Once again we are at the time of the year when the Minister of Health has recently approved the District Health Board Annual Plan for the next year.

Our Annual Plan outlines how we will provide services across the Bay over the 2014/15 year. You will find a summary of the Plan below. There are two of our strategic outcomes that I believe are important to assist us in achieving health and wellbeing for people in the Bay of Plenty.

The first is “People take greater responsibility for their health”. The best way to ensure you are as healthy as you can be is to understand the many ways you can check up on your own health. For example Breast Screening is one of the ways in which women can take proactive measures for themselves. For men there is the need to understand the value of early detection of both prostrate and testicular cancer. Our aim is to work towards fewer people being admitted to hospital for conditions that might have been avoided.

The second is “People receive timely and appropriate care”. This is achieved by focusing on areas such as: reducing waiting time in Emergency Departments so people who have an acute need are seen in a timely way; increased number of elective operations; and increased number of diabetes and health disease checks by general practitioners. There is also an emphasis on ensuring that the service is focused on what is important for you – the patient. Initiatives such as the patient, family and whanau centered care and the ‘what matters to you’ philosophy are slowly and surely changing the way we provide services.

The 2014/15 year will be challenging for the District Health Board however, the rewards will come as we continue to achieve and exceed our goals and targets, and continually improve the way we provide services to all our communities.

Did you know?

The school/community dental service has been a part of the New Zealand landscape for almost 100 years.

1913 – a proposal is made by Dr Norman Cox that oral hygienists be trained to treat children aged 6-14.

1921 – Colonel Thomas Hunter successfully advocated the establishment of the School Dental Service to treat primary school children.

1923 – the first dental nurses graduate from the Wellington School.

1958 – the Tauranga Intermediate School opens including a dental clinic.

2014 onwards – per year, attending the clinic will be approximately 2,500 from Tauranga Intermediate, Tauranga Primary, Kaka Street Special School and Tauranga Waldorf School (Rudolf Steiner), and local pre-school children.

Community Dental Clinic opens

A new Community Dental Clinic has opened in Tauranga with Kaumatua Tawharangi Nuku blessing the building on June 16.

Tauranga Intermediate School Principal Brian Diver said the establishment of the Tauranga Dental facility on the Tauranga Intermediate School site is an excellent example of collaboration between the health and education sectors.

“Congratulations to all involved for bringing this exemplary, state of the art facility to fruition, on time,” he said.

The new clinic has two dental chairs with capacity for a third chair.

Community Dental Manager Sharon McKoy-Thomas says good oral health, for all, for life is the aim and preschool children are where it starts.

“The priority is to provide all children, their families and whanau with accessible and needs responsive, oral health services,” she says.

Planning the future of healthcare in the Bay

The Bay of Plenty District Health Board’s (BOPDHB) Annual Plan and the Māori Health Plan for 2014/2015 have been approved by the Minister of Health.

BOPDHB Planning Manager Stewart Ngatai says it is a credit those involved.

“Thank you to our staff and partners for their unflagging efforts,” he says. “In developing this year’s plan, we have worked extensively with our primary care partners with a focus on how best to provide a seamless patient journey across the health system.”

Key highlights of this year’s Annual Plan include:

• Continuing to meet the needs and aspirations of our community.

• Year 1 implementation of Integrated Healthcare Strategy 2020.

• Greater alignment between the Annual Plan and the Māori Health Plan.

• Meeting the Minister’s priorities within existing resources.

• Patient, family and whanau centred care and adopting a ‘what matters to you?’ philosophy.

• Year 1 implementation of Integrated Healthcare Strategy 2020.

• Greater alignment between the Annual Plan and the Māori Health Plan.

• Meeting the Minister’s priorities within existing resources.

The Annual Plan and Māori Health Plans help the Board and Māori Health Runanga focus on the priorities such as: reducing health inequalities between Māori and non-Māori; addressing the health needs of our children and youth; reducing the impact of long term conditions such as diabetes; and improving the health of our aging population.

“Through the Annual Plan process we have engaged extensively with key stakeholders to align planning and service delivery within both hospital and community settings,” says Stewart.

To better join up the health system, we need to improve the way we work internally across the organisation and with other key organisations such as the Primary Health Organisations and other government departments such as the Ministry of Education.

