

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 10 November 2015

Large Executive Conference Room, Level 2
Department for Child Protection and Family Support
189 Royal Street, East Perth

Meeting commenced at 9:30am

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable (CSR) meeting.

Present

Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
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	Anglicare WA
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Major Andrew Craib	The Salvation Army
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Debbie Henderson	Family Inclusion Network of WA Inc
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Ms Melissa Perry	Communicare Inc
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala

In attendance

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

Apologies

Ms Mandy Gadsdon	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr David Hogg	Lifestyle Solutions
Ms Amanda Hunt	Mission Australia
Ms Veronica Rodenburg	Yaandina Family Centre Inc
Ms Dawn Wallam	Yorganop Association Incorporated/SNAICC

The Chair briefly discussed the meeting schedule for CSR next year, querying the possibility of reducing the number of meetings per year from 11 to 9. Other suggestions welcomed. It was agreed to place this item on the December agenda for a decision. It was also suggested that a strategic planning session be held early in the new year.

Action: Meeting schedule and strategic planning session for 2016 to be included on the December agenda.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 13 October 2015

The minutes from the CSR meeting held on 13 October 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Actions Arising

3.1 Leadership and Partnership Forum – summary/survey

Members commented that the Leadership and Partnership Forum was a worthwhile and informative event, triggering robust discussion regarding the issues experienced in the regions. The survey results indicated the forum was well received.

It was suggested that the strategic planning session for CSR to be held early in the new year include discussion on the 2016 Leadership and Partnership Forum to begin the planning process early. Previous surveys to be utilise to inform the development of the 2016 Forum.

3.2 Centralised Foster Care Panel

Mr Whitehouse was invited to discuss items 3.2 and 4.1.

Ms White tabled the latest draft document – *Consistent and accountable non-relative carer standards – approval, review and training for non-relative carers*.

Members discussed their understanding of the process to date and current status. Mr Whitehouse provided an overview of the latest draft document. While the current document had been disseminated to all working group members, the working group members representing the Alliance had not yet formally provided this to the Alliance for discussion. As a result there was some miscommunication and misunderstanding regarding the status and decisions made to date.

Members expressed concern regarding the following:

- Differentiation between endorsing and approving carers
- The subjective nature of assessments ie one agency may deem a carer unsuitable, while another may deem that carer as suitable.
- Oversight requirements and risk management
- The discrepancy between face to face assessments verses panel (paper) assessments.
- The process may discourage carers from applying.
- Additional process will increase processing time and workload.
- From a National perspective, WA is seen as needing improved oversight and monitoring.
- What is the impact on Kinship care?

Members agreed to prepare, out of session, an additional option for consideration. Ms Murray, Ms Ash, and the Chair to prepare 'Option E' with feedback/input invited from all members. This will be provided to Mr Whitehouse for inclusion in the final paper.

Action: Members to provide input to <i>Option E</i> out of session.
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4. Agenda Items

4.1 Out of home care system - NIPT

Mr Whitehouse provided an overview of the Needs Identification Profile Tool (NIPT) which has been developed by the Department and community services sector to assist in understanding children's needs. The NIPT asks case workers to identify the needs of a nominated child against the nine dimensions of well-being, and then identify the top four supports required to meet the needs of that child.

As part of the out-of-home care reform process, the Department is working to gain a holistic understanding of the exceptional needs of children (and the service responses to meet these needs) over and above those of typical children in out of home care in Western Australia.

It was noted that this is a 'snapshot' exercise only.

A benchmarking workshop has been scheduled for 19 November. A CEOs forum is being developed for 10 December 2015.

Concern was expressed regarding the possible move to a funding model in alignment with NDIS.

4.2 Regional Reform

The Chair advised that a letter has been sent to Mr Grahame Searle, State Reform Leader, thanking him for his presentation and participation at the Leadership and Partnership Forum and inviting him to attend CSR meetings on a quarterly or biannually basis to discuss regional reform.

5. General Business

5.1 Christmas lunch

Members discussed alternate dates for the Christmas lunch. This is to be finalised out of session.

Action: Christmas lunch date to be changed and venue booked.

5.2 FSN Report

Members noted the report, as provided prior to the meeting.

5.3 Other business

5.3.1 Valuing Children

Mr Pietropiccolo advised that Centrecare and Parkerville have provided funding to employ 2 people to work together on the Valuing Children campaign for the next 12 months. Discussions are taking place with Lotterywest regarding obtaining a grant for marketing the campaign. It was suggested that the campaign may also be able to link with other well-funded National campaigns such as the current Domestic Violence campaign.

5.3.2 Children and Community Services Act 2004.

As part of the Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) Reform process, the Department will release a consultation paper in relation to amending the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*.

The paper is currently with Cabinet and will be released soon with timelines allow sufficient time for responses.

5.3.3 Third Action Plan for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

To be included on the next agenda.

5.3.4 MACCP

Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection update to be included on the next agenda.

6. 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 8 December 2015, at the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.