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Newsflash

APRIL 2008

REMINDER:

Strengthening Partnerships – Primary Care Partnerships 14 May 2008

This program aims to assist in strengthening the partnerships essential to improving health outcomes across Victoria.

This Workshop will assist senior staff of health and community service organisations to develop partnership skills. Leaders will have the opportunity to progress in depth conversations about the need for and art of establishing effective partnerships and the capacity to manage competing demands by working together.

The Workshop will:

- Challenge thinking about what being in a partnership means
- Provide a variety of lenses from which leaders can develop and deepen the philosophy / foundation for local partnership
- Provide abundant opportunity for meaningful discussion the implications of the models and the opportunities that new ways of thinking present
- Assist with “next steps” in each PCP’s development journey

Target Audience:

PCP Member Organisations, Potential new PCP members

Venue:

Foundry Hotel Complex, 366 High Street, Bendigo

Further Information and registration:

De Gilby dee.gilby@dhs.vic.gov.au Phone: 5434 5507

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Bendigo Loddon PCP Falls Prevention Project

The BLPCP Falls Prevention Project was undertaken some years ago. If you were involved in this project, and would be prepared to contribute to a review being conducted for DHS, would you please contact the PCP Office or email jeanettegrant@bchs.com.au.

To ensure the research team can gather valid evidence it is important that they have access, where possible to the staff most directly involved with the Bendigo Loddon project/s.

The Aged Care Branch of the Department of Human Services has contracted the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) to undertake a review of projects funded to prevent falls among older people during the period 2000-07.

The review will endeavour to:

- Determine which projects/strategies have been sustained in policy and practice;
- Identify effective models that have been integrated into or are complementary to existing health promotion strategies;
- Identify enablers and barriers to effective falls prevention projects/strategies; and
- Make recommendations for future directions in falls prevention.

Throughout 2000-07 all Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs) received non-recurrent funding to implement at least one falls prevention project. Information for the review will be collected via an electronic survey that can be completed on-line or manually. In some instances a telephone or face-to-face interview may be conducted.

If you are able to assist in providing information about the Falls Project, this would be very much appreciated.

Sexual Health Training Workshop

A full day workshop for youth workers dealing with sexual health issues was held at Eaglehawk on Thursday 20 March 2008. This training was attended by local youth, community, health, and education professionals working within the City of Greater Bendigo and the Loddon Shire.

The training was supported through the Partnerships in Safer Sex & Testing (PSST!) Project and facilitated by Felicity Jackson from Family Planning Victoria. It was subsidised by the BLPCP.

Topics covered included Exploding the Myths, Information, statistics and trends, Same Sex Attraction, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Condoms, Contraception, and Safer Sex Awareness Issues.

Overall the day was a great success and those that attended reported a greater understanding of the issues confronting young people.



SEXUAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FUNDS 2007/2008

The Bendigo Loddon PCP is providing funds to assist in increasing the capacity of service providers to meet the sexual health needs of our communities. Under the program, staff of member organisations are invited to apply for funding to assist them to attend professional development training to enable them to respond to sexual health needs in the community.

The Sexual Health Professional Development Support Fund is an initiative of the Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership Sexual Health Task Group which was established to improve collaboration, promote integrated sexual health service planning and enhance responsiveness to the diverse needs of our communities.

The goal of the Bendigo Loddon PCP Sexual Health Task Group is *'to raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues amongst the community and build the capacity of service providers to respond to sexual health needs'*.

An application form should be completed and can be obtained by contacting the PCP office blpcp@bchs.com.au

If you want further information please contact the Chair of the Sexual Health Task Group Adam Wright at Country Awareness Network Victoria on 5443 8355 or email adamwright@can.org.au

Fluvax 2008

Trevor Barker the Drought Project Coordinator for Vic Relief Foodbank has advised that he has been receiving quite a few enquiries about the possibility of repeating the free influenza vaccination program in rural Victoria in 2008.

Trevor has emailed the PCP Office to let us all know that CSL has advised that they are not in a position to provide free vaccinations this year.

Trevor asked us to thank everyone for their interest and support last season.

www.vrfb.com.au

Two New PCP Projects

Womens Health Loddon Mallee is undertaking two important projects for the Bendigo Loddon PCP. The first of these projects is the development of a Community Profile which will draw together a lot of the socio-demographic information on the City of Greater Bendigo and the Loddon Shire, to assist member agencies with information for grant applications, submissions, presentations and evidence for new projects.

