

Date: 8/12/2021

Attendees

- Ruth Jones
- Henrietta Harper
- Karim Baradi
- Allison Nichols
- Lesley Campbell
- Karen Rickerby
- Sel Leigh
- Tom Callanan
- Rekha R
(Interpreter)
- Simon Atkinson
- Rachel Mullins
- Catherine de Bruin

Apologies

- Paul Barclay
- Hon Poto Williams
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Minutes

Welcomes and Introductions

Ruth welcomed everyone and apologies for the late notice on this meeting. She thanks Karim for being so flexible. This meeting is occurring because we did not have time at the end of our last network meeting to have this discussion. The focus here is to discuss the impact of covid 19 on the disabled person's community.

The context for this conversation is that we know that covid is moving down the country, and that is ok to a certain extent as the vaccination rate is on the rise. Thank you to all of us for helping to make that happen. In Ruth's space, there has been a pivot in vaccination rates as information began to come out about protecting your whakapapa, and how to operate at home if you contract covid.

There have been two forums to talk about what happens if covid get into the community, to prepare ourselves. One was for providers and one was for disabled persons.

Ruth's intention is that the DLC is onto this as well, and to put us in a position to advocate and provide information. Looking at the strategy of this.

Tom Callanan's Contact Information: community@eglives.co.nz

The risk of covid for disabled people in the community.

There are kits etc. for people who are isolated at home, on what they need to do and how to do it. There are many questions that are raised with this question, as what happens with support people, how does a disabled person who requires help getting dressed go on about this? Ruth is also thinking about people who may face barriers if they have to move into a facility or stay in a hospital. For example, a person who does not use words to communicate.

This is a round table discussion on what needs to be considered and ideas of where to go from there.

Lesley raised the question of what happens if parents get covid and the children have been away and so has not contracted it? People with compromised health are often impacted more. LC also asked what happens for people who do not know what is going on? How do we reach those people? They could be in quite a dangerous situation.

Simon: Thinks that one of the very important things is to get a test before traveling anywhere.

Henrietta: You can get rapid tests done like the court system is using. These could be a good option for support workers to test prior to entering a disabled person's home or in another situation that calls for it.

Tom: Question to Allison, the ministry has stated that when a person with a disability tests positive they will be provided wrap-around support? Is that correct and how does that work, should support organisations be made aware of this?

Allison: MSD will be the first port of call for any financial issues that people may have. At the time that a person tests positive, that information will go to the health and the welfare place. There have been delays in this going to the welfare in Auckland, we hope that in Canterbury that is not the case. Allison is a little worried about what is classed as immediate. Tomorrow morning at 8:30 will be the first meeting of a planning group, the chair has agreed to start the meeting by allowing Allison to read out some prepared information. One of these is an email from Ruth regarding the situation of the mother. What phone number do I ring? Does the person who I speak to understand what I mean by a quadriplegic?. Doing this will hopefully set the tone for the meeting and bring the actual people that it impacts to the front of the issue. Unsure if the 'wrap around' service is actually defined?

Lesley: After the earthquakes, some community organisations went around to people's houses to see if they were alone or what was happening. As that is not happening how are we going to know. So if someone became ill overnight and couldn't get to a phone, how would we know?

Allison: I don't know the answer to that. There is a need for local solutions as cases will be popping up in particular areas. This will need to be tailored to the location, this will need to translate across for the areas where the highest risk is. You can get information on how many people are vaccinated on a street and so can assess the situation of a high-risk street.

Simon: How do we get information to the anti-vaxers and try to change the way that they are thinking?

Ruth: an issue is how many people can come into the hospital for regular appointments, the delays in shipping of medications. Also for people who are going to have to go into hospital on their own.

Whoever was on Catherine's: We have had some really strong conversations in our family around what would happen if one of my children was to get covid and had to go into hospital. For one of my children that is not an option, her quality of life would significantly decrease. I have been speaking to people about how to train me to take care of her to a higher level. One of the things her is convincing the powers that be that we can take on the extra responsibility. It has also been having conversations on what would happen if they were to pass away. We have had to be prepared and have these really tough conversations. As she is tube feed we cannot buy that from the supermarket. So it is about being on our supports to ensure that they are ensuring this. We don't want just a phone number, we want a person on the end of the phone who knows us and knows that when we call this is serious. We need a plan with them.

We are all here to make those plans so that we will be ok.

Allison: That sharing is really appreciated, and that message will be passed on. These are not the people who will be able to fix that but are the people who need to know what is needed and to what level. If you know the code you can get someone to come to your house and get a mobile test, will look into that and find out more. There needs to be detailed preparation done. The ministry has put up a get-ready document, everyone should have a look as there are many scenarios.

Allison is learning about what has happened and what the plan is but one of the things she is finding is that at the moment the ministry seems to see disability as attached to or secondary to older people. When you look at all of the documents they are titled older people and the disabled.

Ruth, Henrietta, and Sel will draft a letter to send about this from the DLC.

Meeting Closed: by Ruth at 11:36am