the Community Health Forum travelled to Wellington and met with the Minister of Health David Cunliffe, Associate Minister Damian O'Connor and Steve Chadwick – Member for Rotorua and special responsibility for Waikato DHB.</i></p> <p><i>Sue Morris reported the meeting was a useful opportunity to advise the Minister first hand on the plight of rural health services and particularly for small remote communities such as Taumarunui. The delegation covered a number of concerns with the Ministerial team including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The difficulty of accessing services, particularly those located in Hamilton, and the inadequacy of transport options provided by the DHB</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The lack of health professionals on the DHB provided bus from Taumarunui to Hamilton and the standard of the transport which is old and unreliable</i> • <i>Funding problems for helicopter transport services within the region</i> • <i>Lack of access to palliative care services</i> • <i>Lack of choice of rest homes and the difficulty many elderly couples face if one partner needs rest home level care</i> • <i>Concerns with the level of mental health services being delivered within Taumarunui and rural areas, and</i> • <i>Concerns with the level of medical services provided within Taumarunui and rural areas.</i> <p><i>Mayor Sue felt the meeting was successful in informing the Ministers of the issues in communities such as Taumarunui. The Minister gave the delegation an undertaking to seek responses to these issues from the Waikato DHB and Ministry of Health officials then respond to the delegation. These responses would be provided through the forum network.</i></p>
<p>ITEM 2</p>	<p>WAIKATO DHB UPDATE</p> <p><i>Grant O'Brien attended for this item. Creating a health village concept in Taumarunui is proposed as an approach to sustain local health services. A power point presentation was given which gave backgrounds to the need to think differently to sustain health services.</i></p> <p><i>Grant, Bernadette, Sue and Rhonda had met with key local service stakeholders to discuss the project. These included: Avonlea Rest Home, Kokiri Trust, Hinengakau Development Trust and Dr Pfeffer. These meetings were positive and agreement in principal given to participate in a planning phase. Involvement of the community was emphasised as pivotal to achieving a changed outcome. Iwi involvement and participation was also signalled as an imperative. A communications plan setting out plans for further consultation and community engagement will be developed by the Waikato DHB in the next week.</i></p> <p><i>Sue advised the meeting that an article was published in this week Ruapehu Press and identifies opportunities for local people to feed their ideas into a central collection point on the Rural Village Concept. Further meetings are planned including a public meeting on 9th September for members of the public and health providers to further workshop this concept. A second meeting at night will be held also for those people unable to attend the day time workshop.</i></p> <p><i>The time-line for this project is tight with a Business Case due for the Waikato DHB Board consideration in October. The Community Health Forum would be used as the core consultation group to discuss the draft Business Case before Board review.</i></p> <p><i>Bernadette posed the question to the meeting of what benefits people saw in this initiative?; Responses included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The health village proposes better access to health care</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to ensure the younger generation 30 – 40 yr olds are involved and contribute their thoughts and needs • The focus on wellness is appreciated • Bringing services together may reduce duplication • Important to consider a model which supports people dying at home • Overcoming ownership issues will be important. <p><i>Barriers to the initiative:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time-frames are tight • Transport to the Hospital could be a problem • Time delays in accessing services needs addressing. <p>Finally: <i>The meeting resolved to support the model in principal which allows us to proceed with planning. Community involvement was acknowledged as critical in achieving model and service that people will value and use.</i></p> <p><i>The Waikato DHB had completed a contract for a new Bus in Taumarunui. In response to the forum agreement a lift would be included in the contract.</i></p> <p><i>The meeting concluded with a brief address from Dr Vatsyayann who commented on the value of forums such as this. He praised the community for their efforts in meeting with the Waikato DHB and expressing their needs for good health services. The Board supported these forums and heard their views he said.</i></p>
	<p><i>Isabel Roderick closed the meeting with a Karakia.</i></p>
<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Thursday 27th November 2008 10.00am – 12.00pm Taumarunui RSA Marae Street TAUMARUNUI</p>