

**MINUTES OF THE WAITOMO/OTOROHANGA
COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 2008 AT WINTEC, TE KUITI**

PRESENT:	<i>Mark Ammon (Chairperson), Aileen Berrigan, Anne Lemieux, Dede Downs, Jeff Johnston, Kim Atutahi, Lynne Benefield, Marlene Perry, Merv Williamson, Murray Loewenthal, Sarah Ashby, Shirley Paine, Shirley Willison, Thia Priestly, Val Jones, Lorna Gribble, Maria Lowe and Wayne Jensen</i>
IN ATTENDANCE:	<i>Grant O'Brien – Waikato DHB Representative Amy Thomsen – Waikato DHB Communications Consultant Suresh Vatsyayann (Dr) – Waikato DHB Elected Board Member Rachel Dekel – Contract Project Manager</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	<i>Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special greeting to Dr Vatsyayann, Waikato Board Member</i>
APOLOGIES	<i>Don Lemieux, Hilary Karaitiana, Jenny Forster, Margaret Reed, Sheryl Waters, Mayor Williams, Kay Nelson, Jill O'Reilly</i>
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	<i>Minutes of previous meeting held Friday 20 June were tabled and taken as read.</i>
MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES	<p>TWO ITEMS WERE CONSIDERED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Board Member attendance at Forum meetings had been addressed by the Chair Jerry Rickman who had encouraged Board Members to be visible to the DHB's communities. Attendance at Community Health Forums was one way of meeting this obligation.</i> • <i>The DHB had been asked to provide future meeting dates so people could diary these meetings. Dates for the remainder of the year had been circulated.</i>
ITEM 1	<p>NORTH KING COUNTRY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE <i>Local efforts to improve workforce recruitment and retention is the focus of a new initiative planned by the North King Country Workforce Development Initiative.</i></p> <p><i>A multi stakeholder group comprising, DHB, Institute of Rural Health, WINTEC, District Councils had been formed to tackle the growing problem of keeping and attracting health professionals to the area.</i></p> <p><i>The Group had been successful in gaining funding from the Waikato Primary Health and Innovation Funding from the Ministry of Health for this initiative. Rachel Dekel Contract Project Manager had been engaged by the group to undertake this project.</i></p> <p><i>Murray Lowenthal member of this Group and Chair of Waikato Primary Health introduced Rachel and commented on her extensive experience in health services planning including work in Canada, Waikato DHB and more recently as the Midland Regional Mental Health and Addictions Planner.</i></p> <p><i>Rachel presented her project objectives which included finding new and innovative short term and long term solutions to workforce shortages.</i></p>

