**DISABILITY WORKING GROUP**

**Key Messages March 2024**

Members: John Marrable, Kirsten Dixon, Jaime Randhawa, Paula Waby, Te Aroha Springford, Kim Kennedy, Jacqui Eggleton, Philippa Henderson, Adam Hall,

Standing members: Kathryn Harkin, Jack Devereux, Ruth Zeinert,

Apologies: David Bainbridge-Zafar, Vanessa Taane, Heather Clay,

Guests: Shyla Hona, Moko Mataa

The Disability Working Group members met on Friday 15 March 2024.

* Actions Update:
* Good? Service - this is a privately owned service, no funding available publicly
* Deaf Aotearoa meeting, held in early December. Significant challenges with interpreters nationally, including booking/invoicing process. We have it fairly good in Southern.
* Now able to filter outpatient clinic lists by Impairment filter - next step is getting the data into the system, and identifying what barriers we might encounter. Members will be asked to contribute to this shortly.
* Next Quarterly Forum - end of April
* Presentation from Shyla Hona, community banker. Financial wellbeing is about having security and freedom of choice in both the present and in the future. Social and economic background has significant impact on future financial decisions. Example of lenders not necessarily understanding why spending might be different for whānau with disabilities. Deaf community often have unique employment structures, eg self employed but bank doesn’t necessarily understand these. Also need to cater for people who are Deaf or hearing impaired. Person with intellectual disabilities who withdrew money at request of another individual. Notes on file but were ignored - how to prevent this in future. 3 monthly contact with consumer to ensure that everything is ok. A range of financial wellbeing workshops for people as well. Keen to identify apps which can help for people with disabilities as well. Suggestion of approaching learning support teams in high schools, but experience has been that engagement from the schools has been really poor. She is very keen and wants contacts. Keen to go to specialists schools but hasn’t had any contact with them. A lot of people with disabilities don’t have internet/devices and even opening a bank account with a lot paperwork, and no ID etc.
* Moko Mataa from national Disability Strategy team. Identification that there was a lot of enthusiasm to uplift capability to work with disability but there were no tools nationally, and only two internationally that were from different settings. A lot of gaps in how to actually progress towards where they wanted to be. Codesigned framework with consumers as well. Has been rolling this out for around 18 months. Six indicators, with several sub-indicators as well. Example of having disabled people in leadership roles. Attitudes and behaviours the biggest challenges currently. Movement towards a rights-based model which is not about there being something wrong but about enabling full participation.
* Round table
* Philippa spoke about the IHC Research Report From Data to Dignity. People with an ID have worse health than other people and they usually die much younger. Maori with an ID have a lower life expectancy. People with ID more likely to have chronic health or mental health conditions and use health services more than others. Also more likely to have a potentially avoidable hospital treatment than others.
* St John are doing a feasibility study on doing a health shuttle. Question which has come up is around appointment time. Can there be flagging of out of town patients so they can be booked in the middle of the day instead of early in the morning. Ultimately want the choice of times to be with the consumer although this is a way off. Survey has come out with questions around this.
* Kirsten has spoken to Jason Evered from Stronger Waitaki and met with Kirsten, Kathryn, Jason and Yvonne from Stronger Waitaki about the establishment of an equity group for the region, and one of the team members is looking at who is most likely to be affected as a minority group and could be a part of this as well. Time for Change spoke about equity but only in reference to Maori and Pasifika. Kirsten has asked for disabled to be considered in this as well. In the past there has been a big separation between Maori Deaf and White Deaf, already separation, makes it very hard to access mental health anyway. There is a group called Platform Trust who have created a system called Deaf Mental Health, all about Deaf Maori and saying there is not enough, so sometimes included. Not enough resource, not enough professionals who use NZSL.
* Accessibility Audit underway for Southland Community Services building. Hoping to find some low hanging fruit, projects which can be done quickly for quick wins. Also doing an audit on new hospital inpatient building in Dunedin.