

## COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 14 July 2015

Communicare Academy  
11-13 Royal Street, Kenwick.

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 and Family Support
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Ms Mandy Gadsdon	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Melissa Perry	Communicare Inc
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala
Ms Veronica Rodenburg	Yaandina Family Centre Inc
Ms Dawn Wallam	Yorganop Association Incorporated/SNAICC

##### In attendance

Ms Emma White	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

##### Apologies

Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Major Andrew Craib	The Salvation Army
Ms Debbie Henderson	Family Inclusion Network of WA Inc
Mr David Hogg	Lifestyle Solutions
Ms Amanda Hunt	Mission Australia
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc

#### 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 9 June 2015

The minutes from the CSR meeting held on 9 June 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

#### 3. Guest Speakers

##### Consistent carer approval and preparation training

The Chair welcomed Mr Whitehouse to the meeting.

Mr Whitehouse distributed a status report outlining the areas of work that are currently being reviewed and considered. Three cross sector working groups have been established to inform the directions:

- Consistent approval, review and training of non-relative carers;

- Oversight of OOHC; and
- Outcomes Framework.

Tight time frames have been agreed to with the work to be finalised in October 2015. CSR is invited to nominate a representative for each working group. Feedback is also being sought from the Alliance and Children's Youth and Family Agencies Association (CYFAA).

Dawn Wallam agreed to participate in the Consistent approval Working Group, Sue Ash in the Oversight Group and Basil Hanna in the Outcomes Framework Group.

It was agreed that Mr Whitehouse would attend CSR meetings to report on progress until the work is complete. Mr Whitehouse offered to provide a separate briefing to members who expressed an interest.

**Action:**

- Mr Whitehouse to provide relevant information to the members who agreed to participate on Working Groups.
- Mr Whitehouse to provide a briefing to interested parties seeking clarification.
- Mr Whitehouse to be included on all CSR agendas until the completion of the OOHC project.

#### **4. Actions Arising**

##### **4.1 Leadership and Partnership Forum**

Ms Flanagan advised that the Regional Reform Leader has been announced, Mr Grahame Searle. Mr Searle has been invited to present at the Forum and work with CSR to develop the agenda.

##### **4.2 Evidence base and evaluation**

The Chair welcomed Ms Desiree Nangle, Research & Evaluation Manager, Corporate Strategy and Development, Anglicare WA, to the meeting.

Ms Nangle discussed the summary paper *Evidence from the Sector* provided to members prior to the meeting. Four CSR member agencies provided information on models they are utilising in their organisations. The following points were raised:

- There is no general agreement on the definitions of evidence, research or evaluation.
- It is often not possible to translate all components in an evidence framework into practice – due to cost, time etc
- Randomised trials are not possible in the community services sector, as they are in health.
- Community Sector contracts are moving from outputs to outcomes.
- Realistic, useable, consistent frameworks are required.
- Evaluation outcomes for individuals are very different from outcomes for a community or a program.
- It was suggested that a working group be established to learn from one another and develop consistent thinking. This group would include Contract Managers and staff from non-government agencies.
- The Chair and Mr Carter agreed to develop the terms of reference for the working group.
- Ms Nangle agreed to take part in this working group.

**Actions:**

- CSR members to nominate a representative from their organisation to the working group to examine issues pertaining to evidence base and evaluation in the community services sector.
- Mr Carter and the Chair to develop terms of reference for the working group.

#### **4.3 Learnings from place-based initiatives**

Mr Carter discussed the session on *learnings from placed based initiatives* to follow the *regional reform* session at the Leadership and Partnership forum. It is proposed that guest speakers will be invited to discuss the model utilised by their organisation to provide improved understanding. Mr Carter to provide further detail on this session. Mr Searle to be invited to attend this session.

#### **Actions:**

- Mr Carter to provide further detail on the *learnings from placed based initiatives* session.
- Meeting to be coordinated of the working group organising the L&P forum.

#### **4.4 Capacity Building**

Ms Gadsdon discussed the discussion paper *Building Capacity with Aboriginal Organisations and Businesses to deliver Child Protection and Family Support funded Services*, circulated prior to the meeting.

The following points were raised:

- Focus on the concern regarding over representation of Aboriginal children in care.
- Seeking better integration of the needs of Aboriginal children, families and communities.
- Investigating different means of effectively collaborating and bring into sharp focus the needs of this group and better alignment of services to their needs.
- Potential for a community forum to bring agencies together to engage in long term planning processes and capacity building. Possibly in the next two months.
- Seeking to alter the way we think about investment and return, for example the role of kinship connections – building capacity and providing additional supports for children provides significant returns.
- An OOHHC workshop is also being developed with the view to being held within the next two months. CSR members will be invited.

### **5. Agenda Items**

#### **5.1 Family Support Networks**

Ms Benham advised that the St Patrick's will be the lead agency for the Fremantle FSN. The FSN forum is progressing, participants will include Alliance Managers, CEO's and the relevant Departmental staff. Invitations have been sent.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet have been provided with the CSR paper comparing Child and Parent Centres, Family Support Networks, Communities for Children and Children and Family Centres. The importance of demonstrating the effectiveness of FSNs was discussed.

#### **5.2 Integration of Youth Services**

Nil

#### **5.3 Out of Home Care Reform**

Covered under item 3

## **6. Other Business**

### **6.1 Valuing Children**

The Chair advised that this item will remain on CSRs agenda. It appears that it is not progressing on the national agenda.

### **6.2 Royal Commission**

Recommendations out of the Royal Commission may impact the sector. In part, the OOHC reform in Western Australia is WA's response to the findings of the Royal Commission.

<b>Action:</b> To be included on the agenda once the papers are released.
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## **7. Next Meeting**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:30am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 July 2015, at the Department.