**DISABILITY WORKING GROUP**

**Key Messages July 2024**

Members: John Marrable, Kirsten Dixon, Paula Waby, Adam Hall, Jacqui Eggleton, Te Aroha Aratangi

Standing members: Kathryn Harkin, Jack Devereux, Ruth Zeinert, Vanessa Taane

Apologies: Jaime Randhawa, Heather Clay

Guests: Sandy Suganth

The Disability Working Group members met on Friday 12 July 2024.

* Actions updates:
* Four members appointed to WellSouth Disability Action Plan Steering Group.
* Next quarterly forum to be held on 2nd August
* Awareness month recently completed on the 4th floor, 90 staff have completed, mainly nurses but some healthcare assistants. Well received. Has also been done with Charge Nurse Managers in Southland.
* Sandy Suganth, Team Leader of Patient Enquiries Team attended to seek endorsement of a proposal to have PayWave at the front desk in Dunedin Hospital. She outlined that for several years her team have observed consumers experience challenges in paying as the desk is high and often people in a wheelchair cannot reach it. She also said that many people struggle with typing the keys for their PIN number and on multiple occasions her team have done this for them. Members cited the importance of people having the independence to be able to make payments themselves as well. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by the group.
* Yellow Envelope is an enveloped with information that currently goes from Aged Care facilities to the hospitals in Southern when a resident is transferred from their care, and back again on discharge. A proposal is in the works to expand this to disabled residential care facilities. Recognition that the information required to be sent would not be the same and this will be considered. Members were supportive of this.
* Hidden Disabilities Sunflower – membership has been purchased and collateral as well. Awaiting delivery and also considering how to communicate this widely to the organisation. Suggestion that there is a “library” of lanyards for use in the hospital and these are returned on departure. Potential concern about infection so would need a cleaning process. To be considered further. Also learned that this is now available on HealthLearn and therefore available for all staff.
* Accessibility Audit updates: John to complete
* Round Table:
* Concern that when seeing private practitioners that information is not then passed along to GP. Challenging to have holistic care when not all parties have all the information.
* Waitaki consumer with Multiple Sclerosis report difficulties travelling to Dunedin for their Disease Modifying Therapy - query about whether this could be done in Timaru?
* Omarama consumers reported discrepancies in referrals to Dunedin or Timaru and also queried whether service could be delivered closer to their home.
* John to add