

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 14 August 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 Chair welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable meeting.

Present

Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection
Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Mr Mick Geaney	MercyCare
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Ms Melissa Perry	Mission Australia
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala

In attendance

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

Apologies

Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Ms Les Evans	Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation
Ms Carol Jones-Lummis	Share & Care Community Services Group
Ms Anne Moore	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)

2. Minutes of meeting held 10 July 2012

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 10 July 2012 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings with two minor amendments to item 5.1.

3. Actions Arising

3.1 Letter of appreciation to Mr Pietropiccolo AM

Members joined the Chair in thanking Mr Pietropiccolo for his years as Chairperson and the chairmanship, commitment and humour that he brought to the committee.

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

The Chair advised that the paper has not yet been completed. He will progress with Ms Cattalini when she returns from holiday.

This item deferred to next meeting.

3.3 Individualised Funding

Mr Glew advised that the first draft has been completed. The final version will be circulated to members out of session.

Action: Paper to be circulated to members once complete.

3.4 Agency Implementation Plan – extension of due date for costing information

Mr Glew advised that the Agency Implementation Plan has been reviewed by WACOSS and is scheduled to be reviewed by the Department of Finance this week.

3.5 Leadership and Partnership Forum –working group

Mr Glew advised that the working group has met and has progressed in securing guest speakers for the Forum. Michelle Scott, Commissioner for Children and Young People, is confirmed.

3.6 Costs of Child Care for Children in Care – progress in formulating positions and including on relevant agendas

Ms Murray advised that this issue has been raised in several forums including the Children and Family Roundtable. At this forum the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Community Services, raised the issue with particular reference to foster children. The Minister for Human Services, Senator Kim Carr also agreed to keep this issue on the agenda.

At a minimum, it is anticipated that the provision of the fifteen hours of free child care, which is currently provided to grandparent carers, will be made available to foster carers. Other provisions being requested include enabling Nannies to access the rebate, foster carers to be exempt from means testing, and for the funding to go with the child.

Mr Murphy noted that these provisions are also being pursued under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Secure Care - Statistics

Ms Benham distributed statistics, including statistical tables on the number of all placements prior to entering secure care; number of all placements 12 months prior to entering secure care; and placement types for children/young people.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Members expressed concern that after the 20 days in secure care the youths maybe moved into Tier 2 care (residential group home), in turn forcing other youths into Tier 1 (family group homes), resulting in youths receiving a level of support inappropriate to their needs.
- Members queried the availability of data to provide a snap shot across the sector – how many placements, location, indigenous/non-indigenous, where they go when they leave secure care etc. Ms Benham advised that the Department has completed an initial evaluation that provides this information.
- It was suggested that once the data on secure care has been prepared and discussed, it would be beneficial to review similar data for other cohorts.
- Complexities of placing a child in the best placement for their needs. This does not always occur for reasons including placement availability. Can lead to the placement breaking down.
- A concentrated effort is required to ensure smooth transitioning through the three tiers of residential care.

Action: The evaluation of Secure Care to be provided with the minutes.

Mr Murphy advised that a media campaign (TV ad) to recruit foster carers is to be launched on 15 September 2012 and will run to 30 January 2013. No print media is planned. Members queried the possibility of utilising the Departments graphics and other material for their own campaigns to maintain the common recognisable theme. It was agreed that non-government agencies could have access to the graphics and branding for the campaign once it is finalised.

Members discussed the analysis of the first campaign. Members were advised that the District office have their own strategies for analysis of the range of foster carers, who applies and who is successful. A National survey of carers is undertaken periodically and there is the potential to undertake a joint analysis. It was noted that a growing cohort of carers of school aged children are single women, teachers and nurses.

Action: Mr Glew to contact Darren O'Malley, Manager, Corporate Communications and Marketing to enable access to campaign material.

The Chair announced that Parkerville had been successful in attaining a *Child Aware Approaches* grant of \$200,000 over a five month period to market and provide education on the role of the child and family advocate nationally. Work will be undertaken in NSW, NT and regional WA.

DCP is concerned that the Department was not informed of these grants and were not asked to take part in the selection, contrary to the National Framework for Collaboration. Given that it was a National funding program, it was not widely advertised.

Action: Ms Flanagan to circulate the list of successful applicants for the *Child Aware Approaches* grants.

4.2 CCSA Review

Deferred to next meeting.

5. Other Business

5.1 Armadale Family Support Network

The Chair discussed the following points:

- The Network is very busy at present.
- Recently met with DCP regarding brokerage funding (\$638 000) and are developing a process to disseminate the funding to the Alliance partners.
- The evaluation by KMPG is progressing well.
- Good working relationship with the DCP District Director and District staff.
- Anticipating a connection with the Child and Parent Centres, at present the Centres have no referral process established.
- Established connection with Child Health Nurses.
- Potential to connect with the new Child and Adolescent Health Service.

Discussion ensued on the absence of alignment between Child and Parent Centres and the Child and Adolescent Health Service. Further discussion and consideration is required as to how these new initiatives can connect to, add value to and/or utilise existing resources and other new initiatives.

It was agreed to include an update on the Armadale Family Support Network on the agenda every three months. To be included on the November agenda when some detail on the Child and Parent Centres and the Child and Adolescent Health Service and how they may link to the Network should be available.

Action: Armadale Family Support Network to be on the agenda every three months.

5.2 Invitation to presentation by Brenton Caffin

Mr Murphy advised that an invite is going out this week regarding a presentation by Brenton Caffin, Chief Executive Officer, The Australian Centre for Social Innovation, South Australia. This will take the form of a Roundtable with a focus on peer support and co-decision making. Simply put, discussion will focus on how families who have been through difficult times can assist families who are currently experiencing difficulties. The Roundtable will take place on Tuesday 16 October, 3-5pm at the Perth Office of DCP, Stirling Street.

5.3 Absence of Steve Glew

Mr Glew advised that he would be absent for the next two meetings and suggested that Ms Katrina Vernon, A/Director Non-Government Policy and Funding, attend the meetings to answer any questions that may arise in his absence. Members agreed that Ms Vernon should attend the September and October meetings of CSR.

Action: Ms Vernon to be invited to the September and October meetings of CSR.

6. Future Discussions

See agenda.

7. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 10:45am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 September 2012 at 9:30am.