

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING Monday 31 October 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.

An Acknowledgement of Country was made by the Chair.

Present

Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc (Chairperson)
Ms Sue Ash	UnitingCare West
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Mr Ian Carter	Anglicare WA
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Debbie Henderson	Family Inclusion Network of WA Inc
Ms Amanda Hunt	Mission Australia
Mr Daniel Morrison	Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service
Ms Melissa Perry	Communicare Inc
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Major Scott Smallacombe	The Salvation Army
Ms Emma White	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Debra Zanella	Ruah

In attendance

Ms Pippa Monger	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Scott Hollingworth	Department of Local Government and Communities

Apologies

Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Mandy Gadsdon	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Ms Peta Nordberg	Lifestyle Solutions

The meeting commenced at 9:36am.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 11 October 2016

The minutes from the CSR meeting held on 11 October 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Guest Speaker: Mr Scott Hollingworth, Executive Director: Department of Local Government and Communities (DLGC) Early Childhood Programs

- The Chair welcomed Mr Hollingworth.
- Parenting WA and Best Start programs to officially cease 16 December 2016.
- DLGC transitioning to alternative services.
- Parenting programs:
 - Currently tendering all parenting services, including \$5.6 million for parenting services in country and metro, \$1.4 million for Stay services (with the Department) and \$1.1 million for parenting helpline (with Department of Health).
 - Focus on 0 – 18 years universal group, with emphasis on:
 - Aboriginal and culturally diverse;
 - fathers and young parents; and
 - individual and group work.
 - Service locations divided into metro (five areas) and country (based on Development Commission regions).
 - DLGC looking at joint tendering/work opportunities with other govt. departments.
- Best Start:
 - Program for Aboriginal families with children 0-3 years, operating in 8 country and metro areas.
 - Recognised duplication of service with commencement of Department of Education Kindilink program and competing for same families.
 - Best Start families to transfer to Kindilink, except in Moora where no Kindilink is available. DLGC has contracted St Joseph's to provide a three day playgroup.
 - Some Best Start programs have already closed down due to low numbers.
- Centre of Parenting Excellence (CPE):
 - The CPE to focus on relationships with whole-of-government funded services to inform practice and contracting across State and Commonwealth.
 - The CPE will have three staff to focus on best practice, trends, attributes of good service delivery and measuring success.
 - Steering Committee is co-chaired by Professor Stephen Zubrick and Ms Jennifer Matthews, Director General DLGC.
 - AOT Consulting is currently undertaking a mapping of parenting services across State and Commonwealth, to be finalised by April 2017.

4. Actions Arising

- Completed actions from 11 October 2016 meeting outlined in Agenda.
- Outstanding Actions:
 - Ms White to provide an end of year briefing, including Out of Home Care, to CSR and Community Service Sector Expenditure Review Steering Group (see 5.1).
 - Information about FDV tender to be provided.

5 Agenda items:

5.1 Strategy Reform Project Roadmap/OOHC Update

- Strategic Reform Project Roadmap was presented at the last meeting and is available online <https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/ChildrenInCare/Pages/OOHCReform.aspx> .
- The Department will continue to update and bring back to CSR members.
- Ms White will provide a briefing on the reform activities, either in early December or late January.

5.2 District Review Update

- Ms White provided an update on the District Structural Review (refer to handout – summary on back page).
- New structure to go live at the end of January, however Districts will start to implement as opportunities arise from now.

Contact Centres

- Mr Carter enquired if the Department has considered outsourcing contact services, as some organisations have children contact services through the Family Court system with sophisticated systems in place to manage complexities.
- Department has always provided contact but current focus has been around improving contact processes and providing more support to building parenting capacity. With the current unprecedented volume of court ordered contact, the Department would need to consider 'cost effectiveness' and 'what children' if to outsource in the future.
- Review of legislation with regard to how the child protection jurisdiction interfaces with the Family Court system – opportunities for systemic partnerships to be created.

Best Beginnings

- Ms Henderson enquired about possible changes to the Best Beginnings worker role.
- Ms White advised there will be some changes in regard to working with families in some more complex situations and workers taking more of a case management role.
- The Department has governance and partnership arrangements with Health Department around Best Beginnings and would seek to maintain them, however funding from Health Department for Best Beginnings workers has reduced over the years.
- Continues to be a confused system regarding responsibilities between Health, Local Government, Education and Child Protection in regard to children in early years. There is an opportunity to utilise senior governance arrangements around trialling new approaches in Cockburn and Kwinana over the next few years.

Police Commissioner's views on intensive family support

- Mr Pietropiccolo enquired about the Department's relationship with Police, given the Commissioner's public statements about removing Aboriginal children from families.
- Ms White advised the Department has a good relationship with the Police. The Commissioner is very complimentary ordinarily to the efforts of the Department, however these public statements can be discouraging.
- Members discussed the need to have a more balanced discussion about this issue publicly, possibly at the Partnership Forum.

ACTION: Ms White to feedback to the Police Commissioner.

Stronger Families

- Mr Morrison advised that he had received queries through the Aboriginal Sector Agency meetings and the Aboriginal community about concerns in regard to potential changes to Stronger Families.
- Ms White advised since the EIFSS strategy discussion paper, the Department has invited comments around where Stronger Families would fit in the earlier intervention family support strategy and received written communication through submissions from various organisations, including ACCOs.
- The Stronger Families Coordinator group advised the Department is reviewing the program, to see how to best align the objectives of the program in the District teams within the earlier intervention family support strategy.
- Ms White and Mr Morrison to continue the discussion outside of the meeting.

5.3 EIFSS Implementation Plan Update

- Ms White advised the Department undertook a submission through the Mid-Year Review for additional funding for a revised model of Family Support Networks, practical in home support services (including with Aboriginal families) and evaluation and project management.
- The Department hopes to have an indication of the outcome by end of November, which will impact on the Implementation plan.
- Item to be deferred to December Meeting.

5.4 Watching brief (discussion as required)

- **Family and Domestic Violence:** no update
- **Homelessness:** no update
- **Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reform:** no update
- **Regional Human Services Reform:** no update
- **Early Years:** no update

6. General Business

- The Chair thanked Ms Cattalini for her years of assistance with the CSR and noted the intelligence that she brought to meetings.
- It was confirmed that the new WACOSS CEO will take over the membership on CSR.

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 13 December 2016, at the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.