

**MINUTES OF THE MATAMATA/PIAKO COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2008,
MORRINSVILLE COMMUNITY HOUSE**

<p>PRESENT:</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE:</p>	<p><i>Carole Greenville (Chairperson), attendance register misplaced</i></p> <p><i>Grant O'Brien - Waikato DHB Representative</i> <i>Amy Thomsen – Waikato DHB Communications Consultant</i> <i>Paul Keesing – Waikato DHB Planning & Funding</i> <i>Gordon Chesterman and Pippa Mahood Waikato DHB Board Members</i></p>
<p>APOLOGIES:</p>	<p><i>Ann Inglies, Leonie Tisch, Bob Thompson and Ron Moles,</i></p>
<p>ITEM 1</p>	<p><i>Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. A special welcome was extended to the Waikato DHB Board Members Gordon Chesterman and Pippa Mahood.</i></p>
<p>ITEM 2</p>	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: <i>These were taken as read</i></p> <p>MATTERS ARISING: <i>There were no matters arising</i></p>
<p>ITEM 3</p>	<p>WAIKATO DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD UPDATE <i>Grant O'Brien attended for this item and provided a power point presentation covering a number of DHB and Health sector developments.</i></p> <p><i>Pippa Mahood gave an explanation of the innovations that won recent Waikato DHB Best of Health Awards. Best of Health Awards are proving to be a stimulus for quality improvement in health care at the local level. A wide range of applications were received this year and especially the large number of applications from the non Hospital community/primary health care sector was recognised.</i></p> <p><i>Pippa felt that from her perspective as a Board member people generally are feeling positive about their ability to have a say and this seems to be a big improvement</i></p> <p>Transport Project <i>Paul Keesing attended for this item. A brief overview was provided on the Transport and Accommodation Policy. A brochure was made available. The transport matrix developed by the DHB was discussed. This tool takes into account issues effecting most rural communities. Such things as levels of deprivation, availability of public transport and distance to Waikato Hospital have been taken into account in identifying those areas in most need of support.</i></p> <p><i>There was a general recognition that the National scheme did not offer assistance to many people. The criteria is hard to meet and disadvantages most people who need the assistance</i></p> <p><i>The National Policy is a difficult piece of policy to use locally. Part of the current project was to make access and processing the scheme as easy as possible for people, A focus was to be on ensuring that people get the support/assistance they are entitled to. Increasing Do Not Attends (DNA's) are becoming a worry particularly increasing DNA's in areas where there haven't been any before. I/e Paediatrics is a concern, rising petrol costs are believed to be the driver for this.</i></p>

	<p><i>Population priorities have been agreed. These include, Maori and Pacific people, older persons people living in low socio-economic areas and a special case has been made to include children (defined as 0 – 17yrs of age).</i></p> <p><i>The broad area of focus from this matrix development is to provide some baseline from which to make good purchasing decisions.</i></p> <p><i>Once the matrix is complete consultation with the CHF's on how this can be used to address local solutions will occur.</i></p> <p><i>The Chair opened the discussion up to the floor.</i></p> <p><i>Carole described a new initiative in Matamata where a Community Health Shuttle had been established. Data that Carol had access to indicated the high use of this services since its establishment.</i></p> <p><i>Pippa Mahood commenting from a Local Govt perspective felt Environment Waikato should be approached to address these issues in rural communities. Pippa confirmed the power in local voice and encouraged greater community action via the local community Board for these issues to be properly aired within the Local Govt framework. Pippa felt that the work Paul is undertaking will be a valuable resource to argue for better services in rural areas.</i></p> <p><i>Shirley commented on a successful service operating in Te Aroha. This service had been running for some time. Shirley emphasised that these services are dependent upon volunteers.</i></p> <p><i>This meeting undertook rich discussion on this issue and it is clear that EW should be engaged in addressing these problems as the responsible agency. The DHB undertook to approach EW on the role they could play in these resolutions.</i></p> <p><i>Paul will ensure that the Project Plan and promotional material will be available for discussion at the next forum meeting.</i></p>
<p>ITEM 4</p>	<p>LOCAL ISSUES</p> <p><i>Ruth Baltus is concerned about the loss of clinical funding in Morrinsville. This matter appears to be localised and Grant and Ruth agreed to discuss this matter further offline. After discussion it was revealed that the issue related to the Waikato PHO Counselling contract. Grant to follow up on this. Ruth advised that Piaki Solutions is now providing a service in Morrinsville and so far great satisfaction with the service is high. Access to youth services in particular remains a difficulty, Whai Marama are active but this seems to be less than what the need is. It was acknowledged that young people find it harder to access services if they need to travel.</i></p> <p><i>Matamata has experienced a high spike of suicides in a short period of time. These events motivated the community into action to identify what could be done locally to help people in these circumstances. The Community Board facilitated a meeting and a wide cross section of health, youth and social service providers attended. This meeting resolved in three-four initiatives to assist local youth. The PHO has contribute funds for the establishment of a youth drop in centre a suicide postvention initiative established and additional counselling services available through the college. The speaker felt that the power of local people is an underestimated resource in getting things changed at the</i></p>

	<p><i>local level. Waiting for a beaurocratic system to step in and fix problems is not the quickest solution.</i></p> <p><i>There is a feeling in the town that there is a big unmet mental health need in the town. Reports are that schools are struggling to cope; community organisations are reporting increased referrals and services which have contracts to provide services locally are “invisible”. An often claim is that people needing the services need to travel out of town.</i></p> <p><i>Issue discussed of insufficient resources for health prevention. Too often people need to be so unwell to be able to access services. Funding priorities are wrong if the rules prevent greater promotive and early intervention activities that capture people early enough to prevent longer term illness.</i></p> <p><i>Pippa felt that the system of front end funding health priorities prevented local decisions around preventing illness. Waiting for prioritised funding to be available use flexibly seems a frustrated way of purchasing services. New funding models are needed, or a different allocation process is necessary to address these issues.</i></p> <p><i>The Waikato PHO initiated counselling scheme that has operated in Morrinsville has been a valuable resource for Primary Care to refer people to for a quick and often successful outcome. This has now stopped.</i></p> <p><i>Question asked of suicide stats for the Waikato and relative to other parts of the country. Paul commented that these stats are available to DHB's but they tend to be retrospective and two or three years delay.</i></p> <p><i>There was a lot of discussion in this meeting on suicide and mental health issues in this area. While there are services out there but the fact remains that problems still exist and we need to be doing better to turn this situation around. The local Matamata Community initiative is a stirring example of what local communities can achieve when motivated and co-ordinated.</i></p> <p><i>Carol drew this discussion together through encouraging local communities to come together through better networking and sharing ideas around how local solutions can be used to address these problems. She asked members to go back into their respective communities and facilitate discussions and bring ideas back to the March meeting for further thought.</i></p> <p><i>In closing this meeting Carol thanks people for their attendance, the Board members for showing interest in the forum and for members for their support and attendance throughout the year.</i></p>
ITEM 5	GENERAL BUSINESS No General Business
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 4 March 2009 Morrinsville Community Centre 6pm – 8pm