**Community Health Council**

**Highlights from meeting 2nd March 2023**

**Co-Chair Lyneta Russell**

1**. Consumer and Whānau Voice**

Jo Witko , Workstream lead of the Te Whatu Ora Consumer and Whānau Voice team provided an update on the role of consumer councils in the health reforms.

2. **Allied Health Presentation re information for Consumers**

The Community Health Council was asked to provide feedback on a number of pamphlets used to provide information to consumers.

3. **Surgical Services/Outpatients**

The clinical Administration Manager explained the process around what happens when someone gets referred to the service from their GP. They are hoping to develop a simple description so that patients know where they are on the waiting list, and whether they still need the appointment.

4. **Disability Working Group**

Most significant current issues are the lack of equity and lack of access to services and the lack of sign language interpreters - volunteers in Invercargill and only two in Dunedin.

5. **Te Whatu Ora Southern and WellSouth update**

Updates included the new Covid/Flu vaccine soon to be available, ongoing concerns for the future and how the health reforms will impact, explanation for why some pharmacies provide free prescriptions, supply chain issues impacting on medication availability, current high number of people with covid, and the current pressure on southern health systems.

6. **Key Community Health Council Member Issues**

Each meeting CHC members outline the key issues in their communities.