



# MINUTES      Open - unconfirmed

## TARANAKI DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

9 April 2009

Corporate Meeting Room 1

Base Hospital

David Street

New Plymouth

### Present

John Young (Chairman), Peter Catt (Deputy Chairman), Alex Ballantyne, Kura Denness, Karen Eagles, Flora Gilkison, Grant Knuckey, Jenny Nager and Tony Ruakere

### In Attendance

Tony Foulkes (Chief Executive), George Thomas (General Manager Finance & Corporate Services), Joy Farley (General Manager Hospital Services), Gavin Woolley (General Manager Human Resources & Organisational Development), Pamela Hikuroa (PA to Board), Sue Carrington (Media Advisor)

### 475.0 Declaration to Open Meeting

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

### 476.0 Apologies

Dan Devadhar (Board member)

The Chairman advised that he had received a letter from Dr Devadhar requesting three months sick leave which was supported by a Doctors' Certificate.

### Resolution

*That Dr Devadhar be granted three months leave of absence.*

*Gilkison/Nager  
Carried*

### 477.0 Conflicts of Interest

The following new interest was declared:

G Knuckey

New interest – Executive of health Care Aotearoa

K Eagles

Stepping down from Board of Waves 20 April 2009

## **478.0 Minutes**

### Resolution

*That the Minutes of the Taranaki District Health Board meeting held 5 March 2009 be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

*Nager/Catt*

*Carried*

## **479.0 Board Management Reports**

### 479.1 Hospital Advisory Committee

#### Resolution

*That the Taranaki District Health Board receive the unconfirmed minutes of the Hospital Advisory Committee meeting held on 31 March 2009 and notes recommendations contained therein.*

*Eagles/Catt*

*Carried*

### 479.2 Arising From Minutes

Board members sought clarification on the discussion held around ACC contracts. Ms Farley advised that this area remained a challenge to the provider with work not meeting the budget for ACC contracts. She advised that there were some accrual issues which would be corrected in the coming month which would result in the gap being less significant, however, the position remained that budget targets were not being met. A full breakdown would be provided in the quarterly report.

In response to a question around the reduced outsourced services, Ms Farley advised that due to capacity issues some elective surgery had been undertaken at Southern Cross and this had now ceased with a corresponding reduction in outsourced services costs.

Mrs Gilkison referred to the recent article in the local newspaper regarding a woman's approach to ACC with respect to a claim resulting from an epidural and concern expressed over the headline. Ms Farley gave background to the issue, advising that a complaint had been received from the patient which was unrelated to the allegations in the newspaper and it was important to note that the complaint was not as appeared in the newspaper. It was extremely unfortunate and offensive to read the article and the allegations which were simply incorrect. As a result of the newspaper article TV3 were visiting the DHB next week and the opportunity would be taken to correct the impression given by the headline. Staff in the Department were extremely upset by the headline and there was the risk of loss of public confidence in the service.

Further discussion took place with Board members supportive of the approach being taken.

Clarification was sought with respect to the cardio thoracic investigation and the position of the DHB in respect to meeting contracted volumes. Ms Farley advised that there were two issues, firstly the DHB had undertaken an investigation which had been completed and forwarded to the General Manager Planning and Funding. In the meantime the Planning and Funding Department had requested the hospital service to make up volumes to ensure meet contractual commitments.

The second issue relates to a review being undertaken by Waikato DHB on reasons for cardiothoracic rates being significantly lower than the rest of the country. The review is being undertaken by two external appointments and that report is expected to be completed in three months time.

#### **480.0 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman advised that together with the Chief Executive he had met with the Minister of Health and had had very good discussions which had resulted in a better understanding of the Minister's expectations for Health Boards in general and due to the current economic situation the importance of living within the funding allocation for the region.

The Minister also met with the Midland DHB Chairmen and Chief Executives when the opportunity was taken to highlight the extent of collaboration occurring between the DHBs in the Midland region.

