

MIDCENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the MidCentral District Health Board meeting held on 15 July 2008 at 10.05 am at the MidCentral DHB Offices, Board Room, Gate 2B Heretaunga Street, Palmerston North

PRESENT

Ian Wilson (Chair)
Diane Anderson
Lindsay Burnell
Graeme Campbell
Ann Chapman
Jack Drummond

Dennis Emery
Jim Jefferies
Stephen Paewai
Barbara Robson
Ormond Stock

IN ATTENDANCE

Murray Georgel, Chief Executive Officer
Stuart Wilson, General Manager, Corporate Services
Mike Grant, General Manager, Funding Division
Nicholas Glubb, Acting General Manager, MidCentral Health
Heather Browning, General Manager, Enable New Zealand
Jill Matthews, Principal Administration Officer
Dennis Geddis, Communications Officer

Public (1)
Media (1)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

3. CONFLICT AND/OR REGISTER OF INTERESTS UPDATE

3.1 Amendments to the Register of Interests

There were no amendments to the Register of Interests.

3.2 Declaration of Conflicts in Relation to Today's Business

No conflicts were identified.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes

It was resolved:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 June 2008 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. BOARD COMMITTEES

Mike Grant entered the meeting.

5.1 Hearing Committee

The low number of submissions was noted. It was further noted that the majority of submissions supported the concept and noted potential risks which would need to be addressed, particularly the capacity of Palmerston North Hospital to respond to increase demand and patient flows. The general trend that people who participated in the development of a proposal did not participate in the submission process.

The low number of submissions from Wanganui-based people and organisations was discussed. Diane Anderson advised the Whanganui DHB members of the Hearing Committee considered that if the consultation process had been undertaken 12 months earlier there would have been considerable interest. However, people were now recognised something had to be done to ensure service continuity. Ormond Stock supported this, and noted that current feedback related to the time it was taking to complete the process.

Management advised that the submissions were now being analysed and a report would be submitted to the Hospital Advisory Committee in August. A separate report on the recommended way forward in respect of this project would also be submitted.

It was resolved:

that the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Hearing Committee held on 10 June 2008 be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

5.2 Matters Arising

5.3 Group Audit Committee

It was resolved:

that the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Group Audit Committee held on 17 June 2008 be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

5.4 Matters Arising

5.4.1 Horowhenua Health Centre Post Event Audit Report

The General Manager, Funding Division confirmed that Horowhenua PHO staff were not based in clinical areas, and there could be accommodation problems if many more GPs moved into the Centre.

5.5 Hospital Advisory Committee

It was resolved:

that the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Hospital Advisory Committee held on 1 July 2008 be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

5.6 Matters Arising

5.6.1 Locum Costs for Resident Medical Officers

The cost of providing locum cover for RMO positions was raised and a member questioned whether this funding should be spent on base salaries for RMOs in an attempt to reduce the call on locums. The CEO advised that significant improvements had been made in reducing the hours worked by locums. This has resulted in a substantial number of new RMO positions. This increase in staff establishment has necessitated the use of locums. He further noted that some RMOs opted for locum work rather than permanent employment as a career choice.

The potential issues of medical career pathway and clinical safety associated with locum work were raised. The possibility of incentive payments for RMOs based on length of service as a means of encouraging longevity of tenure was suggested. It was noted that RMOs were training positions and as such they were unlikely to consider long term career options until some time through their training programme. Other issues to be considered regarding RMOs such as the mix of SMOs and RMOs, were raised.

The Chairman noted that a national employment agreement existed for RMOs and this was currently under negotiation.

The CEO stated that the national negotiating team was being innovative but was also working within financial boundaries. Work was occurring on a number of fronts, including the Medical Training Board and a Commission established by the Director-General of Health looking at the number of training positions.

It was agreed that a full update on the RMO negotiations be provided to the Hospital Advisory Committee.

5.6.2 Elective Services

Details regarding the suspension of access to elective initiative funding were requested and it was noted that these were contained in the report to the Hospital Advisory Committee. Members' concerns had been noted and a report had been presented to the Community & Public Health Advisory Committee outlining the programme being undertaken by MidCentral Health in purchasing elective services from outside providers.

5.7 Community & Public Health Advisory Committee

It was noted that Stephen Paewai had not been present at the meeting.

It was resolved:

that the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Community and Public Health Advisory Committee held on 1 July 2008 be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

5.8 Matters Arising

5.8.1 Health Awards

It was suggested that future Awards could include a consumer/community involvement category to recognise the importance and value of this aspect of health care. The General Manager, Funding Division advised that the Awards had been extended this year to include schools/education and secondary/tertiary services. Next year disability and consumer aspects could be considered. He further advised that community groups had participated and being recognised in the Awards.

5.9 Disability Support Advisory Committee

It was resolved:

that the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Disability Support Advisory Committee held on 1 July 2008 be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

5.10 Matters Arising

5.10.1 Transport Services

The suggestion that out-of-town shuttle buses could be used around the city between return trips was raised. A member expressed concern that the shuttle buses were staffed by volunteers and this would be an additional call on their time. Management advised that the suggestion had yet to be explored and this concern would be taken into account.

