

EMR ABI NETWORK MEETING

Date: 16th October 2013

Time: 10:00am

Chaired by:

Karen Jorgensen BrainLink Services Ltd Clientservices@brainlink.org.au

Minutes Recorded By:

Jean Ewing Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria jewing@epilepsy.asn.au

1 WELCOME

2 PRESENT & APOLOGIES

PRESENT

Karen Jorgensen	BrainLink Services Ltd	clientservices@brainlink.org.au
Jean Ewing	Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria	jewing@epilepsy.asn.au
Natalie Dustakis	Maurice Blackburn Solicitors	
Jill Burling	RIDE	jillburling@vooralla.com.au
Marie-Claire Davis	ABI Behaviour Consultancy	marie-claire.davis@austin.org.au
Shayne Elsley	CBDATS	Shayne.elsley@austinhealth.org.au
Lotti Stein	Leadership Plus	lstein@leadershipplus.com
Melanie Muir	Leadership Plus	mmuir@leadershipplus.com

APOLOGIES

Johann Misso	Guide Dogs Victoria (ABI Mobility Service).
Lauren Howe	Melbourne City Mission
Michelle Egan	EACH
Lakshani Prasad	EACH – Family Relationship Service for Carers (FRSC)
Karen Story -	ABI Family Therapist, The Bouverie Centre

3 ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Accepted By:

Natalie Dustakisc Maurice Blackburn Solicitors

Second:

Seconded on voices

4 PRESENTATION: Leadership Plus

Leadership Plus is a Disability Advocacy Service which works with clients with an ABI.

Advocacy is designed to assist clients to achieve justice and to support them to voice their views about decisions made about their life. It is necessary to identify an issue in which a breach of the client's rights has occurred.

There are several forms of advocacy available to clients;

1. Disability Advocacy: this involves working with an individual and is the most common form of advocacy.
2. VCAT and the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA). OPA can investigate an issue at the request of VCAT.
3. Citizen's Advocacy: A member of the community is matched with an individual. It is hoped that a friendship will develop, and the individual will develop some networks in their community which will offer them support. The clients are usually people with an Intellectual Disability.
4. Systemic Advocacy: Addressing issues of government policy which are resulting in discrimination.

There are some Specialist Advocacy Services:

Statewide services which include Specialist Youth Services, Communication Rights Australia, and services focused on a particular type of disability e.g. ABI. Each region of the state has a generalist advocacy service.

There are several pieces of legislation which govern advocacy:

- United Nations Bill of Rights,

- United Nations Convention on Disability
- The Disability Discrimination Act
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LEADERSHIP PLUS is a statewide service which prioritises clients with an ABI. In the Eastern Metropolitan Region they have a particular interest in working with parents with a disability, particularly if the parent has an ABI, and in the City of Dandenong, Casey and Kingston there is a service for clients from a CALD background.

Leadership Plus is a voluntary organisation. Referrals to Leadership Plus can be made by individuals or other agencies. They operate on a "call back" system, with Intake available from 9:30 am-12:30 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They are happy to have a conversation with clients or referring agencies to discuss the appropriateness of a referral for advocacy services.

Contact Details:

Intake: 9489 2999

Address: 25 Flinders Lane Melbourne

5 AGENCY UPDATES

a. **BrainLink:**

- Carers Week Activities – Seminar Guest Speakers: Christine Durham (last year's Woman of Achievement Winner) & Erin O'Lochlan (Young Carer)
- 2013 Women of Achievement Luncheon: Tuesday 29th October at Park Hyatt, Melbourne.
- Brainlink co-ordinates the Flexible Respite Funding for the Eastern Region. This enables payment of up to \$1000 per year to provide respite for a carer. There is considerable flexibility in defining respite.

b. **Family Relationship Service for Carers (FRSC):**

- FRSC is a statewide service offering up to 5 counselling sessions for carers and their families.
- Home visits are available. EACH co-ordinates referrals.

c. **RIDE:**

- Provides Respite Information for services in the eastern Region.
- Clients from 6-64 are eligible
- There will be an updated booklet detailing services available in January 2014.

d. **Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria:**

- Very busy with several projects underway or in the development process. Epilepsy Smart Schools, Epilepsy in the Later Years, Epilepsy Peer Support program are some of the services recently or soon to be developed.

e. **Maurice Blackburn and Brainlink:**

- Have been involved in the Yarra Valley Run to raise funds for the re-publication "Doing Up Buttons" by author Christine Durham.
- Maurice Blackburn addressed the parliamentary committee enquiring in to Serious Injury. Their focus was on the provision of services designed to reduce the impact of the injury. Maurice Blackburn have a Social Worker on staff who works with mainly TAC clients helping them to navigate services and offering support when clients become frustrated.

f. **CBDATS:**

- Have been very involved in accreditation recently.
- Have had a visit from the newly appointed Chief Psychiatrist and the Chief Psychiatric Nurse.
- There may be a slight change of emphasis toward mentoring clinicians rather than mediation.
- A new Rehabilitation unit opening in December to provide a stage between acute hospital care and discharge to the community.

g. **Leadership Plus**

- Distributed information about the Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) who are conducting a forum on November 19th.
- Details on SARU website.

6 VCASP Update

Unavailable

7 DHS Update

Unavailable

8 OTHER BUSINESS

a. **Next EMR ABI Network Meeting:**

Wednesday 11th December, 10AM-12PM,
Betty Cuthbert Room, The Nerve Centre, Blackburn 3130

Meetings address & contact details:

Vanessa Marrama
BrainLink Services
54 Railway Road, Blackburn
Ph: 9845-2955
E: info@brainlink.org.au

Limited parking available in MS car park via Solwood Lane.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Date: 16th October 2013

Time: 12:00pm
