

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes for Meeting 25 August 2006

Present

Helen Bryant, Beth Clisby, Margaret Cooper, Marilyn Grimme, Michael Judson, Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon (Chair), Jill Pickering, Barbara Watson, and Cliff Wise

Apologies

None

Minutes of Previous Meeting held 28 July

Minutes Confirmed – Moved by Marilyn, seconded by Michael

Agenda Items

Update by ParaQuad Victoria CEO Peter Turner

- ParaQuad turning 50 in 2007.
- New Governor of Victoria (Professor David de Kretser) has agreed to be Patron and a request is being made for the use of Government House for the 50th anniversary celebration.
- Also possibility of using a National Trust facility for this event due to staff member's association with the National Trust.
- Business Plan (due for completion by November) looking at current building usage and future needs e.g. suitability of location, fix the building up, leave, purchase or lease, size of the warehouse, costs involved in Smith Street offices. Proposal expected mid 2007.
- Strategic Direction Plan ends this year (2006). Includes anonymous input from stakeholders. Draft to be released, but no fundamental changes. Issues of aging population were raised.
- Financial end of year being finalised. Auditors have been in.
- Fundraising is dropping off.
- Paraquad "brand" not well known. An awareness strategy is being developed, but there is not much to spend on marketing. Ideas to improve awareness of Paraquad include Corporate Partnerships, e.g. partner's adverts could include 'proud partner of ParaQuad'.
- May consider running Paraplegic & Quadriplegic Association of South Australia television advert with overdub inserting Paraquad as organisation.
- CEO has had media enquiries re issues concerning stem cell research. ParaQuad does not have an organisational based response to this issue. Possibility of suggesting clients who could respond as private individuals or could consider setting up a Client Reference Panel as spokespersons on issues.
- Peter is on PAC email list and is kept informed.

Review of PAC reporting procedures

- Cliff reported changes to the PAC Guidelines involving the reporting structure of the Committee have been tabled in draft form following the consultation process. These changes to be tabled at the next meeting. PAC feedback to come through CEO and the Polio Community Officer.
- Cliff confirmed his role as Board Representative is to bring information from the Board and take back the PAC perspective on policy issues – not operational ones.
- Board doesn't want to lose awareness/contact with groups.

Christmas Party Venue

Meeting decided to use last year's venue of Moonee Valley Race Course again for the Christmas Party. Will request space to be left along side of tables and varied table settings.

Polio Day (23rd October)

Mary-ann:

- Has included information on the day in the Spring edition of Polio Perspectives due to mailed out next week.
- Reported there have been a couple of little prizes donated for the raffle and possibility of approaching department stores for prizes. There is a letter available confirming approach for prizes on behalf of Polio Network if required.
- Requested that Cliff and Gordon do the 'welcome' from ParaQuad and the Polio Support Network respectively.
- Is requesting displays from other organizations, e.g. Yooralla Independent Living Centre, TADVIC, Endeavour Industries, and an orthotics display from St Vincent's. Will also ask Independent Solutions and ParaQuad Services to participate in the display.
- Will send off attendance form to physio's who attended last year.
- Inviting reps from DHS, Arthur Rogers (Executive Director, Disability Services Division) and Brenda Boland (Director), and politicians. Suggested politicians are: Bruce Billson, Bronwyn Pike, Sherryl Garbutt, Telmo Languiller, Rosie Buchanan, Andrea Coote, Helen Shardey, Denis Napthine, Gavin Jennings and Richard Wynne.

Review of previous action plan

PolioNetwork Website Update

Due first week in September.

Progress of Clinical Service Provider brochure

Mary-ann has not had time to proceed.

School Program: Call for volunteer speakers

About 4 people have expressed interest. This is prior to the article in the forthcoming 'Polio Perspective' requesting volunteers.

June Middleton and the Guinness Book of Records Update

This is progressing – paperwork happening. Need Birth Certificate and Medical Service Provider to certify period June has been in the iron lung. Michael suggested this would be a good publicity opportunity for Polio Day.

Invitation to Peter Hibbert, Multi Purpose Taxi Program

Mary-ann has spoken to Peter and he will speak at the PAC meeting on 22nd September. His position is to liaise with customers not only re problems but also solutions.

Displays at local service providers

Helen approached the Church Street, Richmond Medical Clinic and they are willing to have a PolioNetwork display. Mary-ann to arrange.

Correspondence

Rosy Buchanan MP, responded to Mary-ann's request for an update (on previous meeting with her), stating that Telmo Languiller addressed Parliament on the matter of PPS services on 10th August which is recorded in Hansard.

Questions arose as to 'how to proceed'. A suggestion was made to write to the DHS Secretary in Canberra, including a copy of the Hansard information. Helen and Peter view before being signed by Gordon as the PAC Chairman.

Reports

PQV Board - Cliff reported:

- The former Governor of Victoria John Landy is to be a Lifetime Patron of Paraquad.
- Author Ken Haley ('Emails from the Edge') is a possible quest speaker for the ParaQuad AGM on 21st November.

Polio Community Officer

- Mary-ann to visit Wodonga and Swan Hill groups this month, and has had a request by the Wangaratta PPSG to attend a meeting in Cobram in November. The group have asked Mary-ann to discuss the emotional and psychological impact of PPS.
- Mary-ann will be interviewing Danish film maker Niels Fransden re his film "The Epidemic" which will be shown at the Alternative Film Festival. She will write up the interview to be included in the Summer edition of Polio Perspectives.

General Business

Marilyn talked to a very interested group of Medical Students at Melbourne University in Shepparton. Marilyn will be overseas at next meeting.

Action to be followed up

- Mary-ann to forward a request letter for prizes to Barbara, Jo and Beth.
- Cliff and Mary-ann to ensure the PAC Guidelines are tabled at the September meeting.
- Mary-ann to draft letter to DHS Secretary.
- Mary-ann will report back on the Christmas Party venue booking at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

Clarified as Friday 22 September 2006