**Enabling Good Lives (EGL)**

**MidCentral Regional Leadership Group**

**Record of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 June 2022**

**From 10.30am – 2.30pm**

**At The Distinction Coachman Hotel, Fitzherbert Avenue, PN**

**Facilitator**: Ann-Marie Stapp

**Meeting Notes:** Jo Brew

**Present:**

* Annette (Deaf Rep) (+ 2 Interpreters Sarah plus Janet joining at 12pm)
* Antnz, Peter A, Martin, Wayne, Natt (Disabled People)
* Tracey, Toni I, Pip (Families)
* Lovely (Pasifika)
* Rachel (People First)
* Regena (Mana Whenua)
* Mike (Providers)
* Jen (OT)
* Gabrielle (MDHB)

**Apologies:**

* Jane (Te Mahau/MoE who has appointed Jeanette Brown until end October)
* Eru and Toni (Providers)
* Rasela (Pasifika)

**Introductions**

After karakia, the meeting began with a round of brief introductions and 1 thing that has given each person joy in the past month.

**Housekeeping**

* Linked to the closing the comments of the last meeting, the RLG ‘Housekeeping’ document was reviewed with an additional note to be added to the document:

“Facilitator or NZSL interpreters to raise their hand and remind one person to talk at a one, or for time keeping purposes.”

**Updates**

**Deaf Community**

* Celebrated NZSL week and used this to raise awareness.
* Information gathering regarding how many of the deaf community are connecting for personal budgets. It was suggested Annette connect with Director, Mana Whaikaha to get data.
* Antz proposed a workshop covering the ‘purpose of a personal budget and how to use’ be held and will support this.

**Disabled People**

* Mark Benjamin is standing down from SAMS; a farewell celebration is scheduled for Thursday 16 June from 1.00pm – 3.00ppm at the Rydges Hotel, Wellington. It was proposed 1 or 2 representatives attend on behalf of RLG. Peter, Rachel and Wayne indicated their availability. Open to representation from each group. Further details to be arranged offline.
* There are new face mask exemption guidelines, how can we get the information and process out to people to prevent uncomfortable situations arising at venues, shops etc.
* The DP core group is arranging a hangi as a team building activity. YAAY’s will support. Details to follow.
* The DP core group has confirmed their representation at RLG; 5 people elected by DP core group, 1 from People First, 1 from the deaf community. At present representation is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Disabled Peoples Core Group Representation | |
| Group | Name |
| Disabled Person Core Group | Wayne (Chair)  Martin, Antz, Natt and Peter |
| People First | Rachel |
| Deaf Community | Annette |

* Confirmation of representation to be entered in a perpetual calendar for RLG to be reviewed annually. (Jo)
* YAAY’s went on a ‘Hut Trip’ last weekend, learnt survival skills, how to build fires, team building, organically supporting each other. End of June activity is a move night in Levin.

**Family**

* Family core group representation to RLG was confirmed at Tracey, Toni I and Pip.
* Tabled a topic to discuss “Should RAT testing prior to attending meetings be mandatory? To be discussed under general business.
* Involved in planning the next multi core group meeting.
* Due to lack of interest, the May meeting for ‘family and one other’ did not proceed.
* Brainstorming how to get our voice out, indicated interest in connecting with or through the Mana Whaikaha website.
* Families have expressed issues such as not feeling listened or respected by connectors, language used by connectors is a barrier, the old system was better, funding packages are difficult to sort out as a lot of thought is required to determine what a good life is, so much EGL paperwork to complete and understand for a renewal, planning a year in advance for a child is difficult.
* This indicates a gap that RLG needs to fill through sector engagement education; the Drop In’s, live streams, Youtube links etc.
* Use RLG funding to contract others to assist, i.e. My Life, My Voice, or Lizi Guest etc.
* ‘Snapshots’ and making connections within the community are effective tools.
* Jen asked that sector engagement education be open to foster carers too.

**Officials**

**MDHB**

* Big change for health system and services and trying to understand what disabled services will look like once moved to new ministry, unsure of pending changes with Enable.
* Recently met with Jude Stephenson, Community Engagement – Mana Whaikaha.
* Expecting the ‘new region’ to be known as MidCentral Health and as a district. Unsure how ‘anyone can choose to go anywhere for treatment’ will work.