	<p><i>Rural communities were becoming increasingly anxious about the sustainability of their health services and local solutions to these local problems was good way to improve local chances of competing for scare health professionals.</i></p> <p><i>The forum was enthusiastic about this project and offered support to Rachel to ensure good outcomes for the area. Murray Lowenthal in summing up Rachel's presentation commented on the possibility of this initiative extending to other areas following the conclusion of the local project.</i></p> <p><i>In wishing the project well, the forum requested to be updated on progress at future meetings.</i></p>
<p>ITEM 2</p>	<p>WAIKATO DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD UPDATE</p> <p><i>Grant O'Brien attended for this item and provided a power point presentation covering a number of DHB and Health sector developments. Key items included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Continuing workforce challenges and the need to support local initiatives and do more to ensure health services remained available to rural communities. Health Waikato (the DHB's Provider Arm) routinely advertised locally, nationally and internationally for staff and on average carried 80 – 100 vacancies across all workforce groups. A new website had been developed with a focus on contribution to the attraction of people wanting to come and work in the Waikato region.</i> <i>• The new car park and Transit Lounge at Waikato Hospital was officially opened in July by the Prime Minister and King Tuheitia. An impressive crowd of Members of Parliament, Ministry Officials and Tainui supporters were on hand to witness the occasion where the new building was blessed in memory of Te Ariki Dame Te Atairangikaahu.</i> <i>• Transport issues are the focus of a new project designed to develop a tool to better identify inequalities across the region. There is a willingness within the DHB to be innovative in finding new solutions to these lingering problems. Members were invited to feed local suggestions into the planning process for consideration. Feedback and consultation on the outcomes of this project is likely to occur at the next forum meetings.</i> <i>• The DHB had commenced work into finding new ways to sustain rural health services. The concept of clustering services into a 'health village' around an existing rural hospital is being considered as one way of improving access and delivery of these vital local services. Taumarunui has been identified as the pilot site. Extensive consultation and community engagement has commenced to achieve a bottom up approach to this project outcome.</i> <i>• Workforce challenges were highlighted in a presentation showing demand for health care set to outstrip supply in a very short time-frame. While this is worrying, it does create opportunities to be innovative around new approaches to these issues. The DHB has commenced some work looking at establishing new community nursing services and further project work and consultation will occur further down the track.</i> <i>• Health Waikato (the DHB's Provider of health Services) had recorded a record year with 10.3 million procedures. This includes over 600,000 patient meals, over 20,000 surgical procedures, over 154 outpatient attendances and greater than 7million blood tests. Health Waikato is also undertaking significant redevelopment projects including campus upgrade, IT and system improvements.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mental Health services across the region are set to be improved with the allocation of new funding for Primary Mental Health Services. The DHB reported that between 20 – 28% of people in NZ has a diagnosable mental illness at any one time. Until 1 July this year DHB's only received funding for 3% of this population. This meant that a number of people fail to have their needs met adequately. This new primary funding will be a welcome addition to health resources locally. PHO's will have the responsibility of working with their communities to develop and implement these new services.</i> • <i>Waikato DHB had recently announced a Prioritisation Funding Round for the 2009/2010 financial year. This funding round occurs when the DHB has surplus funds available. Contracted providers, Community organisations and Community Health Forums were invited to identify priority initiatives in their communities for consideration within this process. This is a stringently reviewed process so evidence is important. Members were also advised that the process is fiercely contestable. Thia Priestly offered to facilitate local discussions to identify a suitable project within the time-frame available. A short-Form proposal is due by 8th September and the final proposal due 31 October 2008.</i>
LOCAL ISSUES	<p>TE KUITI HOSPITAL SET TO GET NEW DIALYSIS SERVICES <i>Thia Priestly updated the meeting on a proposed new dialysis service based at Te Kuiti Hospital. This much needed service would provide better access to locals and reduce the need to travel to Waikato Hospital three days each week for dialysis.</i></p> <p>WINTEC OFFERS NEW COURSE <i>Marlene Perry advised the meeting of a new course on medical language to be offered by the local WINTEC. This course would provide valuable skills for people working in the health field and specifically those people involved in medical typing roles.</i></p> <p>BETTER BROADBAND COVERAGE FOR THE REGION <i>Marlene Perry is to facilitate a local meeting designed to engage the community in discussions to improve access to broadband. Central Government funding was available to local initiatives as part of the Governments Digital Strategy. Interested people were encouraged to contact Marlene to participate in this initiative.</i></p> <p>MANIAPOTO TRUST BOARD GETS A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN <i>Improving good health among the local Maniapoto population is the goal of a new strategic plan for this Iwi. A draft document will be available shortly for public consultation and people were encouraged to keep an eye out for this and have their say.</i></p>
GENERAL BUSINESS	<p>WAIKATO DHB GETS NEW WEBSITE <i>The website is designed to improve user access to a host of health related information and links. Members commented that the site needed to have a stronger recruitment focus and specifically to the rural services. Waikato DHB was reminded that Health Waikato is only one of the services the DHB is responsible for. The website does little to recognise the vast range of other vital services in the region. One member whom had used the site commented that department contact information was difficult to find.</i></p> <p><i>The meeting finished at 4pm.</i></p>

**DATE OF NEXT
MEETING**

**Thursday 27th November 2008
2.00pm – 4.00pm
Otorohanga Meeting Room
OTOROHANGA**

**ACTION LIST FROM THE WAITOMO/OTOROHANGA
COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM MEETING HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2008**

1.	<i>Prioritisation Paper - Thia Priestly offered to facilitate local discussions to identify a suitable project within the time-frame available.</i>	Before 8 September
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