5.10.2 Dental Care for ex-Kimberley Residents

Management confirmed that the planned assessment of referred ex-residents was a one-off exercise. This would determine whether they could access service in a primary or secondary setting. Those assessed as requiring care in a secondary setting would be seen by the hospital's dental unit on an ongoing basis. This work would be done as part of the elective programme. If the condition of an ex-resident, who was receiving dental care in a primary setting, changed a further assessment would need to be undertaken.

It was noted that this issue would continue to be monitored by the Committee.

6. OPERATIONS REPORTS

6.1 CEO's Report

6.1.1 Ministerial Expectations

In response to questions, the CEO advised that manifestation of the Ministry of Health's strengthened leadership role had not yet become fully apparent. This would likely be on an example by example basis not a principle basis. An example was a joint DHB initiative to become part of the Health Roundtable for benchmarking purposes. In parallel the Ministry was seeking to develop similar information. The CEO noted that the call for strengthened leadership by the Ministry of Health had also come from DHBs during a recent review of the Ministry.

6.1.2 DHBNZ

The amended rules for collective decision-making were noted.

6.1.3 Regional Clinical Services Plan

The Board noted that the revised Plan would be submitted for its consideration in August. It further noted the proposed recommendations which would accompany the Plan. The CEO advised that the Plan would remain “draft” until approved by all six DHBs.

The expectation that community engagement/consultation on the Regional Clinical Services Plan would occur as part of the District Strategic Plan process was discussed. The CEO advised that MDHB’s proposed approach to the strategic planning process would be presented to the Board next month. New Ministry of Health requirements regarding associated consultation/engagement processes were based on the level of change proposed. If significant change to a Plan was recommended, community consultation would be required. If there were minor change only, the requirement for formal consultation was waived. The importance of robust consultation/engagement was noted.

6.1.4 District Annual Plan

The CEO advised that Ministerial endorsement of the Plan had yet to be received.

6.1.5 Visit of Associate Minister of Health

The programme for the Associate Minister’s visit was noted. The CEO advised that this was draft and there may be some slight change.

The Chairman encouraged members to attend the Board section of the programme if available.

6.1.6 Financial Position

The CEO confirmed that the DHB’s end of year financial position would be on or slightly better than budget.

6.1.7 Debt and Investments

Management was requested to arrange for an independent review of the DHB’s debt and investment profile. It was noted that the DHB had increased borrowings and investments with a net benefit. Borrowing and investment terms did not match and with the expected trend of increased interest rates there was a potential risk to the DHB.

The General Manager, Corporate Services noted that the firm who had undertaken the previous review of Debt and Investments maintained a watching brief on MDHB’s position.

It was resolved:

that the report be received.

7. STRATEGIC ISSUES

7.1 Procurement Project

The General Manager, Corporate Services confirmed that a paper would be submitted in October with a “go/no-go” decision for this project. He further confirmed that Ernst & Young arrangement had ceased.

It was resolved:

that the report be received.

7.2 Manawhenua Hauora

7.2.1 Minutes

The CEO noted that section 6.4 of the minutes, DHB Committee Representation, had been excluded from the minutes and included in Part 2 of the meeting to protect the privacy of nominees. When the Board had made a determination regarding committee membership this would be made public.

It was resolved:

that the minutes be received.

7.2.2 2008/09 Work Programme

It was resolved:

that the 2008/09 work programme between MidCentral District Health Board and Manawhenua Hauora, as contained in the agenda, be approved.

8. GOVERNANCE ISSUES

8.1 2008/09 Work Programme

In response to questions, the General Manager, Funding Division advised that rest home audits were largely policy based. However, in addition to these MDHB also monitored rest homes through customer feedback, issues-based audits as required, and TAS audit team information. Currently, there were a number of issues based audits underway and these would be reported through the Funding Audit Sub-Committee.

The Board congratulated the communications and corporate team for their success in the recent Annual Report Awards.

It was resolved:

that the updated work programme for 2008/09 be noted.

9. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 19 August 2008, Manawatu District Council, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding

11. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

It was resolved:

that the public be excluded from this meeting in accordance with the Official Information Act 1992, section 9 for the following items for the reasons stated:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Ref</i>
<i>"In Committee" Minutes of the Previous Meeting</i>	<i>For reasons stated in the previous agenda</i>	
<i>"In Committee" minutes of Committee Meetings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Group Audit Committee, 17 June 2008:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sentinel Event</i> - <i>Audit Contracts</i> • <i>Hospital Advisory Committee, 1 July 2008</i> • <i>Community & Public Health Advisory Committee, 1 July 2008</i> 	<i>To protect personal privacy</i> <i>Contract negotiation</i> <i>For the reasons set out in the Committee's order paper of 1.7.2008 meeting held with the public present</i> <i>For the reasons set out in the Committee's order paper of 1.7.2008 meeting held with the public present</i>	
<i>CEO's Report: Regional Collaboration</i>	<i>Subject of negotiation</i>	<i>9(2)(j)</i>
<i>Manawhenua Hauora Minutes: Nominations for External Committee Membership</i>	<i>To protect personal privacy</i>	<i>9(2)(a)</i>
<i>Appointment of External Committee Members</i>	<i>To protect personal privacy</i>	<i>9(2)(a)</i>

Confirmed this 19th day of August 2008.

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 Chairman