



**Deakin University and the Department of Human Services
(Barwon - South Western Region) Partnership
Executive Meeting**

Thursday 10th September 2009
Regional Directors Office, State Government Offices
Fenwick St, Geelong

Minutes

Chair: Mr Jim Higgins

Present

Mr Jim Higgins, Professor John Catford (link by phone), Associate Professor Mardie Townsend, Ms Izabela Sulek, Mr John Hedditch, Ms Kay Mills, Mr Chris Loughnan.

Apologies

Dr Cathryn Carpenter

Welcome

Jim Higgins welcomed executive members and guest Izabela Sulek (Projects and Partnerships Manager, Faculty of HMN&BS) to the meeting. John Catford made his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting in person due to meeting commitments in Melbourne

Confirmation of Executive Minutes from last meeting

Executive minutes from Thursday 11th June confirmed and accepted. No business arising not otherwise on agenda.



Mid Year Executive Report

Kay Mills tabled the **Partnership Executive Report** for the last quarter and summarized major points of action across the four **Advisory groups** and the **Three Beacon Projects** nominated for partnership attention. **(see attached Executive Report).**

A summary of key discussion points arising from the report is as follows:

Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- **Farmer Health Conference 2010:** The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) was successfully launched by the Premier on Friday 10th of July at the Western District Health Service in Hamilton. The official launch was followed by the Symposium: "Opening the Gates on Farmer Health," which aimed to identify key health, well being, safety and social priorities for farming communities. The Symposium helped to identify key issues to inform a program for a broader Farmer Health Conference in 2010, which was envisioned to possibly align with the 2010 DHS Rural Health Conference. However the program for this conference, scheduled to be held in Ballarat on 21st/22nd April 2010, has already been determined with a focus on cardiac health in rural communities. The Executive concluded that a preferable option would be for the NCFH to run a separate conference in the Barwon-South Western region (ideally Hamilton or Warrnambool). This would develop the profile of the new NCFH as well as address farmer health more specifically. The objective would be to run the conference later in 2010 to allow time for planning and also space between it and the DHS Rural Health Conference. Mardie Townsend suggested the Partnership team link up with Sue Brumby to discuss the concept further including the: scope, program, venue, dates, sponsorship, conference organizers, marketing, costs and resource options.
- **The Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board (CN DAB) Health City accreditation:** On 31st August the CN DAB was accepted as a full member of the World Health Organization Alliance for Healthy Cities. This is a significant achievement recognizing the collaborative efforts and outstanding work of the many people and groups which support the CN DAB. Jim Higgins noted that the accreditation was a credit to the Corio Norlane community and a strong validation of the Neighborhood Renewal approach to planning. Jim will be presenting the CN DAB model to the Australian Health City Chapter Conference in Adelaide in October, 2009.
- Following Jim's meeting with Prof Boyd Swinburn, he and John have agreed to endorse a preface introduction for the CD resource developed from Deakin's obesity prevention research in Colac.



- **Closing the Gap priorities:** Jim is the Chairman of the BSW Regional Managers Forum “Closing the Gap” Committee which focuses on issues of indigenous disadvantage. A major objective of action to address disadvantage is to foster self determination. Jim noted the Closing the Gap agenda runs across a raft of issues including health, education and employment indicators. It is important that work to address disadvantage be conducted with a joined up approach from key organizations and not be undertaken as separate action in silos. The group is keen to consult with Deakin to develop new models for working with indigenous communities and how to measure progress on program delivery.

John Catford supported the development of a partnership focus on Closing the Gap issues. He noted Deakin’s interest and expertise to add value in this area of program development especially in relation to the Institute of Koori Education (IKE) programs at Deakin. IKE maintains a strong partnership with the Faculty of HMN&BS in training nursing, social work and allied health staff. New programs being developed include a medical program for indigenous doctors and an indigenous sport stream.

After discussion the executive recommended that the Partnership team (and relevant DHS+ Deakin staff) set aside a **scoping exercise** day to develop a pilot project to address indigenous disadvantage. A successful model could lead to wider applications at a later stage. Jim emphasized the merits of a place based approach developing from a community which self selects into the process. The aim is to empower the community while providing realistic support to deliver sustainable outcomes that address disadvantage. Winda Marra was suggested as a community which may be interested in developing a pilot project. Both John and Jim consider Closing the Gap priorities as a possible future Partnership Beacon Project.

Teaching and Workforce Strategy:

- **Student Clinical Placement Governance in Victoria:** The New Model of Student Clinical Placement Governance developed by the Council of Victorian Health Deans for DHS has now been released. The transition from current arrangements to establishing Regional Clinical Academies is expected to take about 18 months moving through a stepped process to develop appropriate regional discipline councils and committees. Jim reported that recruiting to appoint a CEO to roll out this new model in Victoria is currently in progress.
- **Workforce Research Submissions:** A Partnership working group (John Hedditch, Anne Somerville, Kay Mills, Chris Loughnan, Therese Gerber,) aims to develop a project brief to pursue funding opportunities to scope research into developing a Strategic Framework for Regional Workforce Planning. This framework would aim to develop workforce strategies with a regional focus and also provide a platform to inform the new model for student placements. The workforce agenda arising from work being done at G21, the Great South Coast and other local workforce forums would provide a key role to develop this framework.

