

**MINUTES OF THE
DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING HELD AT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL,
53 HEREFORD STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ON Tuesday 21 April 2015 at 10 am**

Present: Gail Payne (Metropolitan Community Advisor, Disability Portfolio, CCC), Doreen McCoard (Post-Polio), Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir (Health in All Policies, CDHB), Tracey Dorreen (Deaf/Blind Community), Simon Atkinson (People First), Anna Mitchell (Disabled Persons Association), Lorraine Wiersma (Maori & Whanau) and Adele Wilkinson (Mental Health Education and Resource Centre).

Minute taker: Emma Pachnatz (Business Administrator, CCC)

1. Welcome: Gail welcomed everyone to the meeting. Gail is temporary in the role.

2. Apologies: Robert Watts (Older Persons)

3. Confirmation of last meeting minutes: Tuesday 16 December 2014

All in agreement. Minutes only accepted at this meeting due to February meeting being cancelled and a workshop held in March.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes: N/A

5. Health in All Policies Advisor (CDHB) update – Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir

- Events for All Project aims to develop a resource for events:
 - Came about from the Summer Starter Fun Run held last year. People with disabilities who did participate found it a challenge. There are no resources available to advise events about making events suitable for all participants, and no written material on how people with disabilities can participate in an event. Rachel (Inclusive Communities Coordinator) and Allison are co-organising the project and have discussed this project with the KiwiAble Recreation Network Group.
 - Events for All Project will look into:
 - 1) What already exists and are collecting guideline examples. Arts Aotearoa has good resources relating to arts. SCAPE have guidelines for accessibility.
ACTION: Allison to discuss with SCAPE for resources.
 - 2) The project is also collecting examples about how events have provided information about access.
 - 3) Rachel organised a Survey Monkey with two groups - one for event organisers and the other for people with disabilities.
ACTION: Disability Advisory Group to provide input to the project.

- New Project to be developed: Barrier Free Trust NZ provide information and undertake assessments regarding access guidelines to physical environments. No one has done work on access to the environment to promote mental health/wellbeing in a specific way. Gail Souter-Brown is a New Zealander who works internationally on mental health promotion including about access to green spaces and the environment. Gail is now partnering with Barrier Free Trust New Zealand and with CDHB and CERA to develop some guidelines and develop an audit tool. This is part of CERA's Community in Mind Strategy.
ACTION: Adele is keen to promote at MHERC (mental health aspect) and would like Gail to present to interested groups i.e. architects, artists, designers landscape designers etc. Members would like to see Gail present to other interested groups.
ACTION: Adele, Gail and Allison to follow up re guest speaker Gail Souter-Brown to present to wider audience.

6. Strengthening Communities Citywide Advisor (Disability Portfolio) update – temporary role - Gail Payne

- Notes were sent out to DAG members from Julie Warren's BRANZ workshop on Emergency Egress. Julie found the DAG comments very useful.
ACTION: If members wish to contribute further comments to Julie send comments to Emma to forward to Julie.
- Christchurch City Council Long Term Plan submissions close 28 April 2015. Gail gave out information on Christchurch City Long Term Plan and discussed with the group
 - Lorraine reported that she took part in a Mayor in Chair session in relation to the Long Term Plan.
- There is an opportunity for DAG to present to the Council's CHED Committee (Communities Housing & Economic Development).
ACTION: Gail to follow up about reporting to the CHED Committee.
- Council Community Grants Funding has opened and application close 2 June 2015. The late opening will not affect grants pay outs and organisations will still be paid out by 1 September 2015.gail explained changes to the grants schemes.
ACTION: Members to encourage their organisations to check community funding Council website. Also can ring the Council for advice and attend funding workshops.
- Agenda for next two DAG Meetings: Received an email from Erin Gough, an ex DAG member who is a recent law graduate. At Community Law her role is to increase the disability community access to justice. Erin is offering support, workshops and information to people.
ACTION: Invite Erin to future DAG meetings to present on how to increase the disability community access to justice.
ACTION: Gail to create next month's agenda in relation to what the group wants to achieve and work on.

7. Updates from Members

Lorraine

- Events planning needs to ensure accessibility for all community members. Lorraine and her daughter are volunteering for some events and have found it challenging to get the equipment and support required to assist her daughter to volunteer. A discussion that the project to create a resource for Events for All is very much needed and important to the disability community. The guidelines need to work in conjunction with the rest of the event regulations. Require a holistic approach. Lorraine explained that there are many families struggling with community accessibility who don't have a voice.
- Mayor in Chair session held at Council for the LTP. Lorraine and her daughter presented at a session and there was an article in The Press. Lorraine explained to the Councillors that her daughter is part of this community and to remember her when making decisions for this city. Would these decisions bring quality of life to all people living in Christchurch?
- Lorraine tendered her resignation as a member of the Disability Advisory Group. Gail and members thanked Lorraine for her work and time on the Disability Advisory Group.

Tracey

- Tracey is on the Enabling Good Lives Group. The group had a vision for a disabled person to have a normal life like everyone else. It shouldn't be difficult to make change but every turn they make there is a block.
- Represents the Association of Blind Citizens and the Deaf/Blind Community which is a complex disability. When she reviewed the notes from the Emergency Egress workshop, does not mention escape routes for people with hearing loss.

Doreen

- It is often hard for members of the Disability Advisory Group to feel they are making a tangible difference in the community and at the Council.
ACTION: Next DAG meeting discuss DAG role and planning.
- Membership of DAG: Membership numbers are low. People can't come by invitation; needs to follow process. Need to review the sectors, who are the key partners in Christchurch. Who do people represent?
ACTION: Need to review membership process. Gail and Allison to follow up and bring information to the next meeting.

Anna

- Our time at the DAG meetings is taken up with a lot of presentations. At the end of last year revised DAG group vision and purpose was to advise the Council on matters that DAG members see that need action and to be put right.

- The designs for the Earthquake Memorial site seem to be in-accessible and not safe. Should be discussing this topic at DAG.
- Social housing newspaper article says the Council is building the type of housing that will contribute to our community etc. These homes will cater to people who are elderly, disabled etc. All 25 Council flats are being built with LifeMark accreditation with specific design for accessibility. Sounds wonderful however the artist's impression shows them 2 storey.

Simon

- Simon thanked Lorraine for her powerful speech and her time on DAG.
- Would like to see DAG members presenting to sub committees.
- Simon distributed booklets from the Dunedin Council on disability and access: Accessible Activities Otago, and Recreation in Dunedin. Ideas at low cost and some free activities.
- Earthquake Disability Leadership Group would be a good group to present to DAG.

8. Presentation from Kathy O'Neill, Evon Currie and Chris Mene from CDHB

- Kathy discussed with members the CDHB draft Strategic Disability Action Plan and gathered feedback.
- Kathy has been gathering information from the disability community and wider sector.
ACTION: Kathy will follow up again with Disability Advisory Group on the priority actions once been through DHB approval process.

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday 19 May 2015 at 10 am at Christchurch City Council, 53 Hereford Street

10. Meeting Closed: 12:10 pm