

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 10 July 2012

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 Deputy Chair welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable meeting.

Present

Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Mr Mick Geaney	MercyCare
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Carol Jones-Lummis	Share & Care Community Services Group
Ms Anne Moore	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala

In attendance

Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection
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Apologies

Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Ms Melissa Perry	Mission Australia
Ms Les Evans	Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Terry Murphy	Department for Child Protection

2. Selection of Chairperson

The Deputy Chair asked members for nominations for the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson which are vacated and refilled each year in July. Mr Pietropiccolo, the previous Chair is absent but had previously indicated that he would be pleased to step aside if another member nominated for the position of Chair. One nomination for each position was received, Mr Basil Hanna for Chair and Ms Cattalini for the position of Deputy Chair. Members accepted those nominations.

Resolution: *Mr Hanna elected Chairperson and Ms Cattalini Deputy Chairperson for a term ending June 30 2013.*

The Chair thanked Mr Pietropiccolo AM for his five years as Chairperson of the Community Sector Roundtable and asked that a formal letter of appreciation be forwarded.

Action: Letter of appreciation to be forwarded to Mr Pietropiccolo AM.

3. Minutes of meeting held 12 June 2012

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 12 June 2012 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

4. Actions Arising

4.1 Opinion Piece in response to the Commissioner's media statement – Department of Housings Three Strikes policy

Ms Cattalini advised that the paper is currently being drafted by Ms Helen Creed, and it was agreed that Ms Creed would liaise with the Chair to finalise the paper.

Action: The Chair to liaise with Ms Creed, WACOSS, to finalise the paper.

4.2 Individualised funding

Ms Cattalini advised that, via the Partnership Forum, there is an intention to move towards more consumer directed services, part of this mix is to introduce individualised funding budgets. The sector has the opportunity to consider this type of funding model. However more depth of analysis and increased understanding of the constraints and opportunities is required, plus consideration as to what extent are we already in this space.

Ms Benham noted the range of clients, issues and the flow on effects of this type of funding model. Two examples were provided:

1. Leaving care – each young person has a leaving care plan with funding attached, this is individualised according to the young person's needs.
2. Foster Carers – currently examining the possibility of providing foster carers with discretionary funding rather than having to seek reimbursements and/or permission.

Brokerage funding is also provided to the homelessness sector to meet individual needs of clients. This funding is managed by the case worker, not the individual.

Discussion then ensued on Self Directed Care, including the following points:

- Self-directed funding is funding that is allocated to the individual to enable the funding to be utilised in a flexible and responsive way to meet the individual's needs. The individual is provided with the funding and makes the decisions about how the money is spent.
- Individualised funding is allocated to an individual to meet their individual needs, but is controlled by a third party.
- Complex issues and challenges regarding monitoring and accountability ensuring appropriate use of the money.
- Complexity regarding who decides what is appropriate for an individual.
- Dignity of choice.
- Differences between the disabilities services sector, where this model is utilised and clients require services for life, and the community services sector, where needs are constantly changing and clients move in and out of the sector.

Members agreed that a more comprehensive review is required. It was agreed that the CSR working group to develop the agenda for the Leadership and Partnership Forum will consider Individualised Funding as an agenda item for the Forum.

Mr Glew agreed develop a paper as a basis to progress this issue, for discussion at the August meeting.

Action: Mr Glew to develop a paper for discussion on Individualised funding. CSR Working Group re L&P Forum to consider this item as an agenda item.

4.3 Agency Implementation Plan

Mr Glew advised that the final copy of the Agency Implementation Plan was distributed to members prior to the meeting. It was noted that the electronic date inserted on the front of the plan updates when the plan is opened, thus not reflecting the date of release. This has been rectified. The 29th of June is the correct date.

WACOSS has been facilitating a number of workshops, on behalf of DCP. These workshop have been well received. The information collected in the workshops will be incorporated into the financial implications paper.

Ms Vernon is leading the development of this paper. Ms Vernon advised that there is an independent review taking place of all the AIP's across government, in July/August. This will then go to the Independent Review Committee. The Department has not been advised of how the process will occur or who will sit on this Committee. The financial Implications paper must be submitted by the end of September. A request has gone out to all agencies requesting information regarding the costs of service operation. This information is important to inform the DCP budget bid, it is indicative only and will not be used in re-negotiating contracts.

Ms Cattalini expressed concern that the time frame was very tight, making it difficult for some agencies to provide a considered costing analysis. Ms Vernon agreed to extend the due date by one week to 23 July 2012. It was also noted that some services are funded by multiple agencies, thus making it difficult to separate/isolate their costs for the DCP funded component. Members noted that this was a beneficial process for an organisation, providing a clear financial picture. Homelessness services are excluded from this process.