For electronic copies of the Annual Plan and Māori Health Plan go to our website: http://www.bopdhb.govt.nz/your-dhb/a-z-publications/
The Renal Unit at Tauranga Hospital celebrated 10 years of service in July. The unit provides patients with Renal Replacement Therapy (also called dialysis) by qualified renal nurses under the direction of renal specialists.

Clinical Nurse Manager Terry Jennings says the incidence of kidney disease in the Bay of Plenty is high.

“Statistics show a steady increase in kidney disease with predicted growth around five per cent per year,” she says. “Diabetes is a leading cause of kidney disease in New Zealand. If you live with this condition, regular contact with primary healthcare professionals is essential.”

Through community donations, Bay Health Foundation raised enough funds to see the Tauranga unit lead the way as the first dedicated satellite renal unit to open within the Midland region in 2004. A second dialysis unit opened in Whakatane in 2011 to address the demand for dialysis services in the Eastern Bay.

“The Tauranga unit has grown over the 10 years,” says Terry. “Initially opening with one shift treating six patients per week, to now functioning at capacity with two shifts treating 14 patients per day, delivering 84 dialysis treatments per week. Staffing numbers have also increased with a team of 10 renal trained nurses and one healthcare assistant.”

The philosophy of the service is to promote wellness and independence, therefore improving patient’s quality of life. This valuable service enables patients to receive dialysis treatment closer to home, no longer requiring travel to Waikato Hospital, which occurred historically.

The Tauranga Renal Unit has progressed with technology advancement by replacing all the dialysis machines with new state-of-the-art machines in line with international standards.

Influenza clinical trial calling for participants

The Tauranga Hospital Clinical Trials Unit needs more participants for its influenza trial.

The Clinical Trials Unit at Tauranga Hospital is calling for participants to join its Favor Flu short-term influenza study.

If you have the flu and are interested in becoming part of the trial, please get in touch with Research Nurse Wendy Arnold on 579 8531 or wendy.arnold@bopdhb.govt.nz

Principal Investigator Dr Philip Garden says it’s important to get in touch fairly quickly.

“The purpose of the study is to test how well the study drug works in adults who have flu symptoms that began within 48 hours of their first dose. Participants will be required to have daily visits for the first few days, with the study ending on day 22.”

Influenza is a viral infection. Flu symptoms can include fever, chills, muscle pains or achy feeling, tiredness, as well as respiratory symptoms such as a cough, stuffy nose and feeling short of breath.

The normal treatment for flu is to treat the symptoms with over-the-counter medications or treat with prescription medications that are approved to treat flu.

The Clinical Trials Unit brings new treatments to patients with the goal of achieving better health outcomes for the community. The unit is part of the Bay of Plenty Clinical School Charitable Trust and carries out drug, device and procedure trials. Some studies may last years, others only require participation for weeks or months.

“We are particularly excited about this flu study as it will have over 600 participants world-wide,” says Dr Garden.
More young people are taking up health-related jobs in rural communities such as the Eastern Bay of Plenty thanks to a programme set up by the Bay of Plenty District Health Board.

Academic Coordinator Yvonne Boyes says the Rural Health Inter-professional Immersion Programme (RHIIP) offers health students fantastic hands on experience in a supportive, innovative and patient-centred environment.

“The importance of rural training cannot be underestimated,” she says. “Students learn about rural life and rural health issues, increasing their understanding of the culture of the area and the particular community needs. Having rural experiences can encourage students to continue work in rural practice as a career choice.”

Within the community students participate in events, attend noho marae, visit local farms and orchards, and enjoy the many beach and bush lifestyle opportunities Whakatane and surrounding districts provide. Academic coordinators mentor the students along with their practice supervisors around clinical and pastoral support.

Academic Coordinator Carley Jones says team work is the most effective way to foster an understanding about professional roles.

“The value of inter-professional teams is to provide medical and nursing students, and related healthcare professionals with shared education and training opportunities,” she says.

This program in the Eastern Bay of Plenty is supported by the University of Auckland, Auckland University of Technology (AUT), Waikato Institute Technology, Bay Plenty District Health Board Clinical School and Regional Maori Health Services Whakatane Hospital.

Bay of Plenty District Health Board Clinical Ethics Committee Members

We are seeking expressions of interest from individuals who have a genuine interest in clinical ethics and would like to be a member of the clinical ethics committee.

