

Polio Advisory Committee

Minutes for meeting held Friday 29th February 2008

Present

Jill Burn, Margaret Cooper, Geoff Dean, Marilyn Grimme, Jane Henderson (PSV), Peter Hudson (Executive Manager, Community Services), Michael Judson (Chairperson), Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna, and Liz Telford

Apologies

Gordon McKinnon and Cliff Wise

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held January 25th 2008

Minutes confirmed: Moved by Jill, seconded by Margaret. All in favour.

Agenda Items

Clarification and changes to PAC Guidelines

- Polio Advisory Committee Guideline amendments were tabled by Peter Hudson.
- All mention of the ParaQuad Board has been removed from Guidelines as the PAC is not a sub committee of the Board but rather an advisory committee to the Polio Community Officer.
- In real terms this means the PAC will no longer have to wait for Board ratification to undertake certain activities such as letter writing. Approval can initially be sought through Peter Hudson as Executive Manager, Community Services or, if necessary, through the General Manager Community Services or, finally, through Peter Turner, CEO, depending on the implications for PQV.
- Peter H advised that “effectively, any management (operational) decision is not a Board (governance) decision”. Peter stated that his approach will be to “actively encourage the raising of issues”.
- Regarding changes to the composition of PAC, Michael suggested Guidelines should guarantee 2 metro members positions to protect and ensure those inclusions. PNV Guidelines to be altered to state 2 metro and 2 general members. All in agreement.

Draft Polio Australia Constitution Mk II / MOU

- A few very minor points (terms) to be clarified. Then suitable to go ahead. Extended reservation of name ‘Polio Australia’ deadline now May 17th 2008.
- PAC members asked that the updated Constitution be sent to them. Margaret requested Word as opposed to PDF format.

Memorandum Of Understanding;

- Mary-ann has found a template for a MOU.
- Spinal Injuries Assoc (QLD) were to check with their legal team regarding an MOU but there has been no follow up to date.
- Mary-ann asked Peter if it would be possible for ParaQuad Vic to progress the matter by drafting a MOU for presentation to PQV’s legal team and/or other state networks. Peter advised he was happy to discuss logistics but was not in a position to do so without further discussion with Mary-ann.

Australia 2020 Summit submission from Polio Australia

- Gillian Thomas, President of Post-Polio Network NSW, forwarded an email to all states regarding the Federal Government's call for expressions of interest at the 2020 Summit. (NSW applying via a 500 word submission to attend the Summit.)
- Gillian suggested that all networks apply independently, and as Polio Australia – although Michael was quick to remind us that Polio Australia is not yet an official entity cannot submit under that title. Gillian views the concept of Polio Australia as a voice for all networks.
- Tricia Mallowney (Victorian Women With Disabilities) has applied and, if she attends, will be put the case forward for Victorian and other polio survivors.
- As Mary-ann is not going to be in Australia at the time of the Summit, and those selected are expected to pay all their own costs, she has decided not to progress with a submission.

Contingency for MAL's 6 week absence

Mary-ann tabled her contingency plan for the PAC's general information.

Churchill Fellowship/Filming

- There was a hiatus in communication with Steve Macagnan, documentary maker, partly due to his 4 week whirlwind tour of Europe and the USA.
- Steve advised Mary-ann that a new set of grants for documentary makers will be due out on July 1. He still plans to put in funding submissions for a broader polio documentary than was previously devised, i.e. filming Mary-ann's Churchill Fellowship tour.

Regional Polio Days Update

- Mary-ann will email the Polio Perspectives link which includes the Regional Polio Day's dates.
- All venues are professional conference venues.
- Attendance fees will be set at \$10.00 for all venues. The Polio Day budget and the possibility of donations should cover any shortfalls.
- Mary-ann is asking groups to nominate local service providers to participate in the Polio Days discussion tables. The concept is for polio survivors to be interactive with professionals such as orthotists, physio's, etc.

Updated 2008 PAC Meeting Dates

Dates tabled.

School Speakers Program Review

Review was held two weeks ago:

- Now down to 13 speakers.
- Mary-ann hasn't had time to follow up on schools.
- ParaQuad project worker looking at a schools' speaker program and would like to incorporate the Post Polio Speakers Program in that project.