**Oranga Tamariki**

* Continuing transformation, changes in leadership and restructuring, keen to engage with establishment unit, continue to speak up for children and families and their rights.
* Is an official rep on the EGL governance group; finishes at the end of June/stand up of new ministry and unsure about post 1 July but would like to continue the role.
* Trying to understand the interface between establishment unit, the new ministry, Health NZ, Māori Health Authority and particularly mental health. Reminds people system transformation is across government.
* Working with MoE re high needs review.
* Appreciated Antz’s work on safeguarding.
* New Chief Advisor for Disability – Claudia Boyles, will focus on development of vision and strategy in consultation and partnership with disabled people.
* Claudia is keen to visit RLG or core groups meetings later in year. Jen to assist to arrange.

**Pasifika**

* Working with families on their personal budgets, suggested language between connectors and Pasifika families may be a barrier.
* To look within the Pasifika community for someone who could become a connector for ‘My Life, My Voice’.

**People First**

* Local group meeting next week.
* People First are offering some online courses, i.e., ‘Speaking Up’ – learning how to speak up.

**Providers**

* Continuing covid impacts on staff and supports.
* Looking forward to changes to the new ministry.
* Are well stocked to provide PPE to disabled people they support. A pinch point for staff thought.
* Involved in negotiations around pay equity for support workers.
* FDS engagement update – huge learning curve, i.e. buying things on behalf of people creates a lot of administration to invoice, tracking/auditing, there is a common misunderstanding that money is held for people, this is not the case, but they can access a persons money with a paper trail to support. There is a $30 admin fee however when the purchase is small is reduced to a part charge hourly rate.

**Funding Application**

* An application for funding for a group of people to attend the Disability Pathways Conference was submitted by Natt McLean and tabled for consideration by the group. After a brief discussion the proposal was seconded by Peter and expanded to approve funding for a further 4 people, so 7 overall, widening the opportunity.
* It was clarified the funding source was not Capability and Capability, but RLG.
* **Those eligible for voting all voted yes.**
* Anyone wishing to attend in the extra places are asked to make contract directly with Natt.
* Natt will contact the Conference organisers about early bird tickets and NZSL interpreters and send info to RGL.

**Sector Engagement**

* Technology equipment has arrived, streaming software to be loaded as capacity allows. Training for both will be provided once equipment is available and per communications plan.
* Little and Loud has been bought onboard in a strategic communications role and will assist with livestreams and other event planning.
* Collaborative planning session around safeguarding with Anu Sefton (PNCC Safer Communities Coordinator) on Thurs as a possible event for September.

**Little & Loud – Lizi Guest**

Lizi has been contracted to do the comms for RLG and attended today as a meet and greet and to understand the groups expectations.

* Brainstorm included:
* Accessibility – comms to different groups and in different forms (including easy read, Te Reo Māori etc),
* EGL information – how people can engage, contribute, responsibilities, real lift stuff, the principles, the approach,
* educating the community about disability, show ‘we’re out living our lives’, good stories,
* meet the core groups and wider community, linking supports,
* RGL events and activities,
* standardised resources,
* expanding social media platforms already in use.

**Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

* Wayne to contact Angus for farewell details.
* History compilation of RLG – was allocated at an earlier meeting for Ann-Marie, however not confirmed in contract.
* Multi Core Group will be held Tuesday, 3.30pm at Allsorts Café, hosted by Family Core Group.

**General Business**

1. **Making RAT’s testing mandatory prior to meetings.**

The above was tabled on behalf of Family core group. Discussions included:

Pros – good for the personal safety of the collective good.

Con’s – creates issues for disabled people needing support.

Agreed – the are calculated risks, continue with covid expectations for masks, hand hygiene etc.

1. Deaf Aotearoa continues to assist people with mask exemption and exemption renewals.
2. Covid ‘close contact’ isolation was clarified:

* If someone in your home is positive then stay home, or….
* If you’ve had covid and done your 8 days, you can go out.
* If you go positive within the 8 days, you start the count again.

**Closing comments** – what is today’s ear worm:

* Sense of relief Lizi is on board, peaceful meeting.
* Work done without rushing.
* Nice to be here, well structured.
* Anticipation of fear gone, enjoying many discussions and growth of core groups.
* On time.
* Great.
* Thanks for organising and officiating an official meeting.
* Nicely structured, easier for note taking.
* Great, everything went smoothly and great, distracting hat.
* A long way to go.
* Pleased to be back connecting.
* The amount and work and amount of people here today.
* Thanks, appreciate the support.
* Regena karakia.

The meeting closed at 2.40pm