

**MINUTES OF THE RUAPEHU COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM
MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2009 AT THE
TAUMARUNUI & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOC**

PRESENT:	<i>Aran Taumata, Harald Pfeffer, Isabel Roderick, Pat Bishop, Pauline Kettle. Peggy Nielsen, Ramon Hocking, Ruth Dempsey, Aurelie Jones, Morira Gawith, Ralph Hardisty, Lyn Jackson, John Beck, Don Hall and Mihi Te Wano.</i>
IN ATTENDANCE:	<i>Grant O'Brien – Waikato DHB Representative Amy Thomsen – Waikato DHB Communications Consultant</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	<i>Isabelle Roderick opened the meeting with a Karakia and Grant Chaired the meeting in Rhonda's absence.</i>
APOLOGIES	<i>Rhonda Wood (arrived late), Peggy Shaw, Sheryl Kidd, Glenda Barclay and Laurie Halsley.</i>
ITEM 1	<p>WAIKATO DHB PRESENTATION</p> <p><i>This covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Last Community Health Forum meeting</i> • <i>Taumarunui Health Village Proposal update</i> • <i>Waikato DHB Cash Recovery Programme</i> • <i>Primary Health Care Developments</i> • <i>Waikato DHB Rural Plan</i> • <i>Taumarunui After Hours Services</i> <p>Last Community Health Meeting: <i>The range of issues raised as concerns were over whelming. Following up on these has been difficult due to the passage of time since the incident occurred. Waikato DHB felt that the majority of issues related to service failure in one form or another. Without adequate information it is difficult to do proper investigations.</i></p> <p><i>In the future issues or concerns around services need to be brought to the DHB's attention early. Contact points can be Don Hall Taumarunui Hospital Manager, Rhonda Wood Community Health Forum Chair or Grant O'Brien Waikato DHB.</i></p> <p><i>Grant briefly discussed the Ministry of Health (MoH) Service Converge Document which is the annual agreement between the DHB and MoH. This document specifies the minimum range of services DHB's must provide. The document is technical and complex. The document specifies what service must be provided how much and who to. For instance After Hours Services must be available to 90% of the population within an hour travel. Waikato DHB is approx. 95% compliant with this agreement.</i></p>

Taumarunui Health Village Proposal

This report should be finalised this week. The document would then be available to the affected stakeholders. Completing the report brought this phase of the project to an end. Waikato DHB would then consider what the next phase would be if the project was to proceed.

The meeting was advised that little changes had occurred from the last report. Financial estimates have been revised, the document had been peer reviewed and the focus of the proposal remained the sustainability of local health services.

Waikato DHB Cash Recovery Programme

This has come about due to a projected deficit in the 2009/10 financial year. Waikato DHB won't run deficits therefore changes to our planned capital development and project programme have had to be made. A recent project stock-take seeks to identify all of the major projects under way in the organisation or planned to commence during the year. A committee would be formed to decide which projects continue and those that won't.

Primary Health Care Developments

The meeting was advised of possible changes to primary care in New Zealand. The New Government is not happy with the performance of many PHO's and may propose changes to this structure. Form and function of the changes are not clear. New services called Integrated Family Health Centre's are being talked about but also there is little detail around what these are at this stage.

Waikato PHO the DHB's largest PHO has been restructured and likely to change in the near future.

Waikato DHB Rural Plan

Thinking about the future is important if we are to achieve sustainable services. The Waikato DHB Plan will look at what changes are needed to ensure we achieve services that are resilient and meet the needs of rural populations. Key stakeholders have been involved in identifying key trends in rural health service delivery, challenges, opportunities and threats. Responses to these have been developed and a draft plan will be available for consultation at the next Forum meetings.

After Hours Services

Local GP's have advised the DHB and PHO's of their intention to exit these services altogether from 1 July 2009. Vigorous discussion took place at the meeting. Dr Pfeffer presented the views of the Doctors specifically in regards to their concerns for sustaining local primary care services and their frustrations with the DHB's slowness in recognising their issues.

Specifically:

- Rural communities suffer from lower GP's in total*
- Locums are difficult to get and those that do come are expensive with few wanting to work call*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rural practices are more marginal than urban practices</i> • <i>There are no options to default call as there are in the city</i> • <i>Rural practices carry high debt</i> <p><i>Dr Morshed added the financial implications on his practice through providing call had reached a point where this was threatening the viability of his business.</i></p> <p><i>All three practices in the town had combined on this issue.</i></p> <p><i>Waikato DHB had tabled an offer reducing the call burden significantly. This included no call week days in return for a rostered 6pm extended clinic and a four hour (1:6)¹ Saturday clinic at the Hospital where the GP's working the clinic would be paid at going locum rates.</i></p> <p><i>Waikato DHB had also previously offered to work towards establishing shared/joint appointment (staff) working between primary and secondary care and look at assisting with recruitment of locums. The concept of one medical workforce across the town was seen by the DHB as sustainable and a goal for Taumarunui.</i></p> <p><i>Local GP's rejected this offer on the grounds that they believed the offer did not recognize their concerns sufficiently. Waikato DHB reiterated that this was their best offer and rejection would unfortunately be treated as a contract dispute.</i></p> <p><i>As a result PHO's had been working with Health Waikato to put in place a contingency plan to ensure continuity of care to the community. This plan would be communicated to the community via local radio stations over the next two weeks commencing today (1 July 09). A full page advertisement is also planned for the Ruapehu Press next week.</i></p> <p><i>There being no further business the meeting finished at 12.00pm</i></p> <p><i>Isabelle Roderick closed the meeting with a Karakia.</i></p>
<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Wednesday 4 November 2009 12.00pm – 2.00pm (NOTE: TIME CHANGE) Taumarunui & District Senior Citizens TAUMARUNUI</p>

¹ Each GP works 1 clinic every six weeks. This would be provided in assoc with the hospital. GP's 4 Saturdays and Taumarunui Hospital 2.