Oral History Project Update

- The second sub committee meeting will follow the current PAC meeting.
- On behalf of the sub committee, Liz has invited a guest who has been doing a PHD in history.
- Liz also has a contact in the publishing business who will be invited to a future meeting.
- The purpose of these invitations is to share information.
- Lots to think about such as the purpose of the stories, the scope, the extent to which people may wish to reveal their personal history, etc.
- No perceived deadline for publishing at this stage as there is still a long way to go.

Review of previous action plan

Australia Post Commemorative Stamp Application

- Mary-ann received two responses South Australia and Tasmania re letters of support from the invitation sent out some time ago.
- Peter believed that he would be the best person to sign the application letter to Australia Post on behalf of ParaQuad, using Michael's draft.
- Michael feels we are 'marginal on criteria' as set out by Australia Post.
- PAC response 'go with it' under ParaQuad's umbrella and see what happens.

Contact PNV members who currently receive the concession to write to or visit their local MP's/Arrange visit to Premier John Brumby

No update – but letter from Cath Smith, VCOSS re bundling of concessions has been included in Polio Perspectives. Hopefully readers will follow up with their local MP'S.

Contact AFDO to discuss Census

- Margaret forwarded AFDO information to Mary-ann to follow up regarding work being done on the Census.
- Another report indicated that there may be cuts to ABS funding which will mean running with the same content as the last Census.

Arrange delegation of post polio community members to meet with Minister for Health, Lisa Neville, to continue supporting PSV funding increase

- Lyn Bates, Convener of the South Eastern Polio Support Group, forwarded a response she had from Daniel Andrews, current Minister for Health.
- One member of the Geelong group was willing to visit Lisa Neville as her local MP, but all appointments need to go through the Parliament address by post or email. As Lisa Neville is not the Minister for Health as was mistakenly believed, this course of action was not followed up on.
- As a result of the information outlined in his correspondence to Lyn Bates, no decision was made to arrange an appointment with Daniel Andrews at this time.

Check inclusion of the “Polio and its Late Effects: Information for Attendant Carers” brochure in ParaQuad training

This Brochure has not been given out, but is now included in the training pack and the PDF can now be downloaded from PNV's website.

Correspondence

Incoming:

- Email from Gillian Thomas, PPN (NSW): ABS budget cuts (see under Review of previous action plan)
- Letter to Lyn Bates from Minister for Health (see under Review of previous action plan)

Reports

PSV

Jane Henderson reported:

- PSV continues to refer to community orthotics providers. There has been little feedback regarding those providers. (Darren will return from leave after Labor Day weekend).
- DHS Metro Health will fund PSV as from March 2008. Jane has been dealing with the 2 new liaison contact persons from that Dept. and has sent them her first submission.

- Requirement for transfer of St. Vincent's records has meant change of computer systems and new files for 1200 clients resulting in more work.
- Client waiting list still 5 months – exploring options for more hours.
- Now bulk billing – this requires clients to have doctor's referrals
- Need to have more 'medical' allocated hours.
- Rosebud clinic was well attended with 2 new clients. Next visit Horsham on April 1st.
- Hydrotherapy time change - Now Mondays at 2.00pm instead of Thursdays at 1.00pm. Exploring volunteer assistance for this program with St. Vincent's volunteer co-ordinator

PQV

Peter H reported Community Services is still seeking to fill remaining vacancy for a psychologist, and is looking for volunteers for 'in home support' for those who live in PQV houses. Also described new structure format within Community Services.

Polio Community Officer

- During a visit to Wonthaggi, Mary-ann disbanded the group as a result of difficulties in getting people to attend and/or participate in organising the meetings. Mary-ann will now visit once a year to give an update on the Polio Network's activities and will send out invitations to advise locals of visit.
- Mary-ann has had interest from a member regarding setting up a group in Brighton. Mary-ann is working towards holding an initial 'general' meeting to ascertain interest.

General Business

Polio Roll Call

Michael has updated the Roll Call which now has 891 names recorded - 6 of whom had polio twice. Michael felt this number is 'the tip of the iceberg'.

Action to be followed up

Send updated Polio Australia Constitution to PAC members	Michael
Discuss MOU and report back	MAL/PH
Email PP link with regional Polio Day dates	MAL

Date of next meeting: 12.00pm for 12.30pm start - Friday 28th March 2008, Board Room, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood, 3066