Action: Ms Vernon to advise agencies of the extension for the costing.

4.4 Leadership and Partnership Forum – agenda items/working group

Mr Glew requested that a working group be established to develop the agenda for the Leadership and Partnership Forum. The following members agreed to participate:

- Ms Cattalini
- Mr Glew
- Mr Hanna
- Ms Murray

Action: Working Group to meet to develop the agenda. Including guest speakers for the Leadership and Partnership Forum.

4.5 Identification of future agenda items

Secure Care – figures to be provided at the August meeting. This data is confidential and not for circulation.

Mental Health issues regarding children – concerns that children with psychiatric symptoms resulting from abuse are often disregarded by the mental health sector. It was suggested that a guest speaker on this topic be invited to present at the Leadership and Partnership Forum.

East Kimberley Intergenerational Issues – the Chair to discuss with the DG how this would be best progressed and set a date for this to be discussed at CSR.

Children and Community Services Act (CCSA) Review – to be included on the August agenda. Ms Cattalini will facilitate discussion regarding the types of issues being raised and seek feedback from members.

AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 Costs of Child Care for Children in Care

Ms Murray discussed concerns regarding the rising costs of child care for children in care. This is causing serious funding issues for non-government agencies in WA and also in Queensland and the ACT.

The following issues were discussed:

- Most carers work at least part time and for children who are preschool and children who need holiday care, child care is the only option available.
- The cost of child care is rising and will continue to rise with the changes in regulations
- The Child Care benefit (CCB) is means tested against the carers income – if this could be alleviated it would make an enormous difference.
- The way agencies deal with the rebate available (50% -up to \$7500) varies, some take the money back from the carers and others let it go. Some put it against the cost of the child care so that it becomes a deduction on the child care fee.
- In Queensland, they give the case support costs to the carer, who can then use as required, and they come back to the agency to for the gap.
- Case support costs are approximately \$90 per week and child care costs are from \$65 - \$100 per day.
- Children who are disadvantaged benefit greatly from child care.
- Currently the Federal government provides 2 days per week of free child care to grandparent carers.

Members discussed the value of encouraging interested parties to speak to the Commonwealth government about this issue, aiming for foster children to get the full CCB, the rebates be provided to the provider of the service rather than the carer and that the two days of free child care be provided to all foster children (not just those with grandparents).

Ms Benham advised that a proposal is being developed as part of the three year action plan under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. The proposal recommends that foster carers not be subjected to the means test or the work study test

when utilising an approved child care centre. This would provide them with access to the CCB rebate. This proposal will also recommend that the rebate be provided directly to the service provider.

This issue will also be discussed at the Family and Children Roundtable in August. It was noted that Mr Pietropiccolo is the Coalition representative which reports to CDSMAC, and suggested that he be asked to include this on that agenda.

The Chair noted that the Alliance was in a good position to develop a position to present to the Commonwealth government and also requested that WACOSS present a position on behalf of the sector. Members agreed to place this item on relevant agendas of committees they participate on.

Action: Members to include this item on relevant agendas for discussion.

5.2 Family Support Network

The Chair provided the following information on the Armadale Family Support Network (AFSN):

- 72 referrals received in June
- 24 referrals direct to CEP Team via 1300 number or walk ins
- 11 referrals from DCP
- 8 referrals from schools
- 62 open cases
- 5 on active hold – waiting for services from partner agencies
- 4 on active hold – waiting for services from non-partner agencies

Partner agencies to date: Ruah Community Services, DCP, Wanslea, Mission Australia, Relationships Australia, Minnowarra House, DrugArm, Centrecare and Coolabaroo. Additional agencies are considering joining the partnership.

The FuSioN mentor has submitted his resignation to DCP, a new FuSioN mentor is yet to be appointed, so currently using Help Desk and contacts at DCP IT for support. DCP is producing the reports which should be available by the end of month.

The DCP Leader Child Protection position has been advertised for 12 months. Unfortunately the current person did not apply so there will be a change in personnel.

The AFSN hosted a meeting of local networks at Centrecare on 28 June, 2012, which was attended by approximately 20 representatives from local networks to discuss and share information regarding aims and goals of networks, service gaps and needs, and common issues. This was deemed to be very successful.

6. Other Business

NIL

7. Future Discussions

Discussed under item 4.5.

8. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:00am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 August 2012 at 9:30am.