

## COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

### MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 11 October 2011

Large Executive Conference Room, Level 2  
Department for Child Protection  
189 Royal Street, East Perth

Meeting commenced at 9:30am

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable meeting.

##### Present

Ms Sue Ash	UnitingCare West
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Captain Ken Smith	The Salvation Army

##### In attendance

Mr Terry Murphy	Department for Child Protection
Ms Christine Sewell	Department for Child Protection

##### Apologies

Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection
Ms Les Evans	Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Chris Hall	MercyCare
Ms Anne Moore	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)
Mr Ashley Reid	MercyCare
Ms Rae Walter	Ngala

#### 2. Minutes of meeting held 13 September 2011

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 13 September 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

#### 3. Actions Arising

##### 3.1 Leadership and Partnership Forum – finalise agenda, guest speakers and letters of invitation to government departments.

Mr Glew advised that the agenda is almost complete. He will be meeting with Ms Cattalini to finalise the agenda and program after which Mr Glew will send the Agenda out.

Liz Gosling has been confirmed as a guest speaker.

**Action:** Ms Cattalini, Ms Murray, Mr Glew and Mr Hamilton to have a meeting to discuss case studies.

**Action:** Mr Glew to send out Agenda.

### **3.2 Income Management Data**

To be carried forward to next meeting as still waiting on data.

**Action:** Ms Benham to provide Income Management Data to CSR members once the full date set is available.

### **3.3 Secure Care PowerPoint presentation to members and link to Casework Practice Manual.**

Mr Glew advised that the Secure Care PowerPoint has been distributed to all members.

### **3.4 At Risk Youth Strategy – feedback.**

The members of the CSR committee have been asked to provide feedback on the Youth at Risk Paper that was tabled at the September meeting.

Mr Murphy noted that the Department for Child Protection's view is that if Government is going to invest it should be invested at the 'At Risk' end. Youth services are underfunded – that issue will be the single budget priority for this year.

Mr Pietropiccolo brought up the issue of a lack of a concerted effort amongst departments to deal with at risk youth. Each Department has its' own strategy rather than looking at youth at risk as a whole between the Departments.

Ms Cattalini said it was worth reflecting on whether or not the recent attention creates another opportunity to keep the emphasis on the role of prevention and deterrence services that divert children from crime. More resources need to be directed to these services, rather than the current focus on catch, convict, punish.

It was agreed that it would be helpful if there was consultation prior to public statements by the Police Commissioner so there could be a coordinated and strategic response in place.

Mr Murphy said that The Hon. Rob Johnson MLS JP has been emphasising the role of the Crime Prevention Council that he chairs. It is a multi- government agency group and includes local government – not community groups.

Ms Ash suggested that it be brought up at the Partnership Forum that there is partnership between communities and government as this is critical to the outcome of having effective service systems. It was suggested that WACOSS become involved.

Mr Hamilton raised the issue of the Three Strikes policy and of families being evicted from their homes resulting in their children no longer having access to stable education. There needs to be a cohesive approach to people being evicted from Department of Housing accommodation.

Ms Cattalini suggested that Mr Pietropiccolo, as Chair of the Community Sector Roundtable (CSR) put forward an opinion piece in response to the Commissioner's media statement. It would be an opportunity to restate the importance of preventative measures and of a cohesive and organised response.

The keys messages in an opinion piece would be those issues around which we need to be building systems where there is hope, rather than giving in. There are strategies that need to be reinforced and resourced. There are new strategies that need to be developed and there are fundamentals that have become more imperative now and they are about stable accommodation.

Housing is crucial to education and health. More emphasis needs to be placed on early health services to reduce the amount of children coming through the Child Protection system.

Ms Cattalini suggested that any suggestions be sent to her and Mr Pietropiccolo and they will work on an opinion piece. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to submit it under the CSR as they are a new and representative voice.

Ms Cattalini requested a briefing from Mr Murphy about the MOU with the Department of Housing relating to the Three Strikes policy.

