

Community Health Council

Highlights from meeting 7th September 2023

Chair Lyneta Russell

1. Presentation on communication between the Clinical Transformation Group and the Community Health Council

Emily Gill had presented a short paper on how the CHC and the CTG could ensure open communication between the two groups. A proposal to have a community transition user group to ensure consumer input into the Outpatient Build was endorsed by the CHC.

2. Presentation on Dunedin Hospital Emergency Department

Rich Stephenson, clinical director for the Dunedin Hospital Emergency Department (ED), gave a very informative presentation on waiting times in the Dunedin Hospital ED and his perspective and some context to publicised challenges facing the ED at present.

3. Strategic Planning

The planned session for September has been postponed until October.

4. Disability Strategy

The Council received a brief update on current disability work from the Chair of the Disability Working Group.

4. Key Community Health Council Member Issues

Each meeting CHC members outline the key issues in their communities. Of note this month were concerns about the closure of Oamaru ED overnight, costs for blood tests in rural communities, lack of transport back to Te Anau after an ambulance transfer to Southland ED, and difficulty getting GP appointments for Pacific people which was putting additional pressure on ED's.

5. Te Whatu Ora and Well South Updates

Hamish Brown was congratulated on his confirmed appointment as Group Director of Operations for Te Whatu Ora South. Hamish updated on the opening of the transit lounge, staffing gaps and that he would be meeting with the Minister of Health to discuss health system challenges and that Andrew Swanson-Dobbs is holding similar discussion. On being asked about Oamaru Hospital ED closures he expressed quiet confidence in the coverage/resource for Oamaru Hospital and explained that different centres are working together to manage the closures. Regarding planned care, the system is currently working through patients who had been waiting over 12 months for planned surgeries. This is at ministerial instruction and Hamish relayed how we have received additional funding to meet these targets.

Andrew Swanson-Dodds apologised as something had come up at the last minute preventing him from attending.

Lyneta Russell 15th September 2023