Research and Evidence Based Practice Strategy:



- **CN DAB Research Forum:** The CN DAB and key Deakin University academics will convene a Research Planning Forum on 29th October to set out a strategic approach to research projects and funding in Corio and Norlane forward to 2015. Kay Mills, Cathryn Carpenter, Sandra McClelland, Jasmine Van Hurk and Kirsten Hemley have met to refine the agenda for this event which Jim will be opening.
- **Deakin ARC Linkage Research Grant:** Deakin University has selected Corio Norlane and Colac as two research sites for the ARC Research Grant into education and resilience: The project aims to identify conditions and characteristics of resilience in disadvantaged communities and educational, health, work related, leisure interventions that improve individual and collective opportunities. Jim Higgins noted that the ARC Research Grant site selection was an important milestone toward educational regeneration in Corio and Norlane.
- **Project Teams:** The Research and Evidence-based Practice Advisory Group has identified three priority areas that it has identified to form the focus of its work during 2009. Project Teams have been convened in each of these areas reporting back to the Research and Evidence Based Advisory Group. Kay reported on the activity of these project teams to date:
Regional Research Centre, Evaluation Support, and Thinker in Residence.

Public Health Forums Strategy:

G21 is organizing two Public Health Forums for October. Anne Somerville (Director Health and Wellbeing, G21 Regional Alliance) has designed an innovative program for these forums incorporating keynote speakers, panel discussions and master class sessions. The master class will provide key business and community members with the opportunity to develop leadership action in response to Forum issues. The first Forum will be addressed by Professor Rob Moodie leading a discussion on preventative health issues. The second Forum will be addressed by followed by Mr Bernie Geary and Dr Mark Kennedy to discuss issues on child health & wellbeing.

The Public Health Forum Advisory group is meeting next week (Thursday 17th September) to review Public Health Forums to date and discuss a program for next year. The new Public Health Forum process delegating forums into the regions through Primary Care Partnership delivery has worked well delivering forums owned and relevant to the local community.

The Executive recommends discussion at the next meeting to consider widening the intervention approaches used to promote health and wellbeing engagement in the community. A **new working title** for this group could be redefined more broadly under a **Public Health Education** Strategy title. In particular the executive encourages media promotion of best practice health research and literacy. (eg Professor Boyd Swinburn's Obesity research findings and recommendations).

DHS Restructure: Deakin + DHS Partnership branding



The Partnership would remain collaboration with Deakin across both DHS and the new Department of Health (DOH) structure. Jim reported that DHS is still working through the details of the new model. There will remain a strong level of integration between Departments which will continue to reside in the same buildings. Both are concerned with workforce issues with DHS having a more staff/ vocational focus while DOH having a clinical placement focus. The Deakin and DHS Partnership will need to realign its future branding in line with these changes.

Judith Ramaley key observations:

The partnership team hosted Professor Judith Ramaley on the 6th of August as part of her week long engagement with Deakin University. In the morning Judith worked with the partnership team to review progress and provide guidance on future objectives. In the afternoon an open workshop for partnership members was conducted to further develop and understand the principles of an engaged partnership. Judith described the partnership as a "working laboratory" at a stage of co-operative collaboration on the brink of a transformational relationship developing blended operations. The team felt that Judith's visit was extremely valuable in providing an opportunity to review Partnership activity.

Judith noted the pivotal role of the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group as the potential generator and responder to ideas across advisory groups. In this way, the Health and Wellbeing group could provide the broad vision and focus for partnership strategic direction. John Hedditch and Mardie noted its role to pick up on the National Reform agenda and ongoing changes in Deakin and DHS structures.

Partnership Evaluation up date

Kay reported that the online evaluation survey has been sent to core member with a two week completion timeline. An evaluation of survey findings and feedback should be available for review at the next Executive meeting.

Deakin + DHS Budget

Chris Loughnan tabled the Deakin + DHS partnership Budget which is tracking within projections. It was noted that DHS needs to invoice the Partnership for the temporary 0.2 increase in Kay Mills time fraction between 13/7/09 to 16/10/09. (See attached budget statement)

Deakin + DHS Partnership Staffing

The Executive discussed current staffing levels in relation to increasing and ongoing partnership and advisory group activity. Jim and John supported in principal the need for ongoing staffing at the current temporary level. The challenge is to find resources to jointly fund these staffing levels. This issue could be further discussed at the Partnership strategic direction planning day.



Other Business

Deakin + DHS Partnership Strategic Direction Planning Day:

The Executive recommended setting aside a partnership planning day with co chair representation before the next executive meeting to formulate future strategic directions. The planning day could incorporate discussion on the recent findings from the partnership evaluation, Judith Ramaley's engagement and developing Deakin and DHS priorities.

Next meeting:

Thursday 3rd December 2009, 10am to 12pm: DHS Regional Directors Office, Fenwick St, Geelong.