

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes

for meeting held Friday 31st August 2007

Present

Margaret Cooper, Geoff Dean, Fran Henke, Michael Judson, Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna and Cliff Wise.

Apologies

Marilyn Grimme, Tricia Malowney and Lyndie Spurr (General Manager Community Services).

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held July 28th

Minutes confirmed: Moved Geoff seconded Margaret. All in favour.

Agenda Items

Invitation to Zaheer Ahmed Khan (Zac) to attend Polio Day

Michael put forward the suggestion that Zac be invited to attend Polio Day. (Zac recently contracted polio whilst visiting family in Pakistan. On his return to studies in Melbourne he became ill and was hospitalised at Box Hill Hospital.) All in favour. Mary-ann will follow up Zac's contact details and issue the invitation.

Article: Polio still a major concern

Fran had an article 'Polio still stalks unwary world' published in several of the Fairfax eastern region community papers.

New Ministerial Line Up & Report on Office of Disability Meeting

A copy of the new Cabinet was tabled following the resignation of Steve Bracks and the appointment of the new Premier, John Brumby.

Margaret Cooper and Jill Pickering recently attended a meeting at the Office of Disability to discuss how we can move forward in supporting PSV regarding increased funding. The following notes were made:

Prepare a submission (to be kept to 4 pages) which:

- Succinctly states the problem
- Outlines the solution
- Makes specific Recommendations which can show effective use of Government Money
- Commits to a strategy so the Government can consider strategies for immediate and long term future of polio survivors who currently have PPS, new cases, and ageing 20+ yrs on
- Provides a background to submission, i.e.: Government has a commitment/mandate to look at 'Ageing'

PAC action once the submission is finalised and printed:

- Meet with Lisa Neville as Minister for Mental Health, Community Services, and Senior Victorians, specifically to discuss age issues
- Lisa Neville is also local member for Geelong, so invite her to attend a meeting with Geelong Hydro PSG as their Local Member
- Meet with Mr Harken (Disability Services Commissioner - complaints Disability Service Provider) to discuss lack of appropriate clinical services for polio survivors
- Advise all polio survivors, Polio Support Groups and PAC members to meeting with their Local Members with using a standard letter & submission

Included in the discussion was the concept of Polio Services Victoria funding moving from DHS Disability Services to the Health Department. Suggested process:

- An approach (possibly by local PNV member) to the Minister for Mental Health, Community Service and Senior Victorians, The Hon Lisa Neville MP, in her own electorate of Bellarine, involving a 4 page or less, headlined, very clear submission.
- This submission could also be used by groups to present to their local MPs. These presentations could occur over a period of a few weeks to heighten any potential impact. This could be a pilot for other disabilities.

Jill Pickering has offered to compile the submission. All in favour. Cliff saw no conflict in what is trying to be achieved. Mary-ann to forward document to Lyndie and Peter for approval.

Review of Previous Action Plan

School Speaker Program Progress

- Four schools have asked for speakers in the Shepparton, Gardenvale, Drouin and Bendigo areas. (Unfortunately, Bendigo speaker is unable to present due to ill health.)
- The number of speakers has dropped to 15 as one speaker is no longer available.
- Suggestions were made in regard to contacting the Principal's Assoc., the Primary Schools Assoc., and social studies coordinators to publicise the program's availability. Mary-ann will follow up as appropriate.

Polio Day Progress

- DHS representative met with Mary-ann to discuss what was expected for DHS's involvement in Polio Day. Mary-ann was able to reassure her that the invitation was to address base level service provision and to answer questions that may arise from the case study.
- The registration form for the day is in the just published Spring edition of Polio Perspectives.
- There has been a \$100 donation each from the Keilor East Rotary Club and the Warragul Lions Club. With the \$500.00 donation from the Mentone and Mordialloc Rotary Club, this makes a total of \$700 donated towards covering the costs of catering.
- Fisher Lane Medical Supplies has agreed to display a selection of their mobility aids and equipment. Jill and Mary-ann visited their display centre to choose appropriate equipment for participants to see and try on the day.
- Everything is now in place for the day.
- Geoff offered to introduce guest speaker Peter Ryan MP on Polio Day. Mary-ann will confer with Janet Powell MC as to introducing Geoff to introduce Peter Ryan.

Review Goals for strategy paper

- Brief discussion paper on PAC members chosen goals of interest to be emailed to Michael.
- General discussion to be postponed to next meeting as Mary-ann will be on leave and there will be no opportunity for follow up between meetings.

Questions for Polio Day case study

Postponed as above.

Include Ritchies information in next PP newsletter

Mary-ann has advertised the Ritchies Community Benefits Scheme in the Spring edition of Polio Perspectives and Michael has included the information on the website.

List of Orthotic Providers sent to Mary-ann

The list of Orthotics providers sent to Mary-ann by PSV has been forwarded to PAC and the group convenors.

Prepare and send USA format DVD of TV interviews to Post-Polio Health International

The DVD has been forwarded. There has been no acknowledgement as yet. Michael specifically formatted the DVD for use in America. Mary-ann to follow up as to whether it was received and if the format works.

Correspondence

- Mary-ann received an invitation to attend an afternoon tea being held to acknowledge the closure of the Mt. Eliza Centre. Mary-ann attended and has copies of the history book on the centre. The centre will be available for anyone wishing to visit until it is finally closed.

Reports

PQV

Cliff reported:

- The development of the PQ Board structure continues to explore the types of expertise and skills required on the Board to support ParaQuad.
- There will shortly be an announcement on Independence Solutions governance structure.
- The 2006-2007 financial year created an overall profit of \$580,000. This includes dollars tied up in some stock and debtors.
- The AGM will be held on November 26. Attendance at Government House will be by invitation.

Polio Community Officer

- NSW Post Polio Network has now been provided with a letter of support to obtain Federal funding to hire an admin person to put together the proposal to establish Post Polio Australia. Mary-ann forwarded the request to Lyndie, Neil Walsh and Peter Turner. Peter has signed and the support letter has been sent.
- Mary-ann will be on leave from Friday 7 September to Friday 28 September. Jill Pickering will attend to office two half days a week during Mary-ann's absence.
- Mary-ann suggested the next meeting date be altered to accommodate her return and attendance to Friday October 5th.

General Business

PAC to suggest venues for November Christmas lunch. (Gordon will be an apology for the November meeting.)

Action to be followed up

- Follow up Zaheer's contact details and issues the invitation MAL
- Follow up on suggestions for publicity for schools program as appropriate MAL
- Check on DVD being received by Post-Polio Health Int'l and format suitability MAL
- Brief discussion paper on review of goals to be emailed to Michael PAC
- Submission to The Hon Lisa Neville MP regarding PSV funding Jill P
- Check with Janet Powell MC for introduction process MAL

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 5 October 2007, ParaQuad Victoria Boardroom, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood.