

MINUTES
SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, RANDWICK
PARENT & CONSUMER COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 20th June, 2011
Conference Room 5, SCH 10.00am

Purpose of the SCH PCC: To promote child & family friendly health care through the involvement of consumers in decision making.

1. **PRESENT:**
 - Phyllis Moran, Director of Nursing & Co-Chair
 - Michelle Honan, Patient Friend
 - Vanessa Costa, Parent Representative
 - Melinda Pickard, Parent Representative & Co-Chair
 - Anne Cutler, Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare (AWCH) Representative
 - Tanya Wise, A/Nursing Unit Manager Representative
 - Rita Chater, Parent Representative
 - Adam Lloyd, Parent Representative
 - Sara Burrett, Head, Social Work Department

2. **APOLOGIES:** Kellie Wogas, Merron Howard, Dorcas Lau, Minn Simpson, Fay Chiotis, Deidre Kennedy, Johanna Garvin, Lif O'Connor & Hala Kaff.

3. **CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP:**
 - 3.1 **Resignation:**
 - Melinda explained that even though she is still keen to be an active member of the Council she would like to tender her resignation from the position of Co-Chair due to work and family commitments. The members thank Melinda for her outstanding contribution as Co-Chair and are very happy that she is still on board as a working member. If any consumer members are interested in taking up the position of Consumer Co-Chair please contact Michelle before the next meeting.
 - Lisa Wellington has tendered her resignation due to increasing work commitments.
 - Lyn Woodhart has tendered her resignation as her role will solely be with the Royal Hospital for Women.

Action: Michelle to organise letters of appreciation.

4. **MINUTES: 21st March, 2011 accepted - nil changes.**

5. **BUSINESS ARISING:**
 - 5.1 **Draft Strategic Plan (attached): P Moran**

The Strategic Plan was unanimously accepted with a slight change of the removal of staff names. Phyllis will table this document at the Management Meeting.

Action: Michelle to make changes and forward to Phyllis.

 - 5.2 **Ward Internet Access: M Honan**

Michelle followed up with David Loy who explained that one of the concerns would be that staff using laptops in their offices may be able to connect to the internet and corporate network simultaneously and a breach of the firewall may occur opening up the corporate network to virus's etc. Mr Loy was not keen to pursue this option. This led to a discussion amongst members and many questions arose as to why one ward would be able to offer parents and patients internet access and not the others. The question arose of "why wouldn't it be possible for IT staff to block access to staff computers". Parents felt that being able to have wireless ward internet access would allow some parents & carers the ability to try and keep up with some of their workload while allowing them to stay with their children. This would alleviate some of the stress and worry about leaving their sick child to attend work. Adam offered to follow up with Mr Loy and report at the next meeting.

Action: Adam to follow up with Mr Loy.

5.3 Ward TV Channels: M Honan

Michelle has organised for the ABC's Cebeebies channel to be included in the Foxtel channels which is aimed at the under five year olds.

6. STANDING ITEMS:

**6.1 Transition Update: L O'Connor
Deferred.**

6.2 CCC&BD Parent Advisory Group (minutes attached)

A discussion ensued regarding one point in the minutes re the lack of parent accommodation available and that the Ronald McDonald House is not able to assist with all family requests for accommodation especially since the demolition of the Vera Adderley building. Anne also mentioned the research project Dr Cohn spoke of in the minutes that is currently being undertaken interviewing families on their experiences with accommodation both on and off campus. Anne would be interested in having this research made available to the committee and also added to the AWCH Library.

Action: Anne to follow up with Merron.

**6.3 Community Partnership Update: D Kennedy
Deferred**

6.4 Caring Together: P Moran

Phyllis mentioned that the Caring Together Projects currently being undertaken are long term projects and will be ongoing. Between the Flags: Project Officer will be appointed in July for two days per week. Essentials of Care Project: is getting back to the basics of nursing care which address common goals and issues that staff feel are related to their ward eg: medication administration, safe sleeping practices. Phyllis will update the committee on outcomes at the next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Window Cleaning on the Wards: M Pickard

Melinda raised the importance of having clean windows to look out of when you are in a room for days or weeks on end. Both Rita and Vanessa agreed that looking out at dirty windows can be very depressing, sometimes leaving families to feel that the area/room they are in may not be clean as well. Melinda noted that this issue of dirty windows is often brought up at the Cystic Fibrosis Support Groups she attends by other parents.

Action: Michelle to follow up with David Loy and update at the next meeting.

7.2 After Hours Coffee Stand: M Pickard

Melinda reminded everyone that the afterhours coffee stand that was available at the Barker Street Entrance had been gone for months and that parents, carers & staff use to find this a useful service late at night. Michelle mentioned that POWH have just put out tenders to replace this service.

7.3 Clinical Services Building Update: P Moran

Mr James Storman has been appointed as the project officer to liaise between the clinicians and builders throughout the building phase. It is hoped that the building works should commence in July 2011 for completion by January 2013. The new building will include space for:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit
- Family Facilities
- Mental Health Offices
- Peri-Operative unit (Ambicare)
- Respiratory Medicine
- Therapies, including OT and Physio Rehab
- Child Protection Unit

**7.4 Consumer Health Forum Update: L O'Connor
Deferred**

7.5 Orientation Package for New Committee Members: P Moran

Phyllis mentioned that she would like to review the information given out to new committee members to make sure that the information covers all aspects of what is expected of a committee member & information on the committee's achievements.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 9th August, 2011 6.00pm – *Conference Room 5*
(near SCH Lecture Theatre) 1st Floor - SCH.**

Michelle Honan
Patient Friend
Sydney Children's Hospital