**Community Health Council**

**Highlights of meeting on 3rd April 2025**

**Chair Lyneta Russell**

**1. Clinical Council- Rebecca Brushwood**

Rebecca Brushwood updated us on several projects including Shared Goals of Care, Kōrero mai and Patient at Risk.  While a lot of progress has been made I these projects all aimed at improving the quality of care patients receive, there is still work to be done. The goal is for Southern to be the safest place to receive care. She also provided updates on mandatory training for medical staff, more focus on risk in Clinical Governance, and complaint management.

**2. Disability Working Group- John Marrable**

The Hidden Disability Sunflower has recently launched in Southern, and the Disability Action Plan has been updated and is now more aligned with the Te Waipounamu Regional Workplan. John explained that the actions incorporated are realistically achievable within the current climate and that attention is being given to actions that can be achieved quickly and will have highest benefit.

**3. Emergency Department Patient Package- Kathryn Harkin**

Consideration is being given to a patient package of information to be given to patients who are to be admitted from ED to wards. This has been suggested to ensure patients receive information about key programmes such as Kōrero mai and Shared Goals of Care to increase their awareness of these programmes. The Council supported the idea and made some suggestions that could minimise costs.

**4. Roundtable**

Lyneta brought up the introduction of patient letters being sent by email, and the report recently received by Health Action Wanaka. A member of this group will present at the May Council meeting.

Chris was concerned about recent reports in the ODT of plans to shut down the Total Mobility Scheme or reduce the funding for it in that area. This is of concern to the disability community.

Paula brought up ongoing issues with the readability of emailed letters for those with low vision, the situation of a young person with anxiety worsened by being in hospital, and the arrangements required which are often difficult to ensure, and gratitude that the message of “they’re not amazing” is now included in disability awareness training.

Toni shared another situation where a person had travelled from Oamaru for a medical appointment to be told on arrival that an MRI was required, the trip was wasted. She also is concerned that Mental Health is yet to recruit a new General Manager. Toni, a member of the te Waipounamu Regional Consumer Council, shared progress in establishing this group. We were concerned that although a Consumer Council the Co-Chair was a senior health NZ staff member.

We welcomed Max Wolfgram as a potential new Community Health Council member. Max, as a member of the Rainbow Community, shared information about the recent Pride month, some difficulties that Chroma in Southland are experiencing was one of their key members has left the region, and concern in the community about gender affirming and puberty blockers, with public consultation underway at a national level.

**5. Update from Health NZ Southern and WellSouth**

**Andrew Swanson-Dodds**

was unavailable for this meeting

**Hamish Brown**

Hamish departs health NZ Southern on 30th April to take up the Group Director of Operations at Canterbury. The Community Health Council extended their thanks to Hamish for his support of the Council and wished him all the best in his new position. Hamish used his crystal ball to share with us how he sees the future of health in NZ and said that Southern despite a lot of what is heard, is a very strong team.

**8. Next Meeting** 1st May 2025

21st April 2025