Over the next few months, researchers for WHLM will develop the information which will be published on the BLPCP website. If there is any particular information that you feel would assist your organisation, please let us know so it can be included if possible.

The second project being undertaken by WHLM on behalf of the PCP is a thorough evaluation of the Leadership Program for Women from small rural communities, which is being conducted by the City of Greater Bendigo. This project (AWOL) will be used as a case study example of an innovative and effective capacity building drought initiative for communities in transition. WHLM will produce an evaluation report which will be published on the PCP website and will evaluate the effect of events conducted by the women in their local communities, the growth in skills and networks of the women who participated, and the changes to these communities as a result of local women developing the leadership skills necessary to work with their local communities in planning and arranging events.

For more information about these two projects please contact Linda Beilharz at WHLM or Jeanette Grant at BLPCP.

Climate Change and Health:

An Exploration of the Challenges for Public Health in Victoria

To download this recently released report go to: www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/climate

Volunteer Walk Leader Training

Bendigo Regional Institute of Tafe in collaboration with the 'Let's Walk' Project Committee is facilitating Volunteer Walk Leader Training.

The training aims to increase the skills and confidence of volunteer walk leaders. The training package will cover a range of topics such as; benefits of walking, staying motivated, the role and qualities of a good walk leader, general safety, risk management, leadership skills and volunteer rights and responsibilities.

The training will be very interactive and will involve a gentle walking exercise and stretches. For this reason please wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

The training will be delivered in the Loddon Shire and the City of Greater Bendigo. The training is a one day course commencing at 10.00am and concluding at 3.00pm. The training will be offered in the Loddon Shire on Monday 26 April 2008 and in City of Greater Bendigo on Monday 5 May 2008.

Places are limited so if you are interested in being involved in this training please register your interest as soon as possible. Preference will be given to volunteers involved in the Let's Walk project.

For further information or to register your interest please call Leah Anderson BLPCP Project Officer on 5448 1682.

This training has been made available through the 'Go for your life' Walk Together Grants supported by the Victorian Government through the 'Go for your life' Initiative.



Training & Events

Healthy Ageing Forum – Consumers

Bendigo Health and Dental Health Service Victoria are presenting this forum to people over 55 to beat the barriers and stay well. Areas covered at the forum include:

Play well -what activities are best, how to be active and where to go
Eat & Drink Well -make reading food labels easier and have those yummy treats and still keep healthy
Clean Well -Tips on caring for teeth, gums and dentures

When: Wednesday **9 April 2008**, 9.40am to 11.45am (Morning tea provided)
Where: Platinum Room, Foundry Hotel, 366 High St, Golden Square **Gold coin donation**
RSVP: Thursday 3 April – Contact: Carol Styles 5454 9228

Healthy Ageing Forum – Professionals

Making it easier to manage clients over 55

The frail senior, Nutrition and disease prevention, Gum disease and Dental decay

Who should attend: practice nurses, dental professionals, registered nurses, pharmacy staff, community workers

When - Thursday 10 April 2008, 5.30—6.00pm Networking, 6.00—7.30pm Seminar
Cost - FREE (Light supper provided)
Where -Platinum Room, Foundry Hotel, 366 High St, Golden Square
RSVP - Thursday 3 April – Contact: Carol Styles 5454 9228

WORKSHOP: Working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities on issues relating to Blood-Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible infections.

Date: 16 April 2008
Time: 9.15am to 4pm
Venue: Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health, 81-85 Barry Street, Carlton VIC 3053
Cost: \$40
Bookings / enquiries to: enquiries@ceh.org.au or phone 9427 8766

A Mental Health First Aid Course is being planned for Bendigo in June 2008

Mental Health First Aid is a 12 hour course which teaches first aid skills for mental health crisis situations and the early stages of mental health problems.

Many professional and lay people have completed this Australian designed course and have benefited from it.

Further information:

Contact David Stanley at Central Victorian General Practice Network
Ph 5441 7806 or dstanley@cvgpn.org.au

FREE and Confidential Legal Assistance in Loddon Shire Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre First Monday of month at Inglewood and Boort

Inglewood and Districts Health Service, 3 Hospital Street, Inglewood 10am -12pm

Boort Resource and Information Centre Inc, 119-121 Godfrey Street, Boort 2.00pm – 3.30pm

To make an appointment to see a solicitor phone 1800 639 121

Providing assistance in a range of areas including family, debt, domestic violence, discrimination, crime, car accidents, social security, employment, victims of crime, family, guardianship.

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