

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 8 April 2014

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 Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Mr Mick Geaney	MercyCare
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala
Ms Veronica Rodenburg	Yaandina Family Centre Inc

In attendance

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

Apologies

Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Ms Melissa Perry	Mission Australia
Ms Martine Pitt	Communicare Inc

2. Minutes of Meeting held 11 March 2014

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 11 March 2014 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Actions Arising

3.1 Template for FSNs – consultation with all current sites; timeframe for FUSION upgrade; potential for drug and alcohol to be incorporated as a primary reason for referral.

Ms Benham clarified that there is no expectation for the FSN's to complete the progress reports for CSR, CPFS will do this using the data obtained via FUSION. CPFS will liaise with the networks regarding issues and trends for inclusion in the report. This information will be incorporated into the Cabinet submission for expansion of the network.

Issues regarding confidentiality and security of FUSION have been addressed and are now being tested. The next stage of upgrades will improve user interface and reporting. This will be completed by the end of May/early June, inclusive of the testing phase.

It was noted that much of the frustration regarding FUSION has been directly related to issues with the data. One issue is with the way Aboriginality is recorded, leading to an under representation of the number of Aboriginals accessing the FSN. This, and other data issues, is being addressed with the current enhancements.

3.2 Distribution of paper - Exploring Self-Directed Support and Signs of Safety

The paper has been circulated.

3.3 CSR representative on the CPFS Learning and Development Centre Selection Committee for Scholarship and outcome of request for flexibility of numbers.

Mr Geaney has been included on the Panel, which will meet after the closing date for applications (30 April 2014). It has been requested that any positions left vacant by departmental staff would be offered to the non government sector, in addition to the number of places already being offered to the sector.

Action: Mr Geaney to provide a brief update on the outcome of this process once completed.

3.4 Outcomes paper to be included on the CSR agenda as soon as practicable

Mr Glew advised that the Manager preparing the paper returns next week and will finalise the paper as soon as possible.

Action: Outcomes paper to be finalised and provided to CSR as soon as possible.

3.5 Quarterly statistical report

Members expressed concern regarding the number of Aboriginal children in care and suggested that this issue requires prominence in the 5 Year Out of Home Care Strategic Plan. It was noted that the 5 Year Out of Home Care Strategic Plan has a focus on out of home care service provision, rather than the prevention of children coming into care. The child protection system, more broadly, impacts this question of why Aboriginal children are coming into care. Prevention is the challenge for the system.

Members discussed the existing structure, effort and intensive wrap around services being provided to prevent Aboriginal children coming into care and/or working to reunite families. Stronger Families is a successful program in this area. Issues around education and employment, and thus intergovernmental collaboration, are critical to this concern.

Ms White noted a report by one of the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committees, led by Housing, which has developed an investment strategy for the next 10 years. It looks at communities based on economic sustainability, social issues and maps a path of future investment. The report has been submitted to Cabinet, the outcome of this process should be known in the next few months.

Action: Issues regarding Aboriginal children in care, including prevention, to be included on a future agenda.

3.5 CPFS response to the FACS capability Review – distribution of paper

Completed.

3.6 Meeting Dates for 2014 – set in diaries

Completed.

4. Agenda Items

4.1 Expansion and development of the Secondary Family Support Networks

AFSN Progress Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the number of referrals are improving with the majority coming from Parkerville, CPFS and schools. The Parent and Child Centres are an important participant and it is recommended that they are engaged in other FSNs where they exist in the locations.

It was noted that 27 April 2014 is the two year anniversary for the AFSN.

The number of referrals to the Murchison FSN is still low, with the majority coming from CPFS. Concern was expressed that the Alliance partners are not sharing wait list information as required. This will be investigated by CPFS.

The Mirrabooka site is progressing well. Capacity building processes are being implemented to ensure existing structures are utilised, rather than replacing or duplicating them. The anticipated opening date for referrals is mid to late May 2014.

It was agreed that a forum be convened by CSR to bring all FSN's together at the end of this calendar year.

Action: CSR to host a forum for the FSNs.
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4.2 Macro issues impacting the out of home care system - outcome of request to share of information between CSR and the Alliance, regarding the development of the 5 Year Plan for Out of Home Care.

