

Liaison on Alcohol and Other Drugs LOAD

Timaru

Meeting Record Wednesday 19 August 2009

Apologies: Lou Kirkland, Linda Gaskin, Kate Balfour

Welcome: Char Macpherson, ADANZ

Presentations

Work and Income, Tanya Rissman, Regional Disability Advisor

Difference between sickness benefit and invalids benefit: Sickness – ill health prevents working in the near future, medical certificate from GP; Invalids – severely disabled and unable to work.

Work with Case Manager – train on various disability and how they can work with clients to get them employed, this includes working with GPs and increasing their understanding of the aim to get people back into employment of some kind.

How can WINZ work better with other services to bring about the best outcomes for people

Targeted interventions: It may be possible to facilitate medical interventions if it will result in a person being employed. Historically required a commitment from an employer that the person would be employed, amounts limited, case worker would contact health and Disability Advisor to assess who will qualify then the caseworker would refer the client to suitable surgeon.

The Team consists of:

- Employment coordinator who works with clients, case managers do not work specifically with employer.
- Case manager get medical certificates then refer to disability or health benefit.

Comment: Noted as an issue is the need to be on Sickness Benefit to get on to a 12 week AOD programme. If partner is employed or has income, criteria means they must pay themselves which may mean entry to the programme is not possible. RSS residential support is available if on an unemployment benefit.

www.workandincome.govt.nz/individual/disabled-or-illmhtml

Discussion re services available and changing criteria. Concerns around some changes to service contracts and criteria eg Vincentian AOD Service: not available for referring to at present; He Waka Tapu have changed their entry criteria from mild to moderate.

➤ **NEAR Needle Exchange**, Parris Heath, Manager

Out reach programme and emergency packs. Aim to reduce the harms from needle use. People can also get packs from automatic dispenser and calling into the office.

National Addiction Sector Updates and Diary Events, Research News and Reports

<http://www.adanz.org.nz/ADANZ/Subnav/LOAD/LOAD%20Meeting%20Notes%20Presentations/South%20Canterbury>

Connections newsletter: <http://www.adanz.org.nz/ADANZ/Subnav/Connections>

Local Service News

CADS: have developed an emergency plan for methadone planning included consumer meetings for consultation then the plan was tested when someone was diagnosed with H1N1.

Discussion: Service specifications at Phase 3. Gap in services for young people ie minimum age of 18 for treatment, not many services.

CYF Youth Justice: Re differential responses seems that since Working Together with Families they are staying for shorter times in the system. Cases now going into community services much sooner. It is working well with families who are not returning as much.

Discussion: It may be good in theory but problem that families who should have access are not actually getting in.

YMCA: Enrolments are full. Coming up early 2010 solo young mothers programme – networking young mothers and improving education.

Timaru Mental Health Support Trust: Winter impact on moods and well being. Victoria House – recession having impact on number of people coming in for meals has increased, offering Budget Advice. Employment section – recession is having an impact and although people are being laid off they are now making progress because they have got good references and are able to get going again.

Timaru District Council Youth Workers: working with resistant young people, places are full at present so those waiting are idle, unable to go to school and little or no activities to replace it.

Caroline House: The Consumer Rep gained a scholarship to attend Cutting Edge Conference. The new building work is almost complete. The Pandemic Plan all up running and signed off.

Community and Public Health: Youth AOD Wave Project in schools. Yata team will be doing a campaign in Summer. Twizel and Lakes areas are more potentially harmful areas for young people. Working with community with around AOD related harm.

Meeting closed at 12.00 p.m. Attendees: 24

Meeting dates available on www.adanz.org.nz. Suggestions for agenda to Char Macpherson 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