

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 13 December 2016

Large Executive Conference Room, Second Floor
Department for Child Protection and Family Support
189 Royal Street, East Perth

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable (CSR) meeting, and provided Apologies.

The Chair welcomed Ms Louise Giolitto to her first meeting.

An Acknowledgement of Country was made by the Chair.

Present

Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc (Chairperson)
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Ian Carter	Anglicare WA
Ms Mandy Gadsdon	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Louise Giolitto	WACOSS
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Debbie Henderson	Family Inclusion Network of WA Inc
Mr Daniel Morrison	Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Ms Dawn Wallam	Yorganop
Ms Emma White	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

In attendance

Ms Pippa Monger	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Terry Simpson	Consultant

Apologies

Ms Sue Ash	UnitingCare West
Ms Amanda Hunt	Mission Australia
Ms Melissa Perry	Communicare Inc
Ms Peta Nordberg	Lifestyle Solutions
Ms Debra Zanella	Ruah

The meeting commenced at 9:35am.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 31 October 2016

The minutes from the CSR meeting held on 31 October 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

It was noted that the CSR meeting currently coincides with the CEO Round Table held by the Disability Services Commission and need to consider coordinating meetings in 2017. Ms White to provide contact details of the relevant person at DSC to Ms Monger.

3. Actions Arising

- No actions arising addressed at the meeting.

4. Agenda items:

4.1 Strategy Reform Project Roadmap/OOHC Update

- The Strategy and Reform Project Update – 13 December 2016 was distributed to members prior to the meeting.
- Ms Benham provided a summary of the progress of the Reform projects, including:
 - to date over 1,000 NATs completed. The Department is closely monitoring and has been able to handle any glitches that has arisen;
 - tender for the Cross-sector Foster Care Panel about to close. Consideration to be given to continuing and/or expanding the working group to oversee the evaluation of the new Panel process;
 - Adoptions Applications Panel is very supportive of the streamlining of fostering and adoptions reform work being undertaken;
 - the submission for the reportable conduct scheme will go to Cabinet separate to the legislative changes to the Ombudsman's role in oversight of the system with community sector organisations. Hope to have this progressed before the royal commission final report is handed down;
 - there has been delays in the development of the cultural foster care competencies; and
 - excellent support has been provided by all working groups with the reform activities.
- Members discussed the work happening with DPC and Treasury on social impact bonds (SIB), the Department has been interested in exploring a SIB for leaving care. DPC and Treasury are going to coordinate this centrally, as many Government departments have been exploring SIBs.
- Mr Pietropiccolo voiced his concern in regard to investing in SIBs, stating that it would cost government more to fund through this approach rather than appropriately funding programs directly.

4.2 EIFSS Implementation Plan Update

- EIFSS update included in Strategy and Reform Project Update.
- Ms White confirmed the Department is waiting on a budget announcement regarding the EIFSS. The proposal included new funding for:
 - expansion of FSNs across the metropolitan area;
 - new Aboriginal family support services aligned to FSNs; and
 - project team to support these initiatives.

4.3 Update on Partnership Forum work on Outcomes Framework

- Mr Carter and Ms White provided an update on the work being undertaken through the Partnership Forum on the development of an outcomes framework for earlier intervention and support services for vulnerable children and families – refer to Handout – Partnership Forum Outcomes Framework.
- Level of engagement and commitment to the project has been good, with high retention rate with both workshops and involvement of senior representatives of Government departments.
- The Partnership Forum focus is to develop a framework, level of consultation/engagement and level of process that results in a framework people feel connected with and owned, that is able to be applied across Government.
- Steering committee to reconvene in early 2017, aspirational timeframe for completion is end of the first quarter in 2017.
- This outcomes framework will be used in the evaluation of the EIFSS.
- Recognition that this work is specific for the EIFSS, however it has started discussions about an outcomes framework more broadly for human services.

- Members discussed the challenges of consultation with consumers, the need to plan for translating high level concepts to enable better participation/feedback and respectful use of information collected, particularly with other information not directly related/relevant to the subject.

4.4 Care Team Approach Framework

- Ms Gadsdon provided an outline of the Care Team Approach Framework – distributed to members prior to the meeting.
- The Care Team Approach Framework is an evolution of the 2009 Foster Care Partnership Framework, which was reviewed in 2012.
- The framework's focus is to support a child's sense of stability and belonging, and recognising that people important to children come from all aspects of their lives.
- The approach is a core element of how departmental staff work together with children, parents, families, carers and stakeholders.
- The Care Team Tree and Brud the Owl are tools which help to explain who is in their Care Team and their role in supporting the child.
- The Chair advised that Parkerville have had Care Teams for the past ten years. He raised the following in regard to the framework:
 - Historically family group home carers have been discouraged to have contact with birth families, and therefore is not part of the Parkerville Care Team approach.
 - The framework refers to 'regular Care Team meetings' and then two meetings per year. Parkerville Care Teams have fortnightly Care Team meetings. From a therapeutic point of view, this is necessary when children come to the agency disregulated.
 - The framework has an emphasis on foster carers, as opposed to employee carers.
- Members were advised that the framework is a department endorsed policy, aligned with departmental policies on birth parent/carer relationships and permanency planning. The focus is to reframe the mindset around birth parent engagement and connection.
- Ms Henderson queried how the framework was going to be integrated with sector agencies that may already have Care Team structures. The Chair stated that the document would cause confusion with sector agencies without education sessions.
- Ms Gadsdon stated that this will be taken into consideration with the communication strategy and offered to meet with sector staff.

4.5 Guest Speakers

- CSR requested Mr Gary Hewitt to attend the September meeting to discuss early childhood programs with the Education Department. The September meeting was cancelled and we have not rescheduled as yet. Mr Hewitt suggested that he attend after the State Election. Mr Carter stated that the evaluation is due in March, therefore it would be good if Mr Hewitt could talk about the first findings. CSR members agreed to reschedule visit after March.
- Natalie Contos from the South West Settlement Unit contacted the Department regarding providing a presentation to CSR about the South West Settlement Community Development Framework.

ACTION: Ms Monger to organise South West Settlement Unit presentation to CSR for February or March meeting.

5. Guest Speaker: Terry Simpson – Community Services Expenditure Review

- The final draft of the Community Services Expenditure Review report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

- Mr Simpson advised members that the report is being presented to the Community Services Expenditure Review Steering Committee after this meeting.
- As there were three preliminary documents, this version of the report includes information from previous versions and feedback received, to provide the sequence of discussion, decision making and relevant changes.
- There were 8 written responses received.
- Consumer consultation workshops organised in collaboration with FIN WA provided a lot of feedback that was not relevant to the scope of the review, however was relevant for the Department. This information has been passed onto the Department.
- There was no further feedback from CSR members.

6. General Business

- Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc has achieved Child Safety Accreditation through Australian Childhood Foundation, for a period of three years.
- Ms White advised members of the Outcomes Framework for Children in Out-of-Home Care in Western Australia: 2015-16 Baseline Indicator Report is with the Minister for endorsement. The report will be circulated to members however, it is still a confidential document at this stage.
- Members were pleased that the intent is to make this document public.
- The legislative review of the *Children and Community Services Act 2004* was launched at the Kimberley Children in Care Forum on 1 December 2016.
- The consultation paper is on the Department's website, the closing date is 31 March 2017.
- The Department will undertake community consultation to seek feedback from those unlikely to submit a formal written submission.

Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:28am.