

# LOAD

## ASHBURTON

### Meeting Record Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Apologies:** Rob Brandram-Adams; Rod Beavan

**Welcome:** Char Macpherson, ADANZ.

**Attendance:** Attached at the end of record

#### **Service News:**

*NZ Police;* Youth Justice. Concerns re rise in attending number of youth family meetings home and truancy.

*ACADS;* Counsellor at ACADS IOP starting in 2 weeks.

*Public Health;* Re-opening youth health in secondary schools.

*NEAR;* Needle exchange

- End of year stats
- Men and womens stats have evened out possibly because of the new male staff member.
- Sales of filters has been going 6 years now, was 3 per month now 90.
- Have produced a large free calendar with Harm Reduction message. Available.

*ACADS;* Hectic start with planning changes looking at new groups and programmes for the year.

\*Trend up in drink drivers. Aim to identify where the problems are coming from. Recidivist drink drive group numbers have increased noticeably. Public Health are looking at this. Cate Spicer, Public Health, is working on YATA project.

*Chris Levitt;* Youth and Adult Services busy this year; More men with a broad range of issues. Youth Transition Classes in both colleges will include parents.

*Sue Newton;* New Health Provider.

*Mark Offen;* NZ Police, usually based at Timaru here temporarily. Concern re identified increase in recidivist drivers, 15 this year 5 last year. Recidivist drivers have had 3 or more convictions and generally are 40+.

*National updates:* New position - Catherine Inder has been appointed to the role of Strategic Advisor, Addiction. The role is jointly funded and accountable to both the Mental Health Commission (MHC) and the Alcohol Liquor Advisory Council (ALAC). The aim is to report on the barriers that prevent the delivery of integrated treatment for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Reminder that Addiction Treatment Leadership Day in March - register online at ALAC. ADANZ: advertising for new AOD Consumer Advisor to fill the position left by Tim Carter, Char Macpherson now coordinator of the LOAD meetings.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

➤ **Odyssey House Youth Programme** – *Brian and Michelle*

Outline History

New, 12 bed facility opening 29 February. For the first time available to young women and men, 14 – 18. AOD issues Dependence, Abuse and many also have conduct and mood disorders plus APHD School part of the programme, also relationship with many other local youth services. Believe in family / whanau inclusive in treatment.

Family work developing around the transition of getting the client back to the family, although they are not always wanting involvement from. \*Request for input from families re what would they like to see as far as support from the service\*. Encourage clients to have / include family input. Gender groups looking at gender related issues. Look supporting groups ie each other younger older. Also working in little steps really effective.

Q: Detox period required? Policy?

A: Assessment using prior info – young person is then made as comfortable as possible, cannot provide medical detox. Past issue identified re referral had been postponed because needed to detox first. An unlikely situation now would have always discuss and aim to resolve a situation like that.

Q: Should Odyssey be included earlier? E.g. is usually seen as last stop.

A: Timing is important / crucial - support too early is not always accepted in many cases. Legal system may require treatment but better to be earlier than this.

➤ **National Addiction Centre (NAC) - Ria Schroder, Researcher Youth**

- Update on NAC Projects:
- TEAM = Treatment Evaluation of Alcohol and Mood
- Alcoholism and Depression
- Multi-site Study
- Odyssey House Youth Outcome Study
- National Telephone Survey of random selection of AOD treatment workers in New Zealand - who they are, where they are etc.
- ALAC & NAC YTRS
- Profile of Youth Treatment Retention

Odyssey House Youth Retention Study. Researcher role allows good report because of the confidential nature of the role ie not clinical or legal leads to very useful information.

Measure the background details against what makes young people stay / go from AOD services

- 16 years enter treatment (not really early intervention).
- Majority boys (although increasing problematic use for girls) between 13 – 19 years. May mean accessibility issues.
- Māori people higher proportion
- More have criminal convictions.

53.8% Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health diagnosis so services are working with youth with very complex issues. Drop out is within 2 – 3 months for Residential and 2 – 3 sessions for Day Programmes.

Issue identified funding issues for treatment service for youth, have had issues with having youth declined access to services.

Q: Do they need a diagnosis for dependence or can they enter a service without?

A: Services becoming more holistic and taking clients without a diagnosis now.

**Discussion**

Noted by Werry Centre Report there are many vacancies in Youth Services. This is a work force development issue, the AOD sector requires good Career Pathways for Youth workers.

**Comment**

It is long term before you can really measure the success of treatment services.

Q: Interventions best for young people?

A: Very little research on youth and A & D treatment in New Zealand, more international but difficult when considering different political environments.

*Attendance:* 14

Meeting dates available on [www.adanz.org.nz](http://www.adanz.org.nz). Suggestions for agenda to Char Macpherson email: [char.macpherson@adanz.org.nz](mailto:char.macpherson@adanz.org.nz)

Please note: These notes are a summary of opinions expressed by meeting attendees. If anyone would like further information please email [reception@adanz.org.nz](mailto:reception@adanz.org.nz)

**Attendance List**

Brian and Michelle	Odyssey House		
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Pam Eaden	Public Health Nursing Service	03 308 8783	<a href="mailto:pam.eaden@cdhb.govt.nz">pam.eaden@cdhb.govt.nz</a>
Ria Schroder	NAC		
Rob Hooper	Police Youth Aid Officer	03 307 8400	<a href="mailto:robert.hooper@police.govt.nz">robert.hooper@police.govt.nz</a>