

LOAD

WEST COAST Minutes Friday 27th October 2006

- Apologies:** Hecta Williams, Derek Bright, Peter Ashton
- Welcome:** Cate Kearney, ADANZ
- Service Updates**
- Jem Pupich Public Health Promoter. Alcohol Strategy to fit the community: meeting held recently in Hokitika. Agency and community input planned for Nelson has adopted a strategy. Meeting turn out good.
Wild Foods Festival – changes. Adopted policy around alcohol. Trying to move to different age group (around 30). Considering age bands for 18 – 25. Good to see this approach from the organisers.
- Rachel Harrison. Youth Promoter for C and Public Health. Recently moved into alcohol work due to challenges. Recent project for ALAC: alcohol harm reduction programme to use in schools – evidenced based: Western Australia model. Trial in Hokitika school. Not a pilot as has already been trialled and evaluated in Western Australian. Working on submission on alcohol advertising. Background currently alcohol advertising self regulated by the industry.
- Jan Basil Rata Te Awhina Trust. Background in social work and counselling. Worked as probation officer and also as worker with youth with severe conduct disorder. Also worked in crime prevention unit. First break away from govt offices to NGO. Trends: noticing alcohol and drug as end result of underlying issues. Rata received referrals and will refer onto AOD Service for assessment. Not noticing “P” as in North Island. Appears to be more opiates or cannabis. Here representing Rata: while dealing so broadly with health issues for Maori, often the back door and then referred into service for intervention. Seems that almost all case load have people who have had some history of alcohol and drug use.
- Carol Gallagher Guidance Counsellor from High School.
Jill McBride Child and Adolescent Mental Health.
Paul Eathorne Recently moved here. Methadone Coordinator for West Coast. A & D Service. Ensuring guidelines and policies are followed. Sees some differences but not greatly different. The most important drugs that can get pushed to the background are alcohol and tobacco.
- Pauline Schroeder A & D Service. Looking forward to working with Te Awhina. Good to meet Jan and have an opportunity to establish links.
- Di Hay Psychiatric Needs Assessor: 4 – 65. Assesses and works with families.
Kathryn Hank Student Nurse, working with Community Mental Health Team.
Liz Student Nurse, spent 7 years previously as a paramedic. History of sociology and psychology.
Margaret Adams Team Leader A & D Service. Explained Paul’s role further: great deal of responsibility. Good to have Paul here. Recently Richard Tankersley from ADANZ to work on plan for the West Coast. Meeting well attended. Was to have following meeting and collate more information. Poppy seed use, last week highest referrals within recent times. Some “P” use. Variance in severity of use. Endorses Paul’s comments re alcohol and tobacco would include caffeine.
- Questions and Answers
1. Ritalin use? Yes some. Some scripted use.
 2. What about selling of Ritalin? Yes, it is abused.
 3. Diagnosis of ADHD? Over diagnosed. Hard to diagnose accurately in adults.
 4. What are we GPs like in prescribing? Ritalin only prescribed by specialist paediatric Dr.
- Marty Rowan Consumer Representative and also GA representative. Discussion about pokie machines: WC highest machine number per capita. Discussion about differences between alcohol and gambling. More hidden; more stigmatised.
- Cate ADANZ updates. New resources ADANZ and ALAC update on the West Coast Project.

Presentation

Opiate Substitution Treatment for “Junkies”

Margaret Adams; Jo Hall

- Introductions
- Why the term “junkies” is used.
- Harm Reduction approach: introduction of needle exchanges limited, harm secondary to re-using needles.
- History: Opium poppies through to manufactured opiate substances i.e. methadone.
- Addiction: What is it? What is it not? It is not simply criminal behaviour.
- Nature versus nurture discussion: physiological versus psychological.

- Addiction as a brain disorder: prolonged use leads to changes, takes time post-cessation for brain chemical / structures to regain “normal” activity.
- Benefits of use: positive re-enforcers.
- 1990 – 96 156 deaths. Jan 2001 – 31 Dec 2002 \$92 deaths.
- Best treatment for Opiate Addiction: methadone maintenance.
- Buprenorphine and Naltrexone available as alternative treatments.
- Methadone: composition action and effects. Comparison with illicit substances.
- West Coast Methadone Programme criteria: 52 people in treatment. Prevalence discussion: more opiate users on Coast than some other NZ rural areas.
- MMT goals reduction in use and retention: broader social goals.
- Characteristics of successful MMT programmes.

Meeting Closed: *12.25 pm*

Next Meeting: *Jan Basill, Te Awhina*
Rachel Harrison, C & PH

Attendance: *13*

Further information and agendas available on www.adanz.org.nz

Please note: These minutes are a summary of opinions expressed by meeting attendees. If anyone would like further information please contact Cate Kearney at cate.kearney@adanz.org.nz