

## COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

### MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 13 December 2011

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 Sue Ash	UnitingCare West
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Mr Mick Greaney	MercyCare
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala
Captain Ken Smith	The Salvation Army

##### In attendance

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

##### Apologies

Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Les Evans	Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation
Ms Anne Moore	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)

#### 2. Minutes of meeting held 11 October 2011

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 11 October 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

#### 3. Actions Arising

##### 3.1 Income Management Data.

Ms Benham distributed a paper on the statistics for Income Management in Western Australia – not for distribution.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Members expressed concern that there are systemic gaps in the way clients are informed, some clients may not be aware of the options available.

- Income management remains controversial as it is based on taking control of people's lives, it is not an easy option and is not right for everyone.
- Thorough evaluation is being undertaken, and is considering issues of stigmatisation.
- The Peel region has recently been incorporated into the program. If/when possible it will be extended to the whole of Western Australia.
- Income management to be included on the agenda every quarter.

**Action:** Income Management to be added to Future Agenda items and be placed on the agenda quarterly.

### **3.2 At Risk Youth Strategy – feedback/dissemination of report.**

Ms Benham advised that the feedback received is being incorporated into the final document, which will be circulated early in the New Year.

### **3.3 End of year lunch – 13 December at Cream**

Members will be attending the end of year/Christmas lunch following this meeting, at *Cream* restaurant in East Perth.

### **3.4 Opinion piece in response to the Commissioner's media statement – Department of Housing's Three Strikes policy.**

The Chair advised that he has met with Ms Cattalini regarding this issue and the development of a paper. This is being progressed and will be completed over the Christmas/New Year break.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **4.1 DCP/Housing MOU - Three Strikes Policy**

The Chair welcomed Ms Dixon to the meeting.

Ms Dixon advised that DCP is developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Housing (DoH) regarding the Disruptive Behaviour Strategy, implemented earlier this year by DoH. The following items were discussed:

- The MOU is focused on the sharing of information regarding families that may be at risk of eviction.
- Information is shared once a strike has been issued.
- There is a focus on building relationships at the local level.
- Supports and services are available to families, such as behaviour management and parenting programs.
- Information sharing forms are being developed.
- Clients are referred to SHAP before being referred to DCP.
- Families with children are the most at risk of receiving strikes.
- Potential to access data from Department of Housing regarding families with children and the number and frequency of strikes acquired.
- New Liquor Restricted Premises laws have been introduced, whereby the occupier of the premises can apply to restrict/prevent visitors from drinking in their home. Police assist in enforcing this law.
- Regional Homelessness Plans will be available next week on the DCP website.

The Chair thanked Ms Dixon for attending the meeting and it was agreed that future updates on the progress of the MOU and the data collected regarding families with children receiving strikes would be provided to CSR.

**Action:** Item to be placed on a future agenda for an update on progress and available statistics.

#### **4.2 Family Support Network**

Mr Glew advised that Parkerville Children and Youth Care have been contracted to operate the Family Support Network to be trialled in Armadale. Ms Natalie Hall is acting as the interim Alliance Manager and is currently recruiting other required staff. Mr Hanna, CEO, Parkerville, will provide regular updates to CSR.

Ms Benham advised that Evaluation has been built into the Operational Framework. The Assessment Tool and Evaluation Framework have now been updated and are available on the *Whereto.org.au*.

Members discussed the name *Whereto* and its on-going relevance given the changes made to the implementation of the Network/s and change of name from *hub* to *network*.

**Action:** Regular updates to be provided to CSR on the progress of the Family Support Network trial in Armadale.

#### **4.3 CSR members' feedback on Sanctuary Presentations**

Mr Glew requested feedback regarding the Sanctuary presentations. Members agreed that the presentations were very positive, provided detailed information and agencies are enthusiastic about the use of the model in Western Australia. It was advised that agencies can contact the department if they want to follow up on learnings from the Sanctuary presentations.

#### **4.4 Create Your Future – CREATE**

The Chair welcomed Ms McRandall to the meeting.

Ms McRandall advised members that *CREATE Your Future* was developed in partnership with youth. It has received a Federal grant for two years to June 2013 and is aimed at building confidence, resilience, life skills and knowledge of community supports.

