



West Coast Health Community Voice Meeting
Wednesday 10th December 1pm – 3pm

Community Voice

Health and Wellbeing Advocates Te Tai Poutini West Coast

Members

Gaye Coates, Jan Flinn, Lynnette Beirne (Deputy Chair), Mary-Rose O'Loughlin, Neil Stevenson, Pam Sutherland, Steph Newburry (Chair), Andrew Welsford, Antonia Mcdonnell, Eleanor Harrington, Carolina Salazar, Lee Harris, Janella Munns, Melanie Wilson

Opening Karakia:

*Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tīhei mauri ora!*

*Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a
sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*

*Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land*

Item	Discussion
1:00pm In-Committee / Members only time <i>(10 minutes)</i>	(Not minuted)
1:10pm Administration <i>(5 minutes)</i>	Full meeting opened with Karakia Apologies noted. October minutes moved.
1:15pm Group feedback <i>(60 minutes)</i>	Round table discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What mental health counselling services are available for rural youth? West Coast Health Youth Online Programme – provides support and intervention for clients between ages 12 – 24 years with mild to moderate mental health issues, self-referral available. Youth Online Programme West Coast Health - Lynnette Beirne now representing the West Coast on the Te Wai Pounamu falls committee. - Transport project – presentation to West Coast Regional Council last week, presentation to Westland District Council next week. Great progress in this space.
2:00pm Guest Speaker – Tayla Gibson from Olsens Pharmacy <i>(15 minutes)</i>	Pharmacy can now provide off-work certificates for acute minor illnesses - \$35 flat charge for the appointment with the pharmacist. Pharmacists can only prescribe for minor ailments such as thrush or conjunctivitis, otherwise the prescription must come from a doctor. Pharmacists can provide blood pressure readings - \$10. Project being stood up in March next year with a group of IPE students who will be investigating why patients report difficulty in understanding the side effects of their medications.
2:25pm Action Register & Programme of Work update <i>(5 minutes)</i>	Emergency Management officers (CDEM) attended a community meeting in Whataroa. The community really appreciated this engagement. SN to look at progressing CDEM engagement at West Coast community groups
2:45pm	Discharge Planning Project update.

Chair update (5 minutes)	
2:50pm Update from Gaye – Te Waipounamu Consumer Council (5 minutes)	<p>Health NZ has reduced its national Consumer and Whānau Voice Team. There are now only two dedicated roles. Despite the reduced capacity of the Team, there remains a focus on consumer engagement and ongoing activity especially in collaboration with other Health NZ groups - Clinical Governance, Pacifika, Health NZ regions and Hauora Maori.</p> <p>The Consumer and Whānau Voice Team are proposing to develop a Consumer Engagement "Tool Kit" to be used across Health NZ.</p> <p>Pete Watson, Executive Regional Director, Health NZ, South Island Te Waipounamu, gave a brief update to the RCC on the recent Letter of Expectations given to Health NZ by Simeon Brown, Minister of Health https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2025-11/health-nz-letter-of-expectations-27-11-2025.pdf This is an important document. Key points from this letter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a strong expectation that delivery of health care meets targets. - Financial sustainability of the delivery of health care services is imperative. - There is to be a shift towards "devolution". Devolution was explained as moving away from a highly centralised model towards more regional oversight and accountability. <p>What regional consumer councils are, and what their role is: https://info.health.nz/about-us/who-we-are/expert-groups-and-networks/consumer-councils</p>
Other Business	Carolina Salazar no longer working for the West Coast Multicultural society but still holds connections and relationships within that space.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 28th January 1pm – 3pm, West Coast Health boardroom

Meeting closed with a karakia