

**MANNING VALLEY INTERAGENCY
MINUTES OF MANNING VALLEY INTERAGENCY MEETING**

Date: 7 October 2009

At: Department of Community Services, Taree 2430

Present: Derek North (LINC), Sandy Brooks (HNEH MH), Ellen Carter (St Vincent De Paul), Caron Watkins (MVNS), Shaniane Andrews (Samaritans), Barbra Lawrence (MV Respite) Pauline Smith (Money Care), Pilar McGechan (MDEA), Michael Porst (Centrelink), Sandy Bowden (Community Options), Helen Roberts, (Catholic Care – PHAMS), Cathy Braiding (Centrelink)

Apologies: Bernadette Sexton, Ros Britton, Di Deak, Linda Lee, John Macvean, Natalie Drury

Time Commenced: 1:05pm

Time Finished: 2.30pm

Chairperson: Caron WAtkins

Minute Taker: Caron Watkins

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<u>Minutes Meeting</u>			
<u>Business Arising</u>	<p>1. Community Services Expo Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those present indicated that they themselves had found the expo of great value, and had also had positive feedback from the consumers they had contact with. • Most found it an excellent opportunity to network • Noted that the inside area didn't work and there needed to be more incentive for people to go in • Other feedback indicated that the focus should have been either - around clients or service networking rather than both • Noted that there had been a previous service networking day and this was more for distribution of information to the community – the networking was just incidental to that 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once again – feedback that it would be good to repeat the service providers day <p>2. Feedback from Mental Health consultation – those who attended felt that it wasn't substantially a consultation but more of an information day. Clarification was sought around the current structure and focus of mental health services. While it was acknowledged that the philosophy was on the importance of supporting people to access support, it was also recognised that many people find it difficult to seek that support.</p> <p>Therefore would substantial resources not be better off being directed at preventative/early intervention measures? Would this assist with reducing the number of people either not addressing their issues, inappropriately addressing their issues.</p> <p>It was clarified that mental health eligibility criteria and referral guidelines provide the structure for determining who is able to access assistance. NGO's are being funded to do more of the support work.</p> <p>Other measures - There will be a Clinical Nurse Consultant for Mental Health located at Emergency 3 days a week</p> <p>Nurse practitioner position has gone due to lack of training for this role and funding restrictions – specialist training required</p>	Identify future funding for this	All
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<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<u>Standard Agenda Items</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transport Sub Committee – another meeting to be organised in the near future 2. Emergency Relief – meeting to be held after this meeting – minutes to be circulated 3. CDAT – Next meeting Thursday 4/11/09 at Taree Library commencing 10.30am. This will be a planning session – all welcome 		
<u>New Business</u>	<p>Email from Shelter NSW indicating that there will be a reduction to the funding which was allocated for housing and some will be diverted to education.</p> <p>What locations are they taking it from? Which groups will be most disadvantaged?</p> <p>ASIST Training – Manning Support Services are wanting to run this training. They are looking for extra people to attend. Cost would be \$133. If you are interested please contact Bob Cooke on 6551 5665</p>	Agreed that a letter on behalf of interagency should be sent to appropriate ministers – but also individual services should be encouraged to lobby individually also	Caron
<u>Correspondence In</u>	Department of Health and Aging – invitation to a forum on the National Womens Health Policy – 8 th October		
<u>Correspondence Out</u>	Nil		

<p><u>GUEST SPEAKER</u> <u>Helen Roberts –</u> <u>Personal Helpers</u> <u>and Mentors</u> <u>Program (PHAMS)</u> <u>6551 0224</u></p>	<p>PHAMS – a new FREE service auspiced by Catholic Care that supports people whose lives are severely affected by a severe mental illness. Funded by FAHCSIA</p> <p>Criteria –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients can be diagnosed or undiagnosed with a mental health issue • Can be referred or self refer • Voluntary • Strength based recovery approach/empowerment • Linking people into the community – skills building • Have their own helper /mentor couple of hours a week • Program is driven by the participant • 3 case workers and a per support worker • Case load approx 40 • Case work can be for up to 2 years • Cover Manning Valley and surrounding areas • Targets isolated community members • May help with transport if no other options 		
<p><u>SERVICE REPORTS</u></p>			
<p>Michael Porst - Centrelink</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged pension no requires fortnightly reporting of variable earnings • Newstart/Youth allowance – up to \$150 may be able to lodge by phone 		
<p>MDEA – Pilar McGechan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Relief has been substantial – receiving a lot of food referrals 		
<p>Community Options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target group – frail and disabled • Have a waiting list but try not to turn anyone away • Changes in guidelines- taking a while to filter through into service delivery • Primarily case management with linkages and referrals 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking to increasing staffing levels • Streamlining referral system 		
LINC (Love In the Name of Christ) – Derek North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer based - Service for disadvantaged community members • Lots of referrals • 80 – 100 service calls per month • Free service • 		
Mental Health Community Health – Sand Brooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC – becoming a branch of the Mental Health Association was discussed at last meeting. Has positive implications for the group and would provide more structure. Will be discussed further at the next meeting on 18th November 10.30am at Amber House – all welcome • RSPCA – Safe Beds for Pets – to be initiated in Taree area – provides a service for DV victims with pets. Based in Sydney at the moment. For details contact Di Deak at Lyns Place on 6551 0011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homeless people – can provide pet food. Is also provided to ER outlets - POOPS - still building on volunteer base • NALAG – changes to state constitution which may involve changes to local branches. Waiting to see if this will affect service provision. Ass education material and services need to go to head office first for approval • MHIPU – very busy! 		
MV Respite Care – Barbra Lawrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-65 year olds • Have started a new program called ‘teen time’ for school students with a disability and with parents who are working or studying 		

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St Vincent de Paul (Taree) – Ellen Carter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Averaging 25 – 30 clients a week in home visits • Last 2 – 3 weeks have seen a big increase in new clients • Now getting pensioners for the first time • . 		
Samaritans – Shaniane Andrews 6551 6996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a youth refuge – 4 bed – 16 – 18 year olds • Brokerage service – individuals and families facing homelessness. • Can provide a range of services if they meet criteria • Can pay one weeks rent or provide food instead • May negotiate with Real Estate • NB If a client has an eviction notice – DOH can assist with rent assistance • Are contactable 24/7 • Homelessness project – are looking at employing someone on a part time basis to do a mapping exercise and look at linking services to best service homeless people • Outreach work for young people – can provide interventions to reduce risk of homelessness • 		
Money Care – Pauline Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very busy – one months wait • 		
<u>NEXT MEETING</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be Wednesday 4th November at 1pm (12.30 for networking) • Enquiries: Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services Inc. PH: 6553 5121, Email mvns@mvns.org.au • Interagency minutes can also be downloaded from MVNS Website: www.mvns.org.au 		