**2023 Community Health Council**

**Highlights from meeting 2nd May 2024**

**Chair Lyneta Russell**

**1. Clinical Transformation Group Update**

Our update from Jack Ruddenklau and Marie Wales updated the group on a patient Experience Strategy which will guide models of care and patient pathways in the new hospital. Priorities for consideration are communication, language barriers, audial, visual and neurodiversity needs. Emphasis will be on the patient driving care rather than vice versa. Core is an awareness of the need to have over-representation of groups experiencing poorer health outcomes.

**2**. **David Gow- Chief Medical Officer**

The main discussion centered around contingency planning around the upcoming Doctors strike. Services will be limited on strike days, but every effort is being made to ensure that planned care continues. There was also some discussion about the significant savings to be made before July, savings not intended to impact on frontline services but focusing where possible on looking at resource efficiencies.

**3. Transition to Regional Consumer Councils.**

The meeting was attended by William Robertson-National Manager Engagement Capability Consumer Engagement and Whānau Voice, and RaNae Niven- the new regional manager for Te Waipounamu in the Consumer Engagemnet and Whānau Voice team. Health NZ intends to move to Regional consumer consils by 1st July 2024. Meetings have bee3n held with the National Chairs of Consumer Counsils group to manage the transition. There will continue to be sub regional engagement but what that looks like has not yet been decided. There is a belief that the new system will have even mre consumer engagement. The Regional Councils will be governance style rather than operational.

4.. **Bridget Dickson and Emily Gill- New Hospital Build**

Bridget and Emily presented an overview of the progress with the outpatient building, planned to open 2026, and the inpatient building- planned to open 2029. Various stats were provided indicating an increase in the number of inpatient beds, the number of theatres, and emergency department beds. It was reassuring to hear the measures taken to avoid flooding, essential considering where it is built. Experience of coming into the new building is being given consideration to ensure that it is a more pleasant experience than the public have experienced in the past. We expect to hear further from Bridget and Emily later in 2024.

5. **Clinical Update- Rebecca Brushwood**

Rebecca updated the Council on the Kōrero mai rollout and a recent presentation to Clinical Council on operating theatre capacity. Rebecca also discussed the proposed changes to consumer engagement and how the Clinical Council was focused on how to keep the local tie to our southern communities with a change to a regional structure. And a positive highlight was the recent opening of the Te Kaika Wellbeing Hub.

6. **Member Roundtable**

Concerns and issues raised were closure of Urgent Doctors in Southland, the struggle people in Waitaki are having to enrol in primary care services and the closure of a GP practice in Gore, and a welcome initiative underway in Southland facilitated by a Council member to ensure out of Invercargill patients sent to ED could either have transport home or overnight accommodation.

**7. Disability Working Group**

The recent quarterly forum had been well attended and an update on Whaikaha Enabling Good Lives training. One member of the Community Health Council has also participated in two panels with medical students recently.

**8. WellSouth update – Andrew Swanson-Dodds**

Andrew updated the Council on the efforts WellSouth are making to support GP practices in both Southland and wider including telehealth practices. Andrew also expressed his concern around the pay parity issues impacting on primary health services where those working in primary services were not paid at the level of those in the secondary services and the impact this had on both attraction into primary services, and retention.

**7. Next Meeting** Will be held in Dunedin on the 6th June 2024.

21st June 2024