Mr Geaney noted the report on Complexity has been provided to CSR members. The subgroup will reconvene in the near future.

It was suggested that the Chair of the 5 Year Out of Home Care Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Mr Paul Maher, be invited to provide an overview/update on the Plan once the draft plan has been completed. It was reiterated that the 5 Year Out of Home Care Strategic Plan does not refer more broadly to matters relating to entry through the child protection system. It is concerned with what is actually happening to children in care and the quality of that process.

Action: Mr Maher to be invited to CSR re draft 5 Year Out of Home Care Strategic Plan
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4.3 Self-directed service design - MercyCare paper on SDSD.

Mr Geaney advised that this paper will be available to table for review at the next CSR meeting, however, the paper is confidential and will not be for distribution.

Action: Mr Geaney to table the MercyCare paper on SDSD

4.4 Integration of Youth Services - overview of the outcomes of the Youth Justice Think Tank and the Youth Service Consultation Report.

Ms Benham advised that the Youth Justice Board has been announced by the Minister for Corrective Services, on 2 April 2014. The TOR and other information can be found on the website at <https://www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au/youth-justice/youth-justice-board.aspx>
The recommendations from the YACWA report are being reviewed.

5. Other Business

5.1 Membership

Mr Glew advised that process for new membership is beginning. As in previous years, four members are required to retire. This year, three members terms are expiring on 30 June 2014 (Ms Murray, Mr Hamilton, Ms Perry) and Mr Pietropiccolo has agreed to retire as he has not yet been through this process. All retiring members are able to reapply.

Members also discussed the issue of proxies to the meeting, particularly in regards to individuals who are acting as CEO for a period. It was agreed to continue with the current policy of no proxies.

Members discussed the importance of Aboriginal representation on CSR. It was agreed that if no Aboriginal representatives nominated or were selected, Ms Mandy Gadsdon, Executive Director, Aboriginal Engagement and Coordination, CPFS, would be invited to join CSR.

Resolutions: Ms Mandy Gadsdon to be invited to join CSR, in the absence of suitable applicants (as above). Policy of no proxies to remain.

Action: EOI to sector to be distributed.

5.2 Leadership and Partnership forum

Mr Glew advised he has initiated the organisation of the 2014 Leadership and Partnership Forum. As members had previously agreed, the forum continues to be successful and should be held again this year. Possible dates will be circulated for members to advise of their availability. As in previous years a subgroup will be formed to identify themes and guest speakers for recommendation to CSR.

Action: working group to reconvene to begin planning for 2014 Forum.

5.3 Alliance Strategic Plan

Mr Geaney advised that the Alliance is completing its Strategic Plan, once finalised it will be made available to CSR.

Two projects are underway, one is a costing exercise regarding Tier 1 Family Group Homes, to identify the cost of an average/typical child to that service. This is being done via Curtin University. Additionally, Shawn Boyle is undertaking a review of the Family Group Home program on behalf of the Alliance, the TORs have been agreed to with the Department.

Action: Mr Geaney to circulate the Alliance Strategic Plan to CSR once completed.

5.4 National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children – National meeting

Mr Pietropiccolo provided a brief overview of the following:

- Current developments regarding the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.
- Child Aware initiatives.
- Issues SNAICC is concerned with regarding child placement principles.
- Royal Commission – not providing everyone a hearing, possible extensions. Roundtable in Sydney next week utilising public streaming/pod casts.

5.5 NPAH funding

Mr Glew advised that NPAH funding has been extended for the next financial year. Currently in discussion about what the agreement will look like. It is more flexible than the previous agreement, with a clause that states if the Commonwealth has not completed its review of homelessness by the end of the calendar year (2014), then a simple exchange of correspondence (between Ministers) can extend the agreement for a further 12 months. There is some flexibility to tweak some of the programs as required.

5.6 YAANDINA research

Ms Rodenburg reported that Yaandina is undertaking a research/planning process across the Pilbara, with funding from sources including the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Rio Tinto and BHP. A film crew and researchers will travel across the Pilbara for 29 days. Research will include children 0-12 years and youth 12-25 years. The environment will be filmed and the research will also include housing and services for the elderly. Ms Rodenburg advised she will ensure the Department receives a copy of the outcomes of this research.

6. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:15. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 May 2014.