

Minutes of Meeting of the Pacific Health Advisory Committee
held in the Boardroom, Meningococcal B Office, 17 Lambie Drive, Manukau
on Thursday 18 September 2003 at 2.00pm

Present: Dr Juliet Walker (Chair), Ms Ailua Fatialofa, Rev Tavake Tupou, Mrs Audrey Aumua, Mrs Metua Faasisila, Mrs Roine Lealaialoto

Apologies: Mr Ika Tameifuna, Dr Siro Fuata'i, Ms Bernadette Pone, Mr Sefita Haouli, Mr Tu'uta Pome'e

In attendance: Ms Margie Fepulea'i, Mr Lincoln Papali'i, Mr Tony Brown, Mrs Anna-Maree Harris, Mr Ben Taufua.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting and members of the Pacific Health staff. It was noted that no members of the media were in attendance.

Rev Tavake Tupou offered the opening prayer.

2. Apologies

Mr Ika Tameifuna, Dr Siro Fuata'i, Ms Bernadette Pone, Mr Sefita Haouli, Mr Tu'uta Pome'e

3. Minutes of last meeting-dated 28 August 2003

The GM Pacific noted that the minutes would be amended to reflect the discussion held on PPD funding.

The minutes of the last meeting as amended were confirmed and approved.

Moved: Ms Ailua Fatialofa Seconded: Rev Tavake Tupou

4. Matters Arising

Outstanding actions from previous meeting:

- The GM Pacific Health will circulate some information on family violence to committee members
- The pre-winter campaign data is still being compiled
- The Health forums are still being run and information on them will be forwarded at their conclusion
- Arising from the HAC update, members requested further information from officers relating to the issue of 'organ donors' and the pre-winter campaign. Sefita Hauoli will provide at the next meeting

5. Procedural

Committee membership

Rev Tavake Tupou's term of membership was due to expire on 31 October 2003. The Chair would discuss the process for membership with Rev Tupou and discuss at the next PHAC meeting.

6. Updates

Updates were not available from HAC, DiSAC or CPHAC due to the change of date for this meeting. An update on the recent Board meeting was provided by the Chair. Items of note were:

- The devolution of funding for older people's health will occur where funding for services for 65+ year olds will be devolved to DHBs from 1 October 2003; and
- the abolition of the quota for Maori and Pacific students into Auckland Medical School is likely to have an impact on the supply of Pacific medical practitioners.

Recommendation:

Members requested that the Chair of PHAC approach Peter Smith re the quota of Pacific student at Medical School and clarify the position of the Government's Strategy 5 – the Tertiary Strategy for Pacific people in relation to Medical School planning for Pacific student retention.

7. Eligibility of Non-Resident Pacific People

The General Manager, Pacific Health introduced a paper outlining the current environment that focuses on NZ citizenship. Ms Ronna-Seyleck Lee and Mr Basil Milne are currently working on a project investigating the cost of services provided in Counties Manukau to noneligible people and their countries of origin. Committee members noted that there has been discussion in the Ministry on this issue for a significant length of time and that the option of returning charges to the country of origin was eliminated as a possible option. The main issue for Counties Manukau is that the provision of services to noneligible patients reduces the available services to eligible patients.

8. Cardiovascular Disease State Management

The Chair presented some data on cardiovascular disease in Pacific people (see attached presentation). Statistics indicated that diabetes was a leading cause of heart attacks and with a reduced life expectancy for Pacific males compared to non Pacific males, earlier intervention should be occurring. The collection of data specific to nationality would be useful.

Recommendation

Data collection should be ethnic specific to nationality.

9. Northern Region Mental Health and Addictions Plan

Mr Tevita Hingano introduced his paper noting that this was the first time that the northern region had had its own plan. Key issues of the plan were:

- Development of partnerships with organisations within mental health and intersectorally
- Improving access to mental health services for Pacific people
- Improving quality of service delivery for Pacific populations both within mainstream and Pacific services
- Ongoing development and integration of Pacific Mental Health in a primary care setting

- Growth and development of Pacific mental health workforce; and
- Improvement of Information and Research on health status and service effectiveness of Pacific populations with mental illness

The next step was to form a consultation group to oversee the implementation of the plan. A presentation would be made to the NDSA board in October 2003 with a launch planned within the next two months.

Mrs Lealaiauloto noted that the Plan did not identify destigmatisation of mental health within Pacific communities as a priority. She noted that those Pacific people who accessed mental health through forensic services often displayed concern about stigmatisation. Families often kept a mentally ill person in the family until a serious situation arose requiring intervention. If mental health could be discussed more openly in the Pacific community, it may be possible to reduce the stigma around it and reduce the forensic involvement that often occurred and, as a consequence, increase access to services. Mrs Lealaiauloto also queried the prioritisation of funding in the allocation of Blueprint funding for Pacific mental health in Counties-Manukau.

The GM Pacific Health expressed thanks to Mr Hingano for his work on the plan, noting that it was a recognition of the sector working well together.

Recommendation:

That the Reference group note Mrs Lealaiauloto's comments.

10. Other Business

Consultation – Mrs Fepulea'i advised PHAC that she would be consulting with community groups (via the Manukau City Council Community Meetings), the Manukau City Council's Pacific Island Group and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs based in Manukau as part of the process of developing the Pacific Service Plan.

Oral health – further reports relating to oral health will be distributed to PHAC members to enable them to be fully briefed prior to the presentation of the oral health strategy.

At the Committee's request, the quarterly reports that are produced for CPHAC will be distributed to PHAC.

Members were notified of two upcoming events – a National Pacific DHB officers' meeting on 16 October, followed by a meeting of directors (organised by MoH). Invitations to this would be distributed in the near future; and a Health and Inequalities workshop on 3 October.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.15pm.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 30 October 2003 from 2.00 – 4.30 pm.**

Action Points

- Follow up on outcomes from Family Violence meeting organised by the Ministry of Health.
- Check on details of pre-winter campaign.
- Literature search on 'Organ Donors' for next meeting
- The Chairperson to approach Peter Smith with feedback on the change in the quota for Pacific and Maori medical students.