

MINUTES OF THE AUCKLAND BRANCH OF NZHBA 1.2.83 at Barbours.

Present: Jeanette, Lynne, Ann, Sian, Judy, Barbara, Sue B, Sue P, Therese, Alison, Jillian, Deryn, Carolynn M, Sally, Maran, Sharon, Dorothy.

Apologies: Cathi and Rhonda.

Matters Arising: Jeanette has printed the 'Home Birth under threat' posters. 300. Vote of thanks.

Therese offers batch for out of town home birth parents.

B to write to Phillips re wage exemption applicatic M. Walkers letter e read to meeting. Sub cttee for conference will discuss.

Correspondence: Letters read and discussed.

Treasurer: Passed Mitchell/Macfarlane

\$21.64 Carolynn - stamps

37.31 Jeanette - printing

11.40 Barbara - stamps

19.80 Alison - stencils

3. 80 Broadsheet

8. 45 Phone

Discussion on payment of capitation fee 1980-1

Conference: 3-4 helpers phoned Alison after newsletter request

Sian to org. creche. Sally & Therese to help.

Ak. teachers college booked. Possibility of

A visit by Suzanne Arms discussed. Lynne Nicol

to look into this. Ann will look after billets.

Sub cttee: Therese, Sue B, Sue P, Joan, Deryn,

Alison, Jo B-Smith & Valerie.

To meet Thursday 10th Feb at 7.30 at Alisons.

Sian: Spoke on Mr R and his behaviour and defamatory remarks.

Rumour and untruth. Ethical problem too. Sian to see

John Timmins or Rhys Harrison re defamation and letter.

Discussed need for standard letter objecting to rumour

and suggesting if info. wanted then contact x.

Diony Young: Book "Changing Childbirth". Tape made of talk.

How to fight the system, tactics etc. P.C. org the

meeting. Founder suggested time to get rid of some of

medical members of the Board. V I Leech said things

better. Sian denied. Deryn to xerox part of book for

th newsletter. Cathi to write a report for the

newsletter.

Filing system: Jenette working on this.

occupation, skills, description - cttee, sub p 1.0 or due,
free newsletter.

Newsletter: Sue P to get quotes. List of printing coops.
Sue's ph. no. 760720.

Judy Larkin: plans to start a centre to work towards change
in attitude etc to childbirth. Some functions are
similar to H.B. To be situated in Mt Eden. Support aspects
and business: education; public pressure; business; support
counselling, social centre, office and Maori/Polynesian
element to be developed.

Judy to arrange funds, house etc but needs helpers.

Needs 7 people with respon for each area.

A.G.M. 17th April at Limbs Studio. Cnr Brown & Fitzroy St.
Jeanette will org. creche. Dorothy offers too. Bring a
plate and social after meeting. Name tags - Therese
Agenda - Alison and Joan.

Press release: 1.2.83 Newspapers dealing with Mat. Services
Cttee report 'Mother and baby at home - the early days'.
Barbara to write to labour women M.P.'s to see if report
can be put before a select cttee so that subs can be made.
Joan reported on the Obstets Standards Review Cttee which
has been already estab. Report will probably generate
regulations. Deryn to prepare paper and stats for all
M.P.'s.

Spokesperson: Cathi Sadler to take over from Deryn. Everyone
sorry to see her resign but pleased with Cathi.

Secretary: Barbara to resign as sec. in April. Anyone like
the job?

Next Meeting: Monday 21st Feb at Anne's.

Evaluation of our meetings. Over tea we discussed how our
meetings function, attitudes we have to the job and to each
other. Need to look at this further.

Meeting closed at 11.20

CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION TRUST and ASSOCIATED COMPANY.

The purpose of the trust is to provide support and information to women as mothers. It is to be run along feminist lines, co-operatively, with NO controlling Board of Directors, etc.

CENTRE- need house, 3-4 rooms, plus playroom and yard.

Functions- Education

Publicity/Pressure

Business-provides income

Social -centre open for casual use

Support/Counselling

Office-Files, phone-in information service

Maori/Polynesian orientation

Education.

Emphasis on normal childbirth, home birth/breastfeeding, mothers as active participants.

1. Childbirth Education Course. Fund a 6 month course on normal and abnormal birth, pregnancy, breastfeeding, alternative health care, how to do research, politics of birth in N.Z.

