

Community Health Council Key Messages of the Meeting held Thursday 12 April 2018

1. The CHC Chair reported the draft Community, Whānau and Patient Engagement Framework and Roadmap had been presented at: the Community & Public Health Advisory Committee (CPHAC), Iwi Governance, and the DHB Clinical Council – and had been widely supported. The plan now is for the CHC to hold some workshops with staff across the Southern district and refine resources to support staff in the process of engaging with community, whānau and patients. The CHC also plan to have a launch of this initiative that will keep communities informed, as well as providing them with information about how they can get involved.
2. The CHC were updated by the DHB Health Pathways team about what Health Pathways is and how it can support people to get better quality access to healthcare. Health Pathways was first introduced to the Southern DHB in 2013, and currently 480 of 1,000 pathways have been implemented. The pathways address various conditions that GPs may not see very often. The benefits of Health Pathways were explained as a way of increasing equity of access to health services; better and more relevant treatment and investigations for the patient; more streamlined care; more consistency of care; better education and reassurance for patients and GPs. The Health Pathways team will be developing a Health Information site which will also provide information for patients about health conditions.
3. Robert Ford (Relationship Manager, Mental Health & Addictions) presented on the challenges facing the Mental Health and Addictions sector. The Council was informed that a number of reviews had been undertaken over the last few years on particular areas within this directorate and now was the time to actually move into the co-design process to implement some of the recommendations.
4. The CHC heard from Lisa Gestro on the proposed model of care for Maternity Services in the Southern district. The model is based on a tiered approach: Tier 1 - maternity and child hubs, Tier 2 - the Primary Birthing units, and Tier 3 - Southland and Dunedin hospitals. Consultation on the proposed plan concluded on April 6, and approximately 186 submissions were received. Communities have responded strongly to the proposed plan, particularly in respect of Lumsden and Wanaka.
The DHB is taking some time to pause and reflect on the responses received as new information had arisen through the consultation process and no final decisions had yet been made.
5. The Council received an update on the Primary and Community Care Strategy and Action Plan consultation process. A total of 80 submissions had been received mostly in support of this change in direction. The Expression of Interest (EoI) for GP practices interested in becoming a Health Care Home is to be released this coming week and it is expected there will be a lot of interest.
The DHB and PHO are now meeting to define the locality boundaries across the district. Information for communities is also being drafted and will be circulated to CHC members for feedback.

6. CHC members heard from Andrew Metcalfe (Director of Allied Health, Strategy, Primary and Community) about the campaign Home As My First Choice. Andrew outlined that there is a high rate of admission from hospital directly to aged residential care in this Southern health system. A review of patient notes around these decisions was done and found in many cases the decision that the person needed to go into care was made before assessments had been completed, and this was generally driven by staff.

The campaign focusses on facilitating and supporting people to stay in their own homes and continuing to view this a viable option. The Campaign at this stage has been focused on staff but there are plans to move this out to the wider community over time.

Next meeting: Thursday 7 June 2018

If you are interested in finding out more about the Community Health Council please visit the Southern DHB website <http://www.southerndhb.govt.nz/pages/community-health-council/> or email chc@southerndhb.govt.nz