

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 13 September 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 Carmen Acosta	Mission Australia
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Ms Les Evans	Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Mr Ashley Reid	MercyCare
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Ms Rae Walter	Ngala

In attendance

Mr Terry Murphy	Department for Child Protection
Mr Nicholas Trahanas	Department for Child Protection
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection

Apologies

Ms Sue Ash	UnitingCare West
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Mr Ross Kyrwood	Mission Australia
Ms Anne Moore	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Captain Ken Smith	The Salvation Army

2. Minutes of meeting held 9 August 2011

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 9 August 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Actions Arising

3.1 Leadership and Partnership Forum – agenda items and guest speakers.

Mr Glew advised that the development of the agenda is progressing, however guest speakers still need to be finalised. Invitations are to be sent to representatives of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Department of Treasury and the Department of Finance to participate in and observe the

Forum. Members agreed that a letter be forwarded Mr Peter Conran, Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, inviting him to present on outcome based contracting and reporting. Ms Acosta suggested that Mission Australia could provide a case study of a non-government agencies perspective of/experience with outcome based contracting and reporting.

Action: Letters to be prepared as stated above.

3.2 National Collaboration Framework – feedback

Mr Murphy advised that the document was ratified by CDSMAC on 18 August 2011. It will now go to the Community and Disabilities Services Ministers Conference to be endorsed by the Ministers, in October. The paper will be jointly presented by the Commonwealth and Western Australia.

3.3 Sanctuary model - update

Mr Glew advised that invitations have now gone out to all relevant agencies. There is a one day workshop for agencies running placements and a three day workshop for agencies operating the family group homes.

3.5 Income Management data – status report

Ms Benham advised that the data on Voluntary Income Management has not yet been received from Centrelink. Once the full set of data is available Ms Benham will provide to CSR members.

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

4. Agenda Items

4.1 HUGS report

The Chair welcomed Ms Katrina Vernon to the meeting. Ms Vernon provided an overview of the Hardship Utility Grant Scheme including the following information:

- A Hardship Utility Grant Scheme (HUGS) provides financial assistance to people in genuine financial hardship to pay their utility accounts so as to maintain connection to essential services (electricity, gas, water).
- The 2010-2011 Budget allocated an additional \$6 million for the continuation of the HUGS program and to increase the capacity of the financial counselling services.
- In December 2010 the HUGS Guidelines were reviewed and amended to include an expansion of the Exceptional Circumstances of Hardship criteria and the provision of an additional grant.
- The utilities currently participating in HUGS are Synergy, Horizon Power, Water Corporation, Alinta, Busselton Water and Aqwest (Bunbury).
- HUGS grant limits have increased as tariffs have risen.
- 17,244 grants have been approved, totalling \$5,984,808, since the commencement of HUGS on 4 August 2008.
- As of 1 August there is dual entry to HUGS. Grants can now be processed by Synergy, Water Corporation and Horizon if under a set limit, without the need to go through a financial counsellor.
- In January to March 2011, the average number of grant approvals per month was 968, compared to 957 approvals per month in the previous quarter – an increase of 1%.

- In the January to March quarter 5,636 clients were referred from the utilities to financial counselling services for HUGS applications to be progressed.
- A total of 26,583 referrals were made by the utilities up to the end of March 2011 since the commencement of HUGS.

Further information was provided in the paper, *Hardship Utility Grant Scheme: Report to the HUGS Steering Committee, January to March 2011*, provided prior to the meeting.

The Chair thanked Ms Vernon for her thorough presentation.

4.2 Secure Care

The Chair welcomed Mr Gavin West to the meeting.

Mr West provided a detailed overview of Secure Care, the PowerPoint presentation will be forwarded to members with the papers for the next meeting.