For politically oriented women to gain enough practical information and skills to become a) effective publicity/pressure people, b) antenatal educators, c) support persons in labour (hospital and home), etc.

Course- 6 months x 2 hrs/wk. \$1300 for tutors, \$25 an hr, includes preparation time.

2. Antenatal Classes. Orientation non-interference in childbirth, pro-breastfeeding.

3. Schools service- "Birth" package-movie of (home) birth, midwife/antenatal educator to answer questions. High School teachers would use this service-much easier emotionally to "import" someone to discuss childbirth.

Publicity/Pressure.

1. Support family centred childbirth, general practitioner obstetricians oppose any moves to restrict normal births to the care of specialists.

2. Pressure for equal pay for domiciliary and hospital midwives.

3. Pressure Dept. Health to recognise existence of home birth in Dept. publications.

4. Support a woman's right to choose a home birth, visit G.P.'s/obstetricians who pressure women into hospital births because of a personal bias. Also visit G.P.'s to encourage home births.

5. Watchdog committee to check on veracity of public statements from Min. Health, Donham, etc. Counteract through access to media. Pressure for changes to hospital system, acquaint women of their rights in hosp.

6. Publicity through feminist magazines, local newspapers (very effective for advertising I find) (possible to buy or be given a regular column for publicity purposes)

7. Publish a newsletter - summarise recent research, data, information about home birth, Nat Women / St Helens, birth procedures + statistics.

8. Pressure for N.W. statistics to be published.

Business

Run as a co-op, form company to trade in following articles-recycled kids clothes and toys, baby/child equipment, car seats, baby carriers, etc.

Provides income to pay rent, phone, electricity, etc. Possible(?) to obtain house rent free for 2 yrs, say, then guarantee payment of rent to council or whatever after that from proceeds of business.

There were three such businesses in Berkeley, CA. where I lived, all run for profit and doing well. Feel there would be a considerable market here particularly if we undercut the department stores by making less of a rake-off (more of a monopoly marketing system here JD)

Support/Counselling

Support groups for (A) pregnant women
(B) mothers/fathers of new babies
(C) " " " toddlers
(D) solo mothers/fathers.

....over...

Support/Counselling cont'd

Support groups meet once a week, mornings, coffee tea provided, "facilitator present, who have done the C.E.C. and have skills in working with groups Purpose of support groups to provide answers to questions-answers usually provided by other women-feminist orientation.

2. Counsellors available with cb and counselling training for people with problems, e.g. C-section mothers, Mothers of handicapped kids, pregnancy problems (inductions, etc)

Social Centre

One room, playroom and yard always open and available for casual use for women of area. Like a Community House - free and easy atmosphere, no pressure. Small kitchen facilities. Eventually open 9a.m.-11p.m. The purpose of this is for women to provide support for women (mothers' rather than have it provided by institutions like Plunkets Family Support Unit)

Office

Also to attract women who do not consider themselves "native" but who will become interested and consequently informed

1. Files. Subjective/Objective records of each woman's pregnancy/birth/postnatal experience; evaluation of midwife/doctor. Objective questions for example: scan? episiotomy? which drugs given?

The purpose of this is threefold.

1. serves as a guide to a midwife/doctor for a woman newly pregnant
2. educative process for a woman especially after a hospital birth
3. women keeping their own records will have a salutary effect

2. Phone-in service- information on childbirth, care of children, services available in area for children/parents-similar to service CAB's provide
3. Staffing. Volunteers, trained (like CAB), 1/2 day each. To man phones, shop. No trouble attracting volunteers if place operates on cooperative lines, rather than as an institution.

Maori/Polynesian orientation.

Multicultural from start, brochures/publicity leaflets in six languages Home birth particularly attractive to new immigrants, make major effort to inform M/P women of possibility of home births in N.Z.

Other Thoughts.

Set up one of these centres in each suburb, organised and run by local women. Like Community Houses. Initially need someone to obtain funding-for CEC, for advertising, etc. I'm prepared to do this. Political structure of Trust-NO Board of advisers, etc. Membership available, ?\$10 p.a. This would give reduced prices on goods, say 10%. Vote for 7 reps-Education, Publicity, Pressure, Business, Support, Office, Maori/Polynesian rep. These reps have monthly (public) meetings to coordinate policy, vote for own chairperson.

Judy Larkin, 24 Ashton Rd., Mt. Eden. ph 602301.