

Liaison on Alcohol and Other Drugs LOAD

Invercargill

Meeting Record Friday 14th August 2009

Welcome: Char Macpherson
Attendance: See at the end of record

Presentations

- **Work and Income**, Tanya Rissman, Regional Disability Advisor
Regional Disability and health Advisors and the overall Coordinator Danna Reeve plus and employment coordinator / work broker who works one – one with people who need assistance with employment.

Difference between sickness and Invalid benefit

Sickness: Ill health prevents working temporarily - requires a medical certificate from a GP. A short term benefit only. GP reassesses every 3 months.

Invalid: Severely disabled and unable to work full time. The aim now is to reduce barriers to getting employment and to assist people into employment.

Work with case managers to understand the clients disability i.e. identify abilities and possibilities for employment.

People on a sickness / disability benefit are now monitored for a dependency.

Advisors role: developed so WINZ can work better with other services to achieve the best outcomes for the people they work with – a trial at present in certain areas.

Advisors assist with assessments, entitlements and linking with services they need for various diagnoses.

The Team: consists of Regional disability and health advisors, an overall coordinator, and an employment coordinator / work broker who works one - one with people needing assistance with employment.

It may be possible to fund minor surgery for people who are on a waiting list for surgery or who are requiring a surgical procedure may qualify to have it done sooner if it ensures they get a position – would have to be case by case

Pathways: work with people who have mental health and addiction issues; assist with additional support to overcome barriers to employment.

Noted as an Issue: need to be on a sickness benefit to get on a 12 week AOD programme. If their partner is employed or has an income criteria means they must pay themselves.

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

Power Point Presentations:

- **Quality Improvement**, Karen Duncan, Quality Improvement Coordinator Mental Health Network
<http://www.adanz.org.nz/ADANZ/Subnav/LOAD/LOAD%20Meeting%20Notes%20Presentations/Southland>
- **National Addiction Sector Updates & Diary Notes**
<http://www.adanz.org.nz/ADANZ/Subnav/LOAD/LOAD%20Meeting%20Notes%20Presentations/Southland>

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

Local Service News

Bridge Programme: Clientele is changing. Abstinence / relapse used as a chance for learning now and the boundaries of this change are being explored.

Director of Supported Accommodation and Bridge Programme. The Salvation Army in Invercargill has changed. Building relationships and aiming to make changes. Recession having an impact ie increased challenges financially for people.

SHRP: Back in original premises. Open invite to talk.

Network Managers Advisory Group: Starting to work on projects. Additions future directions website updated.

Nga Kete Matauranga: Clinic in Riverton but this expansion has not continued.

AA meetings now available. Community agree there is a big issue with alcohol in the area. Ohau Day out coming up.

Wednesday group always successful open to everyone AOD or Problem Gambling.

Meeting closed at 12.00pm. Attendees: 24.

Meeting dates available: 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