The primary purpose of the committee is to advise on ethical issues pertaining to healthcare within the DHB area. Membership of the committee includes professionals and lay people from within and outside the DHB.

Clinical ethics is an integral part of quality improvement and clinical risk management. It offers formal support to primary and secondary healthcare professionals on ethical issues arising from their clinical practice. Clinical ethics is about forming a judgment based on the available facts of an individual case and assessing the relative risks, burdens and benefits of different courses of action using appropriate legal and ethical frameworks.

Interested applicants should have an active interest in clinical ethics and a sound understanding of the principles underpinning biomedical ethics.

• The committee meets every second month.
• The committee does not review any aspects of research ethics.
• There is no remuneration for this position.

If you are genuinely interested in being involved in this committee and feel you have the attributes we seek, please forward your name, position and short curriculum vitae or summary of education and relevant work experience by email to gail.rose@bopdhb.govt.nz Telephone: 579 8739, Address: Bay of Plenty DHB, Private Bag 12024, Tauranga.

Nominations close on 10 September 2014.

For further information about the ethics committee, please contact Siobhan Miller on 07 548 0671 or by email siobhan.miller@bopdhb.govt.nz

Call for Expression of Interest

Rotavirus vaccine now free

Babies will now receive the Rotavirus vaccine for free at six weeks, three months, and five months of age as part of the National Immunisation Schedule.

The Rotavirus vaccine named RotaTeq is an oral vaccine. Rotavirus infection causes diarrhoea and vomiting (gastroenteritis), which can lead to severe dehydration, particularly for young babies.

Almost all young children currently catch rotavirus before they are three years old and hundreds of babies and young children are admitted to hospital with rotavirus gastroenteritis every year.

For more info visit www.health.govt.nz or call free phone 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863).

Feedback from Kelly who recently completed the Rural Health Inter-professional Immersion Programme in Whakatane visit a local orchard and packhouse to learn about the culture of the area and the community needs.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here in Whakatane.

The opportunity to participate, view and learn about the challenges that rural health practitioners and patients experience regularly.

This has been insightful and incredibly humbling. Would definitely consider a career in rural health and can’t wait to start my journey.”

Kelly
Health Matters

Flu jab protects mum and baby

Influenza rates have started to increase in the community, according to surveillance by the Ministry of Health. In response they have extended the seasonal influenza programme until the end of August. This means those eligible for free vaccination will be able to get it until 31 August 2014.

One of the eligible groups is pregnant women and Nikita Lloyd who works at an Early Childhood Centre understands the risk of catching diseases such as influenza.

“I will be going back to work when baby is 14 weeks old and he will be joining me. I want to make sure we are both protected,” she says.

“I get the flu jab for free this year because I’m pregnant, but my work offer is still free until 31 August 2014. Those eligible for free vaccination are: anyone 65 years or over; pregnant women; people under 65 with specified existing medical conditions; and children under five who have been hospitalised for respiratory infections or who have a history of recurrent respiratory infections.

Contact your GP or local health centre to get the influenza vaccination. For further information go to www.fightflu.co.nz text FLU to 515 or call 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863).

People with serious mental illness are benefitting from an ongoing partnership between the Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) Mental Health and Addiction Service and the Department of Conservation (DOC).

The programme involves clients working in the Kaimai Mamaku State Forest building tracks and bridges for a new 40 minute loop walk. DOC, the Regional Council and local community work together on the project to provide improved access into the State Forest. Access was previously not possible because of the condition of the road. The road has been fixed and the walkway at the end of the road is intended to improve the amenity for visitors.

BOPDHB Clinical Director Dr Sue Mackersey says the programme provides clients with vocational skills, healthy activity, socialisation, meaningful activity and fun.

“Many issues experienced by people with mental illness are to do with boredom and loss of usual social networks,” she says. “Work rehabilitation is an important part of recovery.”

Each week day there is a team of up to 16 people working on the project. The current challenge is to get a walkway across a swamp. The walkway is being built from timber the team milled last winter for this purpose.

“Work Programme Manager Paul Mason assures us there are no dry feet at the end of the day,” says Sue.

The track follows the route of the historic Leyland O’Brien tramway that was constructed to take felled timber to the mill.

DOC has more than enough ongoing work and Sue says there is a waiting list to get onto the programme.

“The work provides variety and a fantastic environment for the workers.”