

MULTICULTURAL HIV AND HEPATITIS SERVICE

CO-WORKER STAFF MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2016

CHAIR: Gai Stackpool

MINUTES: Riza Yaman

PRESENT: Yuliana Ada, Tsehay Adegeh, Margaret Mercy Akongo, Ghalib Al Bakri, Eduardo Aparicio, Jean Marie Bishop, Jean Burke, Jieling Cen, Bo (Tim) Chen, Magno Da Silva, Gustinia Dauner, Marella Di Ruocco, Andi Dwipasatya, Deni Fukunishi, Jason Gao, Nevine Gayed, Selome Gebremariam, Lily Guo, Thi Kim Trang Ha, Derya Han, Amneh Harb, Raynita Jalleh, Heesun Kim, Bea Kocak, Man-Chiu Lee, Belinda Marchesiello, Lucy Mukoko, Layla Naji, Edwin Ng, Han Ann Nguyen, Hanh Thi Van Nguyen, Thuy Ngoc Nguyen, Yuna Park, Maria Angela Peci, Adrian Pedra, Zoran Pletikosa, Tutie Putra, Surinee Record, Ashraf Sedrak, Jorge Segovia, Natali Smud, Lychantha Sok, Faten Solaqa, Somkhuan Sri-a, Tanni Summers, Nancy Tam, Choon (Jim) Tan, Seila Thuy, Kanyarat Tresise, Wendy Wang, Hsin-Wei Weng, Bing Wong, Insang Yu, Gai Stackpool, Denise Voros, Wa'el Sabri, Sonam Paljor, Mary Bourke, Donatella Cifali, Riza Yaman, Alan Chan, Marina Suarez.

APOLOGIES: Daniel Tha Nya, Phillip Camargo, Giovanni Bressan, Jian Ling Gong, Rocio Pizarro Marroquin, Grazyna Wilczak, Cemal Yavas, Barbara Luisi, Effie Katsaros.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Gai

Gai welcomed those present and gave the apologies and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Gai talked about health roster which is part of a new system to record pay hours. Co-workers are required to email their work hours as soon as they worked. These hours must be reported within 24 hours of the work completed as per the instructions given in the Co-worker Handbook.

The new system does not have the capacity to go back once the pay period ended; therefore we will not be able to make payroll adjustments. This new system will start on 10 October 2016.

Gai also mentioned that MHAHS is working on a new website. It is anticipated that the new website will be in use by the end of this year.

PROJECT UPDATES

Wa'el – There are currently two community development projects in progress:

1. The Arabic Hepatitis C Project

2. The Vietnamese Hepatitis B Project

These projects have the same roadmaps, but strategies might not be similar due to the cultural differences.

The common ground is

- Community consultation
- Advisory group
- Education sessions
- Festivals
- Workforce development
- Working with SLHD and SWSLHD
- Media

Now I leave it to the project officers:

The Arabic Hepatitis C Project – Faten

The following strategies are being implemented:

- Encouraging testing
- Increase access to hepatitis services
- Informing people who live with hepatitis C

We have contacted several service providers serving the Arabic community and established the advisory group in June. A number of organisations are being represented in the group. The advisory group did set up the strategies and provides its guidance. They meet every three months.

Ten education sessions have been delivered across Sydney at different locations. Total number of participants was more than 200 people. Some of the areas covered are Edensor Park, Yagoona, Punchbowl and Kingsgrove.

Religious places have also been used for education sessions like churches and mosques.

Participants provided very good feedback. They said they had thought hepatitis C test was included in the general blood test. They are now aware that there is a separate hepatitis C test. They have been encouraged to get tested.

We have also participated in the Granma Festival organised by Community and Cultural Connections Inc. with approximately 150 attendees at Marrickville.

As for the media two interviews have already been conducted.

The Vietnamese Hepatitis B Project - Kim Trang

I started working in this project in April.

I have liaised with key bodies such as Vietnamese Community in Australia, NSW Chapter, Community Cultural Connections, Asian Women's Network, Buddhist Network, Leichhardt Women's Health. It's easier to connect the community through these organisations.

In June the advisory group was set up and started providing guidance.

To date eleven workshops have been organized with more than 200 participants. They used to think that hepatitis was just one virus. The participants now know that there are hepatitis A, B, C and others. They became aware of the transmission routes as well.

We have also participated in the Granma Festival organised by Community and Cultural Connections Inc. with approximately 150 attendees together with Faten.

We are also working with SLHD and SWSLHD to train GPs working with the Vietnamese community.

We were effective to lead SWSLHD to work closely with relevant Vietnamese pay TV to broadcast hepatitis videos on air.

Last Sunday we were involved in the Moon Festival, we had a stall and delivered fortune cookies, pamphlets. Hanh Thi Van Nguyen did mind our stall.

Hanh Thi Van Nguyen - I enjoyed being part of this project. There are different activities in it. I attended the advisory group meeting; I saw the project as a whole and then became part of the activities. One of them was participating in the Moon Festival.

Wa'el – We are working on workforce development as well. Next month hepatitis B workshops will be conducted for Vietnamese workers. Same thing will be repeated for the Arabic speaking workers as well.

