

WESTERN DOWNS INTERAGENCY NETWORK

MINUTES OF MEETING DALBY – VENUE MYCNC

1ST JUNE, 2010.

Meeting opened: 10.03am

Present: Ros Wade (Tara NHC); Kate Cover (EQ); Wendy Ambrose (ADFQ); Fran Hardy (ADFQ); Ingrid Hubner (Ozcare); Megan McNicholl (); Lyn Clancy (MYCNC); Carolyn Tillman (WDRC); Trish Leddington-Hill (RHealth & WD Healthy Communities N/wk); Leigh Plummer (Dept Communities); Gina Campion (RHealth); Jenny Downham (Spiritus YSC); Sally Hewes (Carers Qld); Nancy Nixon (LNQ Dalby); Kim Raine, TASC); Jessica Hobbs (Qld Health); Berneice Hilly (RHealth); Brady Schulz (Vital Health); Annette Jasinski (Lifeline); Jody Taylor (WDRC)

Apologies: Jayne Swift, Linda Maurer, Hilary Weedon, Doreen Goldsmid, Carollee Murphy, Nigel Winkler

Kate welcomed everyone and round table introduction of services .

Kate gave a short history of the Interagency, its formation in 1995 as an initiative of Education Queensland.

Discussion with regards to relevance, meetings etc.

- Questions – do we attend meetings in towns other than Dalby.
- Does this group have terms of reference. There were goals etc developed sometime ago when the group was first developed.
- Megan: this group has built considerable capacity within their local communities and this is a key success of the group. The community centres etc. now need to engage with wider networks and build on these. There must be thought about the capacity of the services & individuals to continue to develop the network.
- Trish: is there a place for a dedicated person to coordinate the network. Is this an option for consideration (how to fund)
- Megan: the WDRC are trying to provide Western Downs Economic Development Task Force and below this are a number of sub- groups one of which is the Advance Western Downs. This group is project focussed. Struggling – relying upon voluntary attendance.
- Important to engage with Council group – ensures community inputs and influence direction
- Western Downs Healthy Communities is also project focussed
- Trish spoke about value-adding to the local communities
- Leigh: there's 2 types of players – those that are short term funded or are services not based in the interagency service areas and those that are long term with services within the communities. Sees importance of being able to connect with the services.
- Carolyn: ? where does Council fit in this. Council support but do not financially input. Keeping in touch.
- Healthy Communities COAG monies coming out – available to Local Government. Trish said that WDHCN presenting to Council to try to convince them to apply for funding & administer.

- Megan spoke about – group has obviously met the needs over the years but with this discussion has the group now met its need and has to move onto another model. Eg: model of combining with another group to emerge as a stronger participatory process.
- If this happens there must be a model for sustainability built into the process.
- Kate: lot of communities that don't know what is out there. From an EQ perspective this is the only meeting that she attends. Quite often information comes to community groups and its not acknowledged or read. – is this a sign that services are at capacity and over. Communities are changing, time poor. Older groups reluctant to seek external assistance
- A lot of change occurring that communities have no control over.

VALUES: Perspectives from meeting attendees

Lyn: It is invaluable - the linking in with other people who are doing similar work, getting ideas & support. Attends Dalby local interagency, WDIAN and Healthy Communities. Networking is valuable.

Nancy: attends the Dalby interagency. Acknowledged Lyn's valuable support and links. Networking provides the majority of clients rather than the formal advertising methods.

Fran: sees WDIAN – local inter-agencies discuss their local issues and that WDIAN are further layer. Sees this as an opportunity to get a broader overview of the services. Would see a dedicated coordinator an asset.

Carolyn: spoke about the service directories currently in development by Council. Does see some double up in the information. There would be some people who are overlapping with the majority of the inter-agencies. Some people work across the region and others within local communities. Carolyn: does the WDIAN move to each communities local interagency meetings on a rotational basis giving local people the opportunity to meet with others within region.

Wendy: local inter-agencies are doing a good job within their local communities. WDIAN Look to becoming more strategic.

Megan: its about giving the right information to people and empowering them to move forward. Providing information to people about funding, resources, directions .

Jenny: smaller communities – found that some lack the self esteem and confidence to turn up. Its about finding out about meetings after they've been held.

Trish: there's about \$22000 in activity funding still with the WDHCN.. Is there a scope to hold small events within these communities and de-mystify some of the opportunities for funding etc that are out there, skilling etc. Volunteerism is on the decline.

Brad: spoke about project sustainability. Project funding – provided his service with the ability to make contacts with other communities that will be sustained further to the project end. Short term funding (eg 3 years) projects is a government model that is not going to change.

Trish: Information to a dedicated person that filters and disseminates the information to the relevant services.

The WDIAN provides a forum & platform for services to enter new service areas. Get to know the services and the people who are involved in these services.

Sally: first time to Dalby. Finding this meeting valuable for connecting to services. Important to create new networking links.

Andrea: see as a strategic importance. More accessible for people working at this level to link in as they would not be able to attend multiple regional meetings.

Annette: Public Health Unit – hers is a large regional area coverage. Looking at Healthy Workplaces project extensions into the western downs area. Sees this as a forum to link in with communities to deliver.

Jenny: Local interagency is struggling – sees this forum as important to connecting.

Berneice: meeting the people who you are engaging with. "Having the shop-front at the meeting".

Annette: first meeting. Some changes in the scope of service delivery. Invaluable to do the networking with communities. Lyn does an excellent job with keeping her connected. Would see a coordinator a step forward.

Leigh: sees this forum critical to their department as networking with communities.

General feelings:

A good discussion of who we are, what we do and how we do it. This discussion has been open and honest.

Interagency has real merit and a place in the strategic networks

OUTCOME:

- It disappointing that Education Queensland do not engage with forums such as this interagency within our region. Kate is a remote worker and should not be expected to carry this – it is a responsibility of EQ at a higher level to provide engagement.
- The language of the name is now older. Do we rename??
- **Brad suggested the name WESTERN DOWNS COMMUNITIES NETWORK.**
- ALL AGREED THAT THIS FORUM CONTINUE AND THAT THE NAME BE REVISITED.

Other Business:

Please return the service provider survey forms back to the Western Downs Regional Council as these link into the Community Plan.

Jodie Taylor: Community Plan – due out around August with community consultations again.

Lyn: Meeting calendar on the MYCNC website. Please send meeting dates to Lyn and then check when making meeting dates.

Next meetings: Tuesday 10th August, 2010 in Miles; Tuesday 11th November, 2010 in Chinchilla.

Further discussion re the network name change - All agreed that the new name should be **WESTERN DOWNS COMMUNITIES NETWORK** reflecting the community base of the network.

Trish: proposed that the WDHCN and WDIAN combine to become the WESTERN DOWNS COMMUNITIES NETWORK with the Health Communities network projects sit as a support mechanism.. Networking in morning, projects & strategic stuff in the afternoon. ALL AGREED THAT THIS WOULD MEET THE NEEDS OF BOTH GROUPS AND STRENGTHEN THE GROUPS IF COMBINED.

GOODBYE TO THE WESTERN DOWNS INTERAGENCY NETWORK

How the new network will be run: Coordinator of the venue Centre will become the facilitator: Ordinary meeting for first half of the day followed by the Projects in afternoon (Trish will Notetake this) – Next meeting will need clarification around who takes minutes & sends out notices etc.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 10TH AUGUST IN MILES. (9.30am with morning tea/10am start)

Closed: 12.15