

## **Otago Regional Family Whanau Network Meeting Minutes**

**September 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2010.**

**Facilitated by Leueen Tohill.**

**Minutes taken by Hannah van der Zanden started at: 12.40pm**

Present: Ann Harrex, Kiri Toogood, TeAonihia Rangihuna, Nohi Hipi, Pauline Cameron, Tane Moffat, Angela Hipi, Oli Grey, Jackson Grey, Kaira Cropley, Rosary TeKaurui Nee Hipi, Judi Ratina, Lorraine McEwen, Patrice Harrex, Fiona Panirau, Joan Paget, Helen Ward, Lynette Walsh, George Tripp, Maryse Stanton, Sue Rangi, Louwana Rangi, Tony Rangi, Liz Mareta Ria, Glenda Fraser, Ann Barber, Maria Hamelink, Christine Rolton, Hannah van der Zanden, Leueen Tohill.

Apologies: Pat Perkins, Nola Poulter, Phyllis Lee and Chaz Forsyth.

Leueen opened with a recap of last meeting minutes and opened it to the group if they wanted to discuss anything further.

- Concern on Jail system – people going from mental illness straight to justice system.
- This in part due to not enough beds in hospital.
- Not enough funding going into housing in mental health.
- Need housing and proper supportive accommodation to prevent going to prison and to take pressure off families.
- MOH providing homes.
- Access to information about family member. Families want information and need involvement.
- Maybe we need to go to our MP's and lobby parliament and make noise.
- Waitaki did have accommodation, but it was taken away.
- Families are left to pick up the pieces, but don't know how, they need help but there's not enough.
- Drug and alcohol services say they don't want to see consumer if they say they don't have a problem.
- People need to go through jail to get help, ie: Moana House.
- More jails are being built but no real support to prevent jailing. People re-offending to go back to get roof over their head because not enough appropriate accommodation offered. People go into isolation in jail and makes mental health problems worse not better further there is no real rehabilitation in prison.
- People don't necessarily admit or know they have a mental health problem and are therefore not getting help.
- Need more homes for life like the Carol Street House, run through trust. Waiting lists too long for houses. Need house in Oamaru.
- Otago Accommodation Trust supported accommodation, they are overseen but still have their freedom and rights.

- Letter drafted up from the meeting around supported accommodation to be sent to MP's.
- Anne will contact Tom Trotter from Pars to see how to set up accommodation in Oamaru

### **10 Minute Break**

Discussion broached around suicide and suicide prevention

- It is an epidemic.
- 8 attempted suicide other weekend in Dunedin alone, what is causing this?
- Is it starting in our education system? Classes set up as brilliant, pass and fail groups what does that do to our kids and where does it leave their self esteem?
- Mental health act, Privacy act, and human rights. Are government and agencies hiding behind these?
- Decided to do second letter focused on issues around suicide

### **POSITIVE FEEDBACK**

- At Wakari most of the time they will listen and talk.
- Families like being part of process and solution
- Bridge rehabilitation was wonderful and helpful and amazing back up support.
- CADS, Bridge programme and Moana House together had first seminar and be going to continue, possibly step in right direction.

Next meeting will be in Balclutha, SF Otago will set date and notify everyone.

Minutes from this meeting and letters formed in it will be sent to everyone present ASAP.

Meeting Closed: 2.20pm