To be eligible for the program, youth must be in care or have had a care experience, be a *Club CREATE* member and be referred by a leaving care agency. If over 18 years they can self refer. A carer must attend with high risk/needs youth. *CREATE Your Future* aims to engage 160 youth per year. The program is in the process of attaining accreditation.

There are 4 parts to this program:

- A series of one day workshops.
- An 8 week program including a camp where youth learn about leaving care and becoming independent.
- A dedicated leaving care website.

- The *CREATE Your Future* Grant Scheme - Grants are between \$300 and \$3000 to help with life skills and/or developing independence such as driving lessons, education & training, travel and conferences.

The one day workshops include:

- *The Great Race* – race to find clues and information regarding government, employment, education and community services.
- *Think Outside the Square* – understanding of learning styles and working outside comfort zones.
- *Pathways to Independence* – includes budgeting/managing money, filling in forms eg banking, tenancy, shopping, menus, making donations, rights and entitlements.
- *Job Readiness* – mock interviews, grooming, selection criteria, goal setting, picking the right job.

The 8 week program includes all of the lessons from the one day workshops plus health and wellbeing; life skills; pathways to education; and budget and finance. This program also includes a camp with activities such as board breaking, hip hop dancing and go cart racing.

This program is currently being run in the metropolitan area, the Department would like it to be expanded state wide. CREATE are consulting with the other leaving care providers to ensure they are able to work together toward common goals.

The Chair thanked Ms McRandall for her presentation.

#### **4.5 Community sector funding from DCP**

Mr Glew advised that there is no further information at present regarding the funding component for homelessness services being withheld by Treasury. It is expected that more will be known early in the New Year. Ms Cattalini advised that the Premier and Mr Conran have written to the Prime Minister requesting that the funds be released.

Component Two (average of 10%) of the community sector funding is progressing. The forms, templates, guidelines and related tools should be available from the Department of Finance by February 2012. Once received, based on strategic directions, the Department will consult with the sector and have planning and submissions finalised by September/October.

Two important strategic directions/considerations are that the Department currently purchases the right mix of services, especially in terms of family support services, secondly, the Department is open to expanding the extent to which flexible and individualised funding is enabled.

Ms Cattalini suggested that a statement regarding Component Two processes and timing be made at the New Year breakfast, to be held on 20 January 2012.

Members requested that this item be on the February agenda, including how Component two will be distributed.

<b>Action:</b> Include this item on the February agenda.
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#### **4.6 Joint meeting of CSR and CSDG – agenda items**

Ms Flanagan requested agenda items for the planned joint meeting of CSR and the Child Safety Directors Group (CSDG) in April 2012.

It was suggested that an update on the Partnership Forum, Regional Managers Forums, and housing issues be on the agenda.

Members agreed to email Ms Flanagan suggestions for the agenda for further discussion at the February CSR meeting.

**Action:** Members to email Ms Flanagan agenda items for the joint meeting of CSR and CSDG prior to the February 2012 CSR meeting.  
Ms Flanagan to email members the date and venue details once finalised.

#### **4.7 Achievements List**

Mr Glew distributed the Achievements List for 2011 and ran through the list briefly, requesting that members read more fully after the meeting.

This list enables a common understanding of all the key achievements by the Department for Child Protection over the past five years – to be used as a live document and added to as necessary. The growth of the sector and increases in funding, over the past five years, have been highlighted.

#### **4.8 Evaluation of the Leadership and Partnership Forum**

Mr Glew distributed the Leadership and Partnership Evaluation report and provided a brief overview. Overall, the forum was successful with presenters, venue and food all rating well.

### **5. Other Business**

#### **5.1 Meeting dates for 2012**

Meeting dates for 2012 were distributed prior to the meeting.

#### **6. Future Discussions**

Members suggested the following for future discussions:

- Truancy Income Breaching Policy, rolled out in the NT. Discussion around the benefits and detriments of going down that path.
- Update on mandatory reporting data – February 2012 meeting.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The Chair wished members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, thanked them for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:30am. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 February 2012 at 9:30am.