

Record of the Western NSW Local Health District Board and Eastern Clinical Network Health Councils Meeting held on 2 April, 2014 at 11.00 am at Coonamble Health Service Record

- Present:** Joe Canalese (Deputy Chair), Scott McLachlan (CE), Lindsey Gough, Pat Doolan, Julie Ann Maher, Joan Treweweke, , Graham Parker, Paul Mann, John Tooth. Robin Williams & Scott Griffiths(arrived 11.20am)
Representatives from Dubbo, Coonabarabran, Coonamble, Gulargambone, Gilgandra, Coolah, Dunedoo, Gulgong, Mudgee, Wellington, Baradine
- Attendance:** L Nott, Lindsey Gough, Julie Cooper, Tammy O'Connor, Rebekah Bullock, Illona Parnaby, Joy Adams, Sharon McKay
- Apologies:** Darryl MacKender, Representatives from Dunedoo, Coolah, Gulgong

1. Welcome by Deputy Chairman of Western NSW LHN Governing Council – Dr Joe Canalese,
Deputy Chair acknowledged the traditional owners past and present and welcomed all in attendance.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made

3. Update from the Deputy Chair, Dr Joe Canalese

- Board members toured the facility and were very impressed.
- J Canalese acknowledged the importance of these meetings as a forum for open discussion.

4. Update from the Chief Executive, Scott McLachlan

- S McLachlan gave an update covering the following matters:
 - A teleconference for CE and health councils is to become a regular event.
 - S McLachlan and L Gough continue to travel around the district.
 - Financial delegations have been completed for HSMs. Working on recruitment delegations.
 - J Adams and S McKay appointed as GMs for the Northern and Southern Sectors to support HSMs.
 - Commonwealth funding for a further round of MPS facilities - the district has 5 on the list, one of which is Coolah.
 - Dubbo redevelopment funding of \$600,000 announced for master planning for stages 3-5.
 - Staffing changes – consulting with unions and seeking feedback from interested groups. There is flexibility in the staffing models for HSMs to meet facility needs. Commencing with 6 sites and will ensure these are right before moving on to other sites. The intent is to care for people closer to home.

5. Round Table Discussion

- **Barradine** – S McLachlan was handed a letter from a Gwabegar resident regarding the issue around patients transported to Dubbo and discharged home with no transport. S McLachlan acknowledged the problem. He will talk to the GM at Dubbo re a practical plan that could be put into place to assist.
- **Mudgee** - update on transfer of services to Medicare Locals.
S McLachlan advised the following:
 - The district meets regularly with the Medicare Locals.
 - Medicare Locals are currently being reviewed.
 - The CE would like Medicare Locals to meet with Health Councils re the services needed in towns. MLs intend to have liaison officers.
 - Regional Health Services program (RHSP) funding has been handed to MLs.
 - Integrated Care – the Minister has asked us to take the lead and co-ordinate services in rural areas. There is difficulty in recruiting to allied health roles.

- Request for information re the district's Disability Action Plan (DAP)
 - S McLachlan advised the meeting:
 - This has stalled given the announcement of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as this will impact on the DAP.
 - Funding for NDIS will go to not for profit providers, with HACCC funding for those over 65years to be provided by the Commonwealth and for those under 65 years to be provided by the states. The NDIS is being rolled out with Hunter New England LHD being the first to implement the scheme.
 - S McLachlan stated the DAP is about improving access to services for disabled people and the needs differ in every community. R Cheney will pull together ideas from all services to revisit the DAP and bring it forward.
- **Joe Canalese** asked if something can be improved at your facility what would it be.
- **Dubbo** – Completion of the hospital.
 - S McLachlan advised that while work on stages 1 & 2 continues in reality there is no final answer until we have a master plan. We have planning funds and will push the master plan process as quickly as possible. Stages 1 & 2 will be completed in next few years.
 - S McLachlan confirmed that any consultation regarding redevelopments will include health councils.
- **Gilgandra** - Health council budgets
 - S McLachlan- we are keen to maintain a bucket of funds for health councils. We are thinking that this may be kept centrally to be used as needed to ensure best use.
- **G Parker** - Are you getting sufficient information to do their jobs?
 - The general response was yes, health councils are well informed by managers. Discussion followed
 - Agreed health councils have come a long way in the past 8 years. They are informed and listened to.
 - J Treweeke confirmed the Board is here to manage the LHD in behalf of all of the area and need the input of the health councils to do this.
- **Dubbo** - The biggest issue is the lack of patient.
 - S McLachlan advised the meeting there is a briefing paper about the PFU in today's Board papers and he has met with the CE of NSW Ambulance who will be attending the District Leaders Forum this week. This subject will be raised at District Leaders Forum and Board Meetings.
 - The meeting agreed the government needs to acknowledge this issue and there should be extra funding. The discussion also mentioned return trips for ambulances being used to return patients home. J Canalese commented on the high cost of using ambulances.
 - IPTAAS is a good option and its scope has broadened ie now 100km round trip, multiple trips allowed
 - S McLachlan suggested Anne Taylor should give a presentation to the health council networks regarding the PFU. Illona Parnaby to arrange this in the future – perhaps at the HC forum.
- **Barradine** - Baradine had Mental Health day for drought stricken people. The health council supported this by providing lunch and morning tea from its budget.

Joe Canalese thanked everyone for their time and commitment. Their contribution is invaluable as they are the voice of their communities. The Board members left the meeting at 12 noon to commence the Board meeting.

6. Presentation to the Health Council - Community Engagement Framework

Presentation to Health Councils by Director Communication and Engagement, Rebekah Bullock and Manager Community Engagement, Illona Parnaby

- Community Engagement Framework – Consumer and Community Advisory Panel
- Snapshot of Health Council Engagement Survey results
- Health Council Forum – agenda discussion
- Information sharing