We offered some activities to SLHD and SWSLHD and they were accepted:

- Medical knowledge to GPs, Bankstown in October by ASHM
- Testing clinics for the community where they exist
- Providing cultural awareness sessions

As for the media we have a new strategy, doing the interview first and then taking it to the relevant media organisations for broadcast.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY AND HIV TESTING WEEK

Sonam - July 28 is the official World Hepatitis Day globally. There are over 400 million people worldwide living with hepatitis B or C. 1.4 million people die from viral hepatitis B or C annually. Many of these deaths can be prevented with better awareness, understanding and management.

To support this event we launched a #NOhep campaign in some languages. The aim was to raise awareness of the importance of viral hepatitis testing and treatment. The campaign registered 16 media pick-ups and 6 radio interviews.

We also supported HIV Testing Week 2016 (1-7June) by organizing street information stalls to promote HIV testing among people from CALD backgrounds. We also did run an ethnic media campaign in 10 communities.

We developed a low literacy HIV treatment resource in partnership with Positive Life. The resource is very visual and easy to understand. It looks simple, but developing it required lots of effort. Some clients said that if they received this resource years ago, everything would be more easy for them.

Nevine – I was involved in the HIV Testing Week event on 3 June at Kogarah by minding a stall together with Sophia. We realized that people were reluctant to visit our stall; they were

scared of the word HIV. We decided to go to them and we went to the Kogarah train station to deliver fortune cookies, pamphlets and condoms. This way we were able to reach them.

I enjoyed being part of this event.

Sophia – Like Nevine mentioned people avoided talking to us and making eye contact with us. When we tried to explain that we just want to provide information some of them were engaged. Going to the train station was a good way of engaging them.

MHAHS NEWS IMPROVEMENT 2016 / SURVEY AND RESULTS – Denise and Riza

Q 1&2 How often and how much do you read MHAHS News?

- 44 CWs read MHAHS News (15 read every issue and 6 never read it)
- 18 read all of it and 17 read half

Q 3 Please rate how useful for you

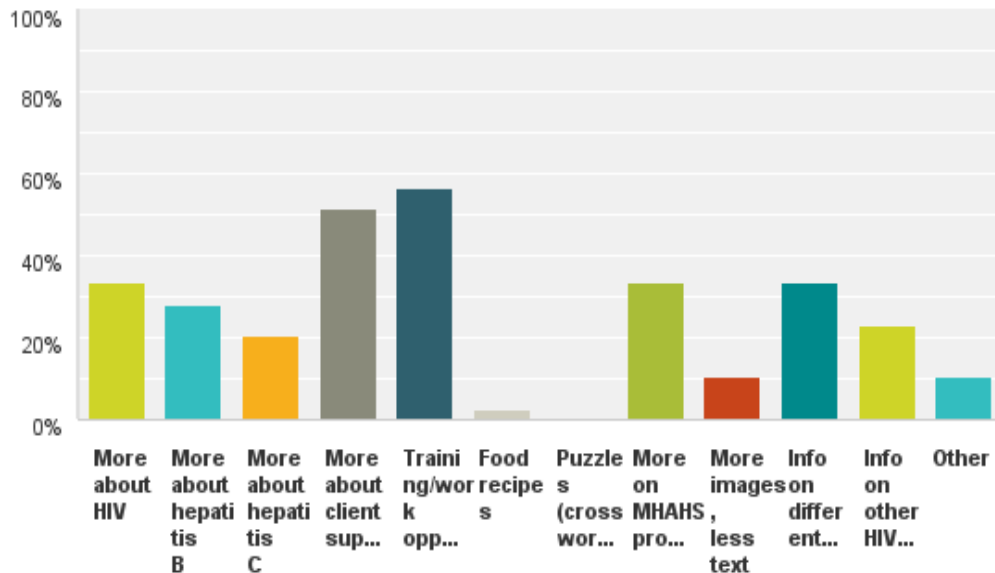
- Usefulness in CW role in order:
 - CWs viewpoint
 - Project news
 - Feature
 - Around the world
 - Front page

Q4 Please rate how true for you

- Rated equal
 - Keeps me involved with MHAHS
 - Learn what is happening in MHAHS
 - Keeps me informed with HIV & viral hepatitis issues
 - Keeps me up to date with MHAHS admin

Q5 What would you like to see in MHAHS News? Tick THREE only.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 11



Other comments and suggestions

- I like it and find it useful. It is brief and to the point.
- I do not receive MHAHS
- Never received it - will read if received - interested & follow updates
- I've never had one
- Co-worker's life stories outside of MHAHS. We don't get to meet co-workers often. Would be good to learn more about them e.g. what they do for work, hobbies, travel stories, wedding/babies etc.
- When I received the hard copies, I get to read it, but when it was sent via email, I don't read it.
- Great work, well done.

INFORMATION ABOUT PrEP – Jack Freestone

Jack Freestone, Prep Services, ACON presented Information About PrEP and answered many questions raised.

DRIED BLOOD SPOT HIV TESTING PILOT PROJECT – Damien Conway and Rachel Kaaterl

Damien Conway, PhD FACHSHM, Sydney Sexual Health Centre and Rachel Katterl, Ministry of Health presented the Dried Blood Spot HIV Testing Pilot Project and questions raised.

Next meeting: 6 - 9pm, Thursday 8 December 2016
KPEC Auditorium 4.1 RPA