**Action:** The members of the committee have been asked to provide feedback on the Youth at Risk Paper to Ms Flanagan by the end of October 2011.

**Action:** An electronic copy of the paper At Risk Youth Strategy 2011-2014: Supporting Vulnerable Youth to reach their Potential is to be sent out with the minutes.

**Action:** Members to send suggestions for the opinion piece to Ms Cattalini and Mr Pietropiccolo.

**Action:** Briefing on the MOU between DCP and Housing regarding the Three Strikes Policy.

## Agenda Items

### 4.1 State Domestic Violence Strategy

The Chair welcomed Ms Sherrilee Mitchell to the meeting. Ms Mitchell provided an overview of the State Domestic Violence Strategy including the following information:

- The purpose of the Family and Domestic Violence Senior Officers' Group is to plan, manage and monitor a strategic across-government response to the issue of family and domestic violence.
- To consider remedies to systemic issues reported through regional mechanisms.
- To act as an advisory body to the Department for Child Protection as the lead agency on the COAG Officials Working Group, in the development and implementation of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (National Plan).
- Staff from the Policy and Planning, Family & Domestic Violence division are available to visit services to talk to their staff.
- Further information on the strategy can be found at <http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/CrisisAndEmergency/FDV/Pages/FamilyandDomesticViolence.aspx>

The Chair thanked Ms Mitchell for her thorough presentation.

## **4.2 Changes to the Medicare rebate**

Parkerville Children and Youth Care's stance is that children and families can access 18 sessions, in three blocks of six. Each time they have to go to their General Practitioner and get a Mental Health Plan and that has to be signed off. The Hon. Mark Butler MP is saying is that they can only access twelve sessions, and that is being reduced to ten. Mr Hanna says this is incorrect, currently children and young people who suffer trauma due to abuse and need mental health intervention can access 18 sessions and Parkerville Children and Youth Care's argument is that these children actually need more than 18 sessions.

The reply from the Hon. Mr Butler's office to Mr Hanna is that they don't see that there is a reduction as the additional six sessions were only to be used in exceptional circumstances and in fact if a child or young person requires those additional six sessions they should be referred to a psychiatrist.

Mr Butler's office is acknowledging the fact that the program is not servicing hard to reach groups such as young people, men living in rural and remote areas, Indigenous Australians and people living in areas of high socio-economic disadvantage. His department thinks that by reducing the amount of available sessions to ten it will then be available to more people.

Last week Mr Hanna met with Senator Rachel Siewert and she says there is a very strong argument for children and young people within our sector to be presented as a different cohort. Senator Siewert will be supportive of the community sector's work in this regards.

Mr Hanna will enlist the support of others to help convince The Hon. Mark Butler see that there is another way of looking at this issue. Mr Hanna will keep the committee informed.

<b>Action:</b> Mr Hanna to keep the committee informed of developments.
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## **4.3 End of Year Lunch**

Mr Glew suggested that the final meeting of the year be followed by a lunch to celebrate the successes of the past year. It was suggested that the meeting be extended and then the committee would go out to lunch. The date of the final meeting is 13 December 2011. Mr Glew will send out a calendar appointment once the details have been confirmed.

<b>Action:</b> Mr Glew to confirm details of End of Year Lunch and send out a calendar appointment.
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## **5. Other Business**

### **5.1 Special Guardianship DCP Process**

Mr Hanna expressed concern that Parkerville Children and Youth Care had not been consulted prior to the Departmental discussions with Carers about the Special Guardianship Orders.

These concerns included Carers not being able to access financial assistance from the Department for Child Protection. Both Ms Murray and Ms Barnett indicated that they have had Carers register under Special Guardianship Orders and their financial support was still being paid. Mr Murphy confirmed that the Department is still supporting financially.

**6. Future Discussions**

No discussions on this item.

**7. Next Meeting**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:09am. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 November 2011 at 9:30am.