#### **481.0 Management Reports**

##### **481.1 Chief Executive's Report**

Mr Foulkes took report as read, highlighting

Pleased to advise that the Ministry of Health has agreed to develop with the DHBs a workplan for the sector. This should see the avoidance of duplication and also additional work being required of DHBs as a result of the Ministry's own workplan.

The meeting with the Minister of Health had been very useful and gave clarity around his expectations. Believe the Minister has a positive view of Taranaki DHB and has confidence in the way we are approaching the issues.

##### **Discussion**

General discussion took place with Board members noting that a business case was being prepared for a regional payroll function which would hopefully enable economies of scale to be achieved.

Clarification was sought around the DHBNZ quarterly update which referred to seven DHBs collaborating on a patient management system. Mr Foulkes advised that this related to DHBs who were in the process of replacing patient administration systems and expressions of interest had been sought from suppliers interested in a collaborative approach. At this stage no further progress had been made and it was possible that the proposal would be superseded by national strategic activity around information systems.

##### **481.2 Financial Report**

Mr Thomas took report as read and highlighted:

Net result is better than previous month due to shorter month

Hospital Services deficit not grown to same extent as in previous month

Forecast remains unchanged but looking very closely at March results as they will represent a full month of activity and forecast will be reviewed in line with those results.

##### **Discussion**

Discussion took place around the unbudgeted risks which over the past few months had materialised with the question being asked as to why these risks had not been taken into account in the budget. In response management

advised that they formed part of the budget, being \$3.4m sitting as risk unbudgeted. It was also noted that in the quarterly report at end of March this matter would be covered but it was interesting to note that the overruns were not coming from the areas previously thought.

Board members noted that in the financial reports the variances were referred to as percentages and sometimes dollar amounts and management were requested to provide a consistent approach with the preference being for dollar amounts with a percentage beside to enable materiality to be established.

Resolution

*That the Taranaki District Health Board notes and receives the Chief Executive and Management's reports and attachments.*

*Gilkison/Knuckey  
Carried*

**482.0 Other Business**

**482.1 Ministry of Health Quarterly Reporting – Quarter 2 Feedback**

The Chief Executive referred to the report which was self-explanatory and was the information submitted around financial indicators to the MoH and the Ministry's feedback.

The feedback for the majority was good but where there was feedback around areas for further improvement, additional comment had been provided in Mrs Boardman's report.

During discussion Board members requested further information around the diabetes indicators and the reason for not meeting targets to be provided to the next Community and Public Health and Disability Support Advisory Committees meeting.

Questions were also raised around palliative care and how the DHB linked into regional initiatives. Ms Farley advised that the indicator related to an initiative by the Regional Cancer Treatment Network based in Palmerston North and the DHBs using that service. The initiative related to three issues:

1. Specialists who will drive some quality standards and initiatives through the regions
2. Development of regional approach to cancer treatment
3. Site visiting it support workforce (not to see patients)

Resolution

*That the report be noted and received.*

*Eagles/Catt  
Carried*

**483.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 7 May in New Plymouth.

Ms Eagles tendered her apology for the May meeting.

**484.0 Exclusion of Public**

Resolution

*That the Taranaki District Health Board exclude the public from the meeting on the basis of the following matters:*

- 1. *To present Taranaki District Health Board Minutes pursuant to an earlier resolution publicly excluding the item.*
- 2. *To present Minutes of Committee meetings pursuant to an earlier resolution publicly excluding the item.*
- 3. *To present Chief Executive’s Report in that the public conduct of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to:*
  - (g) Enable the DHB, Board or Board Committee holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.*
  - (h) Enable the DHB, Board or Board Committee holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).*
- 4. *To present report on HIQ Limited Restructure in that the public conduct of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to:*
  - (g) Enable the DHB, Board or Board Committee holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.*
  - (h) Enable the DHB, Board or Board Committee holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).*

*Nager/Knuckey  
Carried*

The meeting adjourned at 3.05pm to reconvene at 3.20pm

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Chairman

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Date