

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes

for meeting held Friday 20 July 2007

Present

Margaret Cooper, Geoff Dean, Fran Henke, Jane Henderson, Michael Judson, Mary-ann Liethof, Tricia Malowney, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna, Lyndie Spurr (General Manager Community Services).

Apologies

Marilyn Grimme, Gordon McKinnon, Cliff Wise

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held June 29th

Minutes confirmed with following amendments:

Margaret moved that under PQV Report (dot point 7) beginning on line 3, the word "knew" be changed to "heard". Also to include under that report that, 'Lyndie acknowledged issues with service delivery and will be addressing them in months to come'. All in favour.

Agenda Items

Welcome to Fran Henke and Tricia Malowney, new PAC Members: Fran and Tricia were welcomed as new members of the PAC.

Existing PAC members introduction / background on new members: Existing members introduced themselves, their backgrounds and PAC involvement.

Fran spoke of her background as a journalist and member of the Mornington Peninsula Post Polio Support Group and 'serial pest of politicians'.

Tricia is a member of the Eastern Post Polio Support Group, is on the Victorian Disability Advisory Council and is the Convener of the Victorian Women with Disabilities Network. Her main focus is on undertaking systemic advocacy to address issues specific to women with disabilities, such as violence, parenting rights and access to health care, and to ensure that gender and disability are included in as a factor in mainstream policy development.

Tricia also enquired re terms of reference for PAC and the following background was provided by those present for new members:

- Margaret spoke of PAC's good working relationship with ParaQuad through previous General Manager of Community Services
- Most active lobby group in ParaQuad
- Special Purpose Post Polio account was initiated when the Post Polio Foundation transferred their funds over the PQV with mutually agreed to guidelines for use, i.e. polio education
- Focus on polio and some general disability issues
- Would like to make suggestions/provide feedback to Lyndie and Cliff regarding new social policy
- Lyndie has advised that she is seeking to clarify the PQV governance structure and the relationship of PAC to the Board, and has undertaken to speak to Peter and report back to PAC.

As a journalist, Fran enquired about whether a PAC member can act as a spokesperson for polio-related issues. The response was that:

- Any official polio-related comments were to come from Mary-ann who can be authorised to speak to the media on behalf of PQV through Lyndie/Peter.
- As an 'Advisory Committee' to PQV, the PAC and its' members cannot make any official representation without submitting a proposal and obtaining permission from PQV's CEO and Board.
- Mary-ann advised, however, that all polio survivors have the right to represent themselves as members of the polio community, e.g. approaching their local MP's with specific concerns, or if interviewed about their own story/experiences with services, etc.
- ParaQuad Policy regarding other official spokespersons is still being formulated.

Nomination and election of new Chair for 2007/08 term: Gordon, having Chaired the PAC for two years, has stood down as required by PAC Guidelines. Margaret Cooper nominated Michael Judson as new Chairperson. All in favour and Michael congratulated by all.

PAC Goals for 2007/08

- Continue to support PSV to increase their funding
- Continue to support the polio network groups
- Continue to advocate to State and Federal government for unmet needs
- PAC will support the Polio Australia strategy (there is already seeding funding for incorporation). PNV needs a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) before making any commitments to Polio Australia.
- Maintain and strengthen the relationship with ParaQuad
- Support Mary-ann's future research and education e.g. Churchill Fellowship, in bringing information back to the community and health professionals.
- Promote PNV to DHS (contacts)
- Explore strategies for increasing post-polio awareness within the medical sector, i.e.:
 - Health Issues Centre
 - Notices in health insurance journals
 - Ask Dr Stephen de Graaff if interested in writing something up in medical journal such as VicDoc

Tricia enquired about prior and recent goals/activities/major strategies. Recent activities include:

- Initially creating Post Polio Syndrome: The Australian Experience film and recently transferring to Marcom Projects for ongoing promotion and sales to a wider audience
- DHS health sector presentation by Margaret and Mary-ann
- Developing and facilitating the Support Group Conveners forum
- Creation and maintenance of PNV website
- Developing the Schools Speaker Program
- Updating PNV service brochure and poster, and creating new brochure for health professionals
- Upcoming oral history project – it is intended to have student input into the project and there is a need to create long term strategy for this project.

Review goals next time. Each to assist with a topic. Michael suggested a strategy paper.

Review of Previous Action Plan

School Speaker Program Progress

16 volunteer school speakers have now been through the training program and have received their resource kits. Letters are being sent out to 10 local schools per speaker. It is hoped that over the period of one year, each speaker will present to 10 schools (excluding December and January) making a total of 160 presentations.

Polio Day Progress

- Case study devised for panel discussion and series of questions to be put to panel. PAC members asked to contribute questions.
- Janet Powell (former Democrats leader) has agreed to be MC
- Post-Polio Health International praised the practical nature of the day and has asked to print the concept in their news bulletin as a suggestion for USA-based support groups.

Ritchies Community Benefits follow up

Mary-ann met with a Ritchies representative and has organised for PNV to become a beneficiary of their program. She handed out cards/key tags and will advertise in the next Polio Perspectives newsletter. Michael will prepare store information for the website and forward to Mary-ann. Mary-ann may follow up on the Mitre 10 Community Benefits Scheme in future.

Correspondence

Outgoing: Following an Information Session Mary-ann ran in Warragul, one of the attendees asked if she could send a letter to his Warragul Lions Club requesting a donation towards the catering costs for Polio Day.

Incoming: Warragul Lions Club responded advising that they will be meeting on 22 August to discuss and would advise thereafter. They also asked if Mary-ann would be interested in speaking at a future Club meeting.

Reports

PQV

- Cliff absent from meeting.
- Lyndie catching up with staff orientating and considering the Executive Officer's function, and other optimal team roles.

Polio Services Victoria

Jane Henderson reported:

- Received a one off \$50,000 DHS grant to reduce orthotic's 5 year waiting list. Will possibly put on part time orthotist. Will repair existing orthoses made at St Vincent's and will manufacture orthotics for highest priority cases but will still not meet all the demand. No longer accepting new patients unless they have very complex needs that will not be met in the community. PSV will assist clients in selecting an alternate orthotic provider by providing them with a list of Orthotic providers. (Will forward copy of the list to Mary-ann)
- Darren will continue to provide orthotic assessments and consultation
- Clinic waiting list still 5 months
- Continuing to pursue recurrent DHS funding, but communication has dried up somewhat.
- Metropolitan clinics mainly new clients - over half come via PNV

- Jane to confirm with Darren re cost of private consultations (\$140 p/h). Assessments at St. Vincent's are free
- Visit the 12 towns in 6 regions once every 2 years (1 region every 2 months)
- Currently 1200 active clients. Initial funding was for approx. 300 clients

Polio Community Officer

Steve Macagnan, who produced the Post Polio Syndrome film for PNV is applying for grant to accompany Mary-ann (and Jill Pickering) on her Churchill Fellowship tour to make a documentary of the trip.

General Business

Michael showed DVD of the compilation of Mary-ann's TV interviews regarding the recent polio case in Melbourne. Post-Polio Health International (USA) has also requested a copy of the DVD. Michael will prepare and forward to Mary-ann to send on.

Action to be Followed Up

Review goals for strategy paper	All
Questions for Polio Day case study	All
Include Ritchies info in next PP newsletter	MAL
List of Orthotic Providers sent to Mary-ann	Jane
Prepare and send USA format DVD of TV interviews to Post-Polio Health Int'l	Michael/MAL

Marilyn, Tricia and Lyndie are apologies for the August meeting.

Date of Next Meeting:

Friday 31 August - ParaQuad Victoria Boardroom, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood.