

## COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 8 March 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

Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Elaine Bennett (proxy)	Ngala
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection
Mr Ashley Reid	MercyCare
Mr Ian Carter	Anglicare WA Inc
Captain Ken Smith	The Salvation Army
Ms Sue Ash	WACOSS Inc
Ms Kimberley Kammermann	WACOSS Inc
Ms Deborah Gould	Department for Child Protection
Ms Debbie Henderson	The Family Inclusion Network of WA Inc
Mr Terry Murphy	Department for Child Protection

##### In attendance

Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection
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##### Apologies

Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection
Mr Robert Watson (proxy)	UnitingCare West
Ms Rae Walter	Ngala
Ms Angela Hartwig	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)

#### 2. Minutes of meeting held 8 February 2011

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 8 February 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

#### 3. Business Arising

##### 3.1 Communities for Children Plus WA site - update

The Chair introduced Ms Vicki Johnson, Executive Officer, Swan Alliance: Communities for Children Plus, to the meeting.

Ms Johnson discussed the following:

- There are now 10 Communities for Children Plus sites across Australia, including Midland.
- The Midland site has coverage for the City of Swan Local Government Area and Midvale.
- Aim is to implement prevention and early intervention strategies for families with children up to the age of 12; to improve the health and wellbeing and raise the profile of the early years.
- Project timeline – phase 1: January 2011 to April 2011; phase 2: May 2011 to June 2013.
- Communities for Children Plus provides sustainable outcomes for children and is community driven.
- The Swan Alliance has responsibility for the overall management of the project. This is a partnership between Ngala, Mission Australia and Anglicare WA. A Committee will be established – made up of a voluntary group of key stakeholders and will be responsible for dispersing the funds.
- The sector is responsible for managing the contracts rather than government managing the contracts on behalf of the sector.

**Action:** Members to contact Ms Johnson directly with further questions [vjohnson@ngala.com.au](mailto:vjohnson@ngala.com.au)

The Chair thanked Ms Johnson for her informative presentation and asked that she attend a future meeting to provide a progress report.

### **3.2 CSR membership selection and rotation process**

Members discussed the following three questions:

- Should CSR exist?
- Who/what organisations should comprise the membership?
- How should members be selected?

Members agreed on the following:

- The CSR is a worthwhile committee and should be maintained.
- To progress with the view to re-establishing the committee.
- The terms of reference need to be reviewed to ensure they are still relevant.
- The name of the committee should be reviewed.
- The focus should remain on child protection.
- A sub-group consisting of, the Chair, Mr Glew, Mr Murphy, Ms Ash and Ms Murray, to meet prior to the next meeting to develop a proposal for the terms of reference, structure and membership of CSR to be initiated when the current term ends (30 June 2011).

**Action:** Meeting to be scheduled for the above mentioned people to discuss future arrangements for CSR.

### 3.3 Data

Ms Benham distributed data *Summary tables- Community Sector Roundtable, as at 31 January 2011*. The tables include the following:

- Children in the CEO's care – By living arrangement and ATSI status.
- Children in the CEO's care – By district.
- Children in the CEO's care – Average number of distinct placements.
- Registered Carers.
- Mandatory Reporting Summary.

Members briefly discussed the data tables and requested that the district level information be broken down into post code areas to provide more detailed information. Ms Benham requested that Mr Carter email her with details regarding data sets that would be of benefit to members and the Department will determine what can be provided.

<b>Action:</b> Mr Carter to provide a list of preferred data sets to Ms Benham.
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## 4. General Business

### 4.1 Secure Care

The Chair introduced Mr Gavin West to the meeting.

Mr West provided the following information:

- The model provides secure intensive therapeutic care.
- The model responds to the complex needs of children and young people in the care of the CEO, who present as a risk to themselves and/or others, requiring immediate stabilisation, assessment and support.
- It is a short term intensive intervention where there is an immediate and substantial risk and all other avenues have been exhausted.
- Secure care is provided by therapeutic teams and based on multi-agency involvement.
- The average stay is 10 to 15 days.
- The transition process to alternate care is developed through intensive collaboration in planning for service provision and follow-up with other government and non-government agencies.
- Children or young people admitted to secure care must be the subject of a protection order, a subject of a protection application and/or in the provisional protection and care of the CEO.
- The District Director chairs the care plan and all relevant practitioners are engaged in the process.
- Secure Care is not appropriate where risk of harm to others is the only grounds for admission to secure care; where behaviours indicating possible mental illness are exhibited; or for young people remanded in custody or in detention.
- The Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Michelle Scott, is conducting an independent inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia, information can be accessed at <http://www.cyp.wa.gov.au/mentalhealth.aspx>

The Chair thanked Mr West for his detailed and informative presentation.

## 4.2 Family Support Hubs – project team update

The Chair welcomed Mr Terry Simpson to the meeting.

Mr Simpson advised that he is leaving the Department soon after the next CSR meeting and Ms Julie Dixon will take the lead progressing family support hubs. Ms Dixon will be invited to attend the next CSR meeting.

Mr Simpson discussed the Consultation Paper – *Review of Secondary Services Family Support Funding Programs* that he had distributed prior to the meeting. The following discussion ensued:

- The survey has been sent to every DCP funded agency seeking feedback on key issues.
- A fundamental change to funding strategies is proposed.
- It is proposed that an integrated family support funding outcome framework be developed and improved planning and information sharing processes be implemented.
- There are issues regarding rural/remote areas, specifically given the lack of agencies for referral.
- The Consultation Paper seeks to formally define secondary family support services and identify the funding programs or group of programs that will come under this definition.
- A focus of the review is to understand the current service needs and identify the needs not currently being met by the current range of services from all funding sources.

**Action:**

- Mr Carter to distribute the links to a review in NSW by the Family Services Inc and Montgomery County report and community indicators.
- Members to provide feedback on the Consultation Paper to Mr Simpson prior to the next meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr Simpson for the update and the work he has undertaken to date on the development of the family support hubs.

## 4.3 Bendigo Bank – offer of presentation

Mr Murphy discussed an offer by Bendigo Bank to speak to the community services sector regarding the services they provide. It was queried if a presentation at a future CSR meeting would be beneficial? Members discussed the possibility of WACOSS and DCP jointly facilitating an information session for the sector.

**Action:** Ms Ash and Mr Murphy to further discuss this matter after the meeting today.

## 5. Other business

Nil

## **6. Future Discussions**

- Leadership and Partnership Forum – review and next steps.
- Commonwealth representative to be invited to CSR (Richard Aspinall, State Manager, FaHCSIA) (April 2011).
- WA Legislation – including mandatory reporting, family support hubs and secondary services (April/May 2011).

## **7. Next Meeting**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:25am. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 April, 2011, at 9:30am.