



Minutes of Meeting Northland District Health Board Equity in Hospitals Committee Meeting

9.00am-10.30am, Monday 24 August 2020
Tangihua Room, Tohora House, Whangārei Hospital

Present

Mataroria Lyndon (Chair) (by Zoom)
Carol Peters (by Zoom) John Bain Sally Macauley
Debbie Evans (by Zoom) Kyle Eggleton Vince Cocurullo
Harry Burkhardt (by Zoom) Libby Jones

In Attendance

Northland DHB: Nick Chamberlain, Neil Beney, John Wansbone, Marty Rogers, Mark McGinley, Liz Inch, Ian McKenzie (zoom), Mike Roberts, Dee Telfer, Kathryn Leydon, Sarah Fox (minutes)

Board members: Ngaire Rae

Members of the public: Beryl Wilkinson

Media: Adam Pearse, Reporter, Northern Advocate

Register of Interests

There were no conflicts of interest disclosed in relation to the agenda.
Kyle Eggleton would provide an update for the register of interests.

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes 13 July 2020

IT WAS MOVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2020 be accepted.

**Mataroria Lyndon / Sally Macauley
Carried**

1.2 Matters / Actions Arising

1.2.1 Rawene Hospital Data

- Work was being undertaken in conjunction with Hokianga Health Enterprise Trust to ensure appropriate data was being collected and reported.
- **Action:** An update would be provided to the November meeting.

1.2.2 Additional Operational Metrics

- Noted.

1.2.3 Pathology Test Data

- Noted.

1.2.4 Use of Locally-sourced Produce

- Noted.

1.2.5 Staff Ethnicity and Lost Time Injury Update

- The Chair acknowledged the work that had gone into producing the update and asked that it be included as an agenda item with more time for discussion at the next meeting.

1.2.6 Photo ID Card Process

- Noted.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair:

- Noted the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in New Zealand and wished everyone and their whānau well during this time.
- Acknowledged the work of Northland DHB staff in response to the resurgence.
- Informed the Committee that Neil Beney, GM Medical and Elder Services, would be retiring from Northland DHB at the end of January 2021.

3. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

- The updated wording of the draft Terms of Reference was discussed and agreed.
- Request for additional change as follows
 - 2(b) ...relating to the *equitable provision*....
 - 5(a) *Equitable* provision of hospital....
- **IT WAS MOVED THAT** the Equity in Hospitals Committee endorses inclusion of the proposed equity statement in its terms of reference.

Mataroria Lyndon / Carol Peters
Carried

4. SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

4.1 Operational Report

The GM Medical and Elder Services highlighted the following points from the operational report:

- Additional metrics, reported by ethnicity, had been collated and included in the report. It was requested that an alternative word be used for columns currently headed "Other".
- Overall, hospital services had been busy with winter activity. There had been fewer respiratory condition presentations than normal but an increase in other long-term conditions that may have been not presented earlier in the year due to COVID-19 taking priority.
- Ability to meet the ED length of stay target will remain low until an Acute Assessment Ward is available.
- Elective surgery activity for June was the highest for the year to date. Surgical waiting times, along with other services, showed an improvement.
- Everything possible was being done to work through surgical waiting lists including outsourcing where appropriate. The additional two theatres at Whangārei Hospital were scheduled for completion in April 2021.

There was discussion on the following points:

- **Action:** Provide commentary for each of the rural hospitals individually in the Rural Hospitals section of the report.
- There was discussion on the data for Mental Health inpatient unit utilisation and bed days and the increase in the rates of compulsory treatment orders.
- Concern was expressed at the number of vacancies in the Mental Health service although it was noted that this was in line with national rates and significant effort is being put into recruitment.
- A report on the Te Tumu Waiora Service was scheduled for the November meeting.
- **Action:** The GM Mental Health and Addiction Services was asked to report back on the amount of time teenagers waiting on remand for psychiatric assessment

- Staff fatigue and staff not taking annual leave were noted as areas for improvement and significant work was needed to address this. Services are working on leave plans for those with high hours.
- It was noted that protecting and supporting the ability to take annual leave as part of staff wellbeing could be used to promote Northland DHB as an attractive employer.
- **Action:** A report on development and implementation of staff leave plans to the next EiHC report.
- Recognition was given to the targets that are being met, for example in Maternity, smoking cessation, etc.
- The barriers to meeting ED targets were discussed.
- **Action:** Information on ED initiatives to meet ED targets to be presented for discussion at a future meeting.

4.2 Additional Reporting Metrics

- Noted.

5. INFORMATION REPORTS & UPDATES

5.1 COVID-19 Update

The Emergency Management and Corporate Risk Manager gave a brief update on Northland DHB's COVID-19 response status and contingency planning.

5.2 Planned Care Update

The GM Surgical and Support Services gave an update on the provision of planned care.

- The new prioritisation criteria, intended to ensure equity and reduce risk, were being used; however this required significant time, input and review from senior clinicians and process improvements would be needed to make this less time-consuming on an ongoing basis.
- Outsourcing was being discussed to manage the sleep service backlog.

5.3 Equity in Retinal Screening

Kelly Scott-Richie presented data on inequities in the need for the diabetes eye screening service and initiatives being planned and implemented to address this.

- There was discussion on resourcing for Māori health providers.
- There was support from the Committee for engagement with other agencies to create a "one-stop shop".

6. NEXT MEETING DETAILS

Monday 5 October 2020, 9.00am-10.30am, Bay of Islands Hospital.

The meeting closed at 10.30am

Confirmed that these minutes constitute a true and correct record of the proceedings of the meeting

CHAIR _____

DATE _____