Discussion ensued including the following:

- There are three parts to Secure Care - Therapeutic Care Team; Practice Support Team; Health Team.
- Oversees the development of therapeutic care plans with all parties participating in developing individualised treatment plan.
- This process commences with the Referral thru the Admission process into the Secure Care Initial Care Plan Meeting and brought together in the Transition / Exit plan meeting.
- Health Team consists of: Senior Manager Secure Care; Senior Consultant Psychologist; General Practitioner (.2 FTE); Mental Health Nurse (1.5 FTE); Psychiatrist (.2 FTE); Aboriginal Practice Leader; Administrative Officer.
- The aim of secure care admission is to: Stabilize the young person and keep them safe whilst at secure care; develop a suitable transition plan with services to address their needs in readiness for their return to community.
- Admission may be by way of: an administrative decision of the CEO in respect of a "protected child" - one who is already in the CEO's care under a protection order (time-limited) or protection order (until 18). This process requires consultation to occur between the District and Secure Care.
- A secure care period must not exceed 21 days, unless the CEO extends the secure care period by up to 21 days if satisfied there are exceptional reasons for doing so.
- Secure care is not an alternative for children with a medically diagnosed condition that requires psychiatric treatment
- Children cannot be placed in the secure care facility while on remand nor children placed there as a condition of bail.

The Chair thanked Mr West for his informative presentation.

Action: Mr West to provide Ms Flanagan with the PowerPoint presentation to provide to members.
Ms Flanagan to provide the link to the Secure Care component in the Casework Practice Manual.

4.3 Secondary Family Support Network - update

The Request for Proposal closes on 23 September 2011, further detail will be provided once the selection process is finalised.

4.4 DCP Homelessness Response - CHOGM

Mr Glew spoke to a paper he tabled, *Department for Child protection and Street to Home Service Providers Plan for Homeless People who may be Sleeping Rough During CHOGM*.

Discussion ensued including the following:

- Homeless people will not be forcibly moved.
- UnitingCare West (UCW) will appoint a Response Co-ordinator to ensure final arrangements are in place and be a point of contact for any queries.
- UCW Tranby Day Centre in Aberdeen Street will provide additional services and hours of operation will be outside normal parameters to provide services including a 24 hour central safe and supportive environment; provide meals for up to 70 individuals, and temporary sleeping area for 30 individuals.
- The Department for Child Protection will allocate additional brokerage funding to Street to Home service providers to increase their capacity to assist people sleeping rough, for instance, assisting individuals to make alternative accommodation arrangements for the period September, October and November 2011 to ensure pre and post CHOGM support.

4.5 At Risk Youth Strategy 2011-2014

Ms Benham discussed the paper, *At Risk Youth Strategy 2011-2014: Supporting Vulnerable Youth to reach their Potential*, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The following points were raised:

- The *At Risk Youth Strategy 2011-2014* focuses on the services contracted or provided by the Department, targeted to young people experiencing the greatest level of risk. It recognises that responses to at risk young people and young people in care need to match the needs and resources of the communities where they reside.
- The object of the strategy is to clarify DCP's role and that of other key players, provide direction and identify significant issues
- The Strategy was developed in partnership with the community services sector.
- The Strategy is focused; it does not attempt to be all inclusive.
- The Department for Communities is in the process of developing a broader strategy.
- Members acknowledged and discuss the significant capacity and funding issues of the community sector youth services.
- Priority to build the capacity of the sector and position an outlay price adjustment.

Ms Benham requested that members provide feedback on this Strategy, either directly to Mr David Cain or through Ms Flanagan.

Action: Members provide feedback on this Strategy, either directly to Mr David Cain or through Ms Flanagan by the end of October.
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5. Other business

Nil

6. Future Discussions

Future Discussions	Proposed Date
Changes to the Medicare rebate for clinical services	October 2011
Family Support Network – update	November 2011
CREATE to provide an overview of the new program Create Your Future	November 2011
Joint meeting of CSR and CSDG – issues for discussion	December 2011
WA Legislation (T Murphy)	Early 2012
Engaging community sector for future Secondary Family Support Networks (Chair)	Early 2012
Hubs for early childhood development (guest speaker, Education Department)	Early 2012
CAARS update	TBA
Geographical and other Pressure Points	TBA
Interface of child protection with homelessness and other areas of DCP	TBA
NGO statistics	TBA
Concerns with placing severely traumatised 10-12 year age group	TBA

7. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:35am. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11 October, 2011, at 9:30am.