



# MINUTES

## Taranaki Dioxin Advisory Group

2.00pm-3.00pm, Wednesday 19 November 2008  
Corporate Meeting Room 1, Base Hospital, New Plymouth

### Present:

Andrew Gibbs, Tania Gecse (for Andy Gowland-Douglas), Deborah Sarten, Eileen Hall, Graeme Trigger, John Dodd, Marion James, Neil Herdson, Noel Scouller, Peter Moeahu, Roy Komene, Rusty Kane, Suzy Paratene, Sandra Boardman, Vicki Kershaw, Tammy Taylor (Minute taker)

Also present, but not part of the Advisory Group:  
Miriam Powell (CEPRA), Ted Burrows (CEPRA)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 Peter Moeahu was called upon by Sandra Boardman to open the meeting with a karakia.

### 2. Apologies

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Sue Carrington, Janet Tinson and Andy Gowland-Douglas.

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Dated 25 September 2008)

- 3.1 The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

### 4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- 4.1 Further to the last Minutes, Rusty advised the group that he had returned to his GP to try and obtain his Wellness Check. This has yet to be

scheduled. His GP advised that the Check will probably not happen until the summer period. Rusty also raised an issue around payment that was mentioned by his GP. Sandra Boardman and Rusty Kane to meet outside Advisory Group Meeting to discuss this particular issue further.

- 4.2 GPs are aware that the Wellness Checks are to be given over a one hour period.
- 4.3 Comments concerning the spatial and temporal parameters have been covered in the Project Close Out Report.
- 4.4 The suggestion to the MOH of not just including Dioxin in the eligibility criteria, but including "other chemicals in the area" is also covered off in the Project Close Out Report.
- 4.5 Those people on the group without access to email were sent a hard copy of the project questionnaire. Unfortunately some had problems with the hard copy and found it confusing as it was a computer generated template.
- 4.6 Vicki has spoken with Louise Kendall regarding a possible IWD plant in Bell Block in past years. Louise was asking someone else to contact Vicki directly to discuss this. At the time of this meeting – that person had yet to make contact with Vicki.
- 4.7 All Final Minutes of meetings are now included on the Taranaki District Health Board website.

## **5. Project Overview Update (Vicki Kershaw)**

- 5.1 Vicki Kershaw advised that as of 24 October 2008, 745 applications for Health Support Services have been approved nationwide. Of those 745 applications, 655 are from Taranaki residents.
- 5.2 The offer of a locum was still available to GPs, but as yet none had taken TDHB up on this offer.

## **6. Stakeholder Group Discussion Regarding the DRAFT Project Close Out Report**

- 6.1 After the last meeting, a number of suggested amendments were made to the draft Project Close Out Report. (These amendments were noted in the Minutes of 25 September.) The changes were made and the group were sent a revised Draft Report for discussion at this meeting.
- 6.2 Change requested for paragraph 3 under "The Project Experienced Difficulties in the Following Areas"

Sentence to read: "Some members of the Advisory Group commented that the spatial and temporal parameters that were set by the MoH were too narrow and did not adequately reflect the magnitude of risk to different groups exposed at different times."

**6.3** A new point to be added under "The Project Experienced Difficulties in the Following Areas"

"Some members of the Advisory Group were concerned about disparities between the eligibility criteria for these health services compared to services available to Vietnam veterans."

**6.4** Under "Outstanding Action Items", the date has changed for the meeting between CEPRA and the Ministry of Health. This will now take place on 4 December 2008.

**6.5** Once the above changes have been made to the Project Close Out Report, the report will become "Final". A copy will be sent to Advisory Group Members, the MoH and will be placed on the TDHB website.

**6.6.** A member of the Advisory Group is required to co-sign the Project Close Out Report, once finalised. Debra Sarten will do this.

**7. Any Other Business**

**7.1** Ted Burrows (CEPRA) reported that he sent his application to the Ministry of Health and after three months, had still not heard from them. He called and was told that his application had been declined. He has been put in for reassessment in December. This raised the issue of why he was not notified of the declined application. Vicki Kershaw will bring this to the attention of her main contact at the MoH **ACTION: VICKI KERSHAW**

**7.2** Ted Burrows raised the issue of conflict of interest concerning one of the GPs doing Wellness Checks and their previous employment with Dow. As this issue had been raised previously, Sandra reiterated that she did not consider this issue a conflict of interest. People had the freedom to choose their GP.

**7.3** TDHB will continue monitor the PHOs in terms of the length of time it is taking for Checks to be completed, and the overall number checks completed.

**7.4** Debra Sarten to invite Sandra Boardman to attend the meeting between CEPRA and the Ministry of Health of 4 December. An open invitation was extended to the members of the group to attend this meeting.

**7.5** Sandra Boardman agreed to send a copy of the Project Close Out Report to Mark Poppelwell at the Ministry of Social Development. This is as a result of Ted Burrows requesting that WINZ be kept up to date with the Health Support Services. **ACTION: SANDRA BOARDMAN**

**8. Meeting Close**

Meeting closed at 3.10pm.

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Chair

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Date