

Public Health Advisory Committee
Te Rōpū Tohutohu i te Hauora Tūmatanui

(Sub-Committee of the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability)

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 May 2006

Present: Geoff Fougere (Chair)
Riripeti Haretuku
Linda Holloway
Phil Shoemack
Lynette Stewart

In attendance: Margaret Earle, Manager, Secretariat
Trish Green, Communications Advisor
Barbara Langford, Senior Advisor, Public Health
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst, Māori Health
Liza Wilcox, Senior Analyst
Sara Georgeson, Analyst

Apologies Riripeti Haretuku (for lateness)
Neil Pearce
Andrew Moore

Tabled Papers

PHAC letter to Health Select Committee on Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes
Draft Phoenix Research report on the HIA uptake survey

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes – confirmed with revision (remove word ‘from’)

Matters arising

PHA Conference (PHAC sponsorship) now includes a display stand. Contract is being completed.

Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes Inquiry

Agreed: Chair and Manager will discuss the possibility of PHAC appearing before the Health Select Committee.

Correspondence

Nil

Agenda Item 6.1: Public Health Sector

The report to the Minister is almost ready. The “Working together for health and wellbeing” report and Committee Report were discussed and minor amendments agreed.

Agreed (“Working together for health and wellbeing”):

- Addition of sentences about the advantages and disadvantages of public health structure

- The main message is that public health will never be entirely effective until other sectors take responsibility for the impact of their actions on the health of the population.

Agreed The Committee Report:

- should emphasise a whole of government approach and increasing public health sector strategic capacity
- should indicate that an appropriate avenue for communications is industry newsletters; it has little media interest.

Actions:

- the secretariat will discuss the possibility of omitting reference to “a relationship of negotiation and trust” with the sponsor
- the secretariat will send out the report by email for further comment.
- the invitation list will be circulated to members for additions
- the launch date will be negotiated with the Minister’s office.

Agenda item 6.2 Health Impact Assessment

Project sponsor suggested HIA is critical particularly to DHBs and local authorities. HIA needs institutional, not individual, championship. There was discussion about the structure of reporting:

Agreed:

- There will be two reports – one for accountability to the Minister and the other to promote the HIA stories.
- PHAC will provide interim continuity for HIA until transfer to an appropriate body. This will last no longer than until the end of the calendar year
- First report to be delivered as soon after June '06 as possible.

The PHAC’s role has limits, but monitoring is crucial to ensure it doesn’t fail after it is taken over. If the Minister accepts recommendations, the Ministry will be responsible for monitoring. Need to revisit the question of location.

Mark Jacobs, Director of Public Health, Ministry of Health, was welcomed to the meeting. Discussion items were

- Finding a home for HIA: It needs to be embedded in the routines of government/governance
- Pandemic planning in the Ministry of Health: Pandemic Bill is a learning experience in building intersectoral agreements
- Public Health Bill: there is now scope to include HIA. There is potential for PHAC to have input at Select Committee time, which will probably be before end of year.

Agreed:

- It would be good to have regular contact with both the Director of Public Health and the Public Health Directorate
- Mark Jacobs accepted an invitation to be part of a panel at the HIA conference.

There was further discussion among PHAC members about HIA.

Points of discussion:

- Location of a support team in the Ministry at least in the short term. The possibility of University as a research partner for HIA in future was discussed but not as a support unit
- Current direction of the Public Health Bill is an ‘enabling’ rather than ‘prescriptive’ therefore it would probably not be feasible to look at HIA as a legislative requirement
- HIA Conference programme looks good. Several PHAC members will attend/participate.

Agenda item 6.3 The Health of Children and Young People

The secretariat reported on responses to date for the three RFPs and that a sponsor’s teleconference would be held to discuss the next steps.

Feedback relevant to child and youth health from the meeting with the Public Health Directorate (the previous Thursday) included:

- Liz Craig and Barry Borman are doing work on national indicators for child health
- a Review of the Well-Child framework is being undertaken
- a pilot project on children with autism is under development
- MSD has developed Toddlers Without Tears.

Agenda item 7 Other Matters

Agenda item 7.1 The Urbanisation, Environment and Health Conference

The secretariat public health advisor will attend this Conference in Canberra and report back at the next meeting on the implications for the next PHAC project.

It was suggested that Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, be invited to a future NHC or PHAC meeting.

Agenda item 7.2 Work programme for 2006 – 07

The effect of the urban environment on health will be a topic of work for PHAC in 2006-07. The use of evidence in public health policymaking is also a possibility.

Agenda item 7.3 PHA Conference

The Chair of PHAC will give a keynote presentation on the public health project. The health of children and young people workshop will be run by one of the project sponsors and will focus on the progress to date with the PHAC project.

Next meeting: Tuesday 20 June 2006, at 1pm, in Masterton

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair) Date.....