

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes for Meeting 19 January 2007

Present

Margaret Cooper, Geoff Dean, Marilyn Grimme, Jane Henderson (Polio Services Victoria), Michael Judson, Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon (Chair), and Barbara Watson.

Apologies

Cliff Wise and Jill Pickering

Minutes of Previous Meeting held 24th November

- Minutes confirmed. Moved by Michael, seconded by Barbara.
- Michael noted November 24 Minutes included Mary Reid and PQV CEO, Peter Turner as present at that meeting. This is incorrect as both attended the lunch only.
- Marilyn Grimme's presence at the meeting was not recorded in the minutes.

Agenda Items

- **Resignation by General Manager - Community Services:** Mary-ann informed the PAC that Helen Bryant had resigned from Paraquad Victoria. A farewell card was passed around for signing by the members. Those present expressed regret at Helen's departure and discussed how she had always been supportive and empathetic.
- **2007 PAC Election**
Mary-ann sought confirmation as to which members will be up for re election to the PAC.
 - Margaret and Gordon to renominate. Barbara and Jill both to stand down having each served 6 years on the committee (with the option of renominating after a 1 year break).
 - Geoff Dean (who was co-opted after Beth Clisby's resignation for the remaining one year term on the committee) will be required to stand for election in 2008.
- **Polio Special Purpose Budget 2007- 2008**
Preliminary suggestions for the 2007-2008 Budget included:
 - The purchase of a Data Projector for information sessions was deemed to be a good investment. Mary-ann to explore option re purchase, including 2nd hand.
 - Currently out of posters – suggestions to revamp and update picture.
More discussion to take place next meeting.
- **'Participate in Health Conference - Making it Work' Presentation**
 - Margaret and Mary-ann to co-present at this conference on the 23 February. This necessitated a change of the next PAC meeting date to Friday 16th February.
 - Marilyn requested that the presentation also be made to the PAC. All were in favour of the presentation to be made at a future PAC meeting.
- **Polio Day 2007**
Proposed date and venue for Polio Day is Monday 22 October at the Darebin Arts Centre.
Michael, Gordon, Barbara and Marilyn to form sub-committee to discuss format (Marilyn will need

to participate by email while OS). The sub-committee will meet at 11.00am 16 February (prior to PAC meeting).

- **Invitation to meet with NZ Post Polio Support Society**

- As a consequence of viewing PNV's DVD and follow-up meeting with Mary-ann in Melbourne last year, Ray Wilson, President of the New Zealand Post Polio Support Society, invited Mary-ann to present at the Society's Committee Meeting in NZ on March 3rd. Mary-ann's presentation will include the Polio Roll Call, PNV's Website, a report on PNV's Convener's meeting held in October 2006, PNV's information pack/brochures/newsletter, and an outline of how the other States operate and fund their Networks.
- Margaret Cooper requested that Mary-ann bring back a copy of the Society's publication 'Book of Experiences'

Review of previous action plan

- **Review of PAC Draft PAC Guidelines**

The amended PAC Guidelines as presented by the PAC, January 2007 have been approved by Peter Turner, CEO and Cliff Wise, Chairman, Paraquad Vic.

- **June Middleton and the Guinness World Records (formerly known as Guinness Book of Records)**

- Michael has organised with Ian Cooke, CEO Carlton Football Club for the presentation regarding June Middleton's inclusion in the Guinness World Records to be held at the training session on Friday 2nd February at 10.00am.
- Mary-ann has visited with June who is very pleased with the proceedings and will get back to June re the Club as the venue, rather than at the hospital and ascertain a fallback position if June was not able to attend the CFC on the day.
- Suzanne Ryan-Evers, ParaQuad's Communications Manager, attended this part of the meeting to discuss PR opportunities. She will liaise with the CFC and Austin Hospital's PR to obtain as much publicity as possible for this event including photo opportunities, newspaper, radio and TV exposure. A media information kit will be prepared.
- Michael, Barbara and Mary-ann from the PAC, Suzanne and Anita from PR and Peter Turner will attend the event.

- **Draft response to DHS letter**

Deferred due to Jill's absence.

- **Polio Services Victoria funding increase support: What next?** See Jane Henderson's comments under 'Reports'.

Correspondence

- Email forwarded to Mary-ann by Fran Henke as sent by the Metro Access Worker at Frankston City Council to her colleagues re information on PNV's new website and the numbers of people she has encountered experiencing post polio syndrome.
- Also forwarded by Fran Henke a letter to Alistair Harkness MP from Helen Russell, Acting Regional Director, Southern Metropolitan Region in regard to the completion of the DHS investigation into KAFO subsidy levels and a subsequent increase in the levels. The new KAFO subsidy level being \$2,200 per item across the state.

Reports

- **Polio Services Victoria Report by Jane Henderson**
 - Orthotist, Darren Periera, has received USA accreditation for the Horton (mechanical joint) stance control KAFO.
 - PSV Patients Satisfaction Survey has had 57 participants respond from 100 surveys sent out. Issues highlighted by participants included funding, staff and parking. Jane has emailed a copy of the feedback to Mary-ann.
 - Waiting lists remain as reported in November, with 5 months wait for a clinic appointment.
 - Have had to turn down 1/3 of clients wishing to attend Wangaratta session later this month, only able to see 13 high priority clients.
 - PSV has forwarded a 5 page written letter to Jocelyn Bout at the DHS in response to her questions arising from the previous meeting. Jocelyn on leave and will arrange a meeting upon her return.
 - PSV staff to take leave. This will have implications for the services provided as there are not enough funds to replace staff and services during this period.
- **PQV Board**
 - No one from Board attended meeting. Peter Turner to attend March meeting.
- **Polio Community Officer Report**
 - Ethel Temby and Churchill Trust Applications: The application for DHS's Ethel Temby Award to visit the USA was unsuccessful. Mary-ann has now applied to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust for the same purpose. Decisions by June 07. If successful, Mary-ann will approach Qantas, Rotary and other community service clubs for assistance with Jill Pickering's travel.

General Business

- **Geoff Dean meeting with Peter Ryan MP (Leader of Victorian National Party)**

Peter Ryan took the opportunity to meet with Geoff Dean at his home and has promised to organise a face to face meeting with Bronwyn Pike MP to discuss issues affecting polio survivors.
- **PQV's structure and strategy planning:** PAC has previously included representation by the General Manager of Community Services. With the departure of Helen Bryant, the PAC seeks clarification of PQV's structure and strategy planning. Gordon will email the CEO accordingly.
- **PAC Identity Tags**

Michael and Geoff have not been issued with PAC identity tags. Mary-ann to provide.

Action to be followed up

- Consider budget for Polio Special Purpose 07/08 Budget. All
- Check with June Middleton re Carlton Football Club as the venue for Guinness World Records presentation and to ascertain fallback position. MAL
- Participate in Health Conference Presentation to PAC meeting at a future date. MAL/Marg
- Polio Day sub-committee to meet at 11.00am prior to next meeting. MAL/Gordon
Michael/Barbara
- Email Peter Turner re clarification of structure and strategy planning. Gordon
- Obtain a copy of NZ's 'Book of Experiences'. MAL
- Provide Michael and Geoff with PAC identity tags. MAL

Date of next meeting: Friday 16th February 2007, ParaQuad Victoria Boardroom, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood