

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 10 March 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 meeting.

Present

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| Ms Cheryl Barnett | Department for Child Protection and Family Support |
| Major Andrew Craib | The Salvation Army |
| Mr Ian Carter | AnglicareWA |
| Mr Steve Glew | Department for Child Protection and Family Support |
| Mr Basil Hanna | Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc |
| Ms Amanda Hunt | Mission Australia |
| Ms Tricia Murray | Wanslea Family Services Inc |
| Mr Ashley Reid | Ngala |
| Ms Dawn Wallam | Yorganop Association Incorporated/SNAICC |

In attendance

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| Ms Emma White | Department for Child Protection and Family Support |
| Ms Sandra Flanagan | Department for Child Protection and Family Support |
| Ms Audrey Lee | Department for Child Protection and Family Support |
| Ms Julie Dixon | Department for Child Protection and Family Support |
| Ms Catherine Spini | Centrecare Inc |

Apologies

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| Ms Kay Benham | Department for Child Protection and Family Support |
| Ms Irina Cattalini | WACOSS |
| Mr Mick Geaney | MercyCare |
| Mr David Hogg | Lifestyle Solutions |
| Ms Melissa Perry | Communicare Inc |
| Mr Tony Pietropiccolo | Centrecare Inc |
| Ms Veronica Rodenburg | Yaandina Family Centre Inc |

2. Minutes of Meeting held 10 February 2015

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 10 February 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Actions Arising

3.1 National Framework for Protection Australia's Children – Commonwealth consultation

Ms Murray advised the list of names was provided to the Department as agreed at the last meeting. The Commonwealth scheduled meetings, regarding the evaluation of the Framework, on 23 and 24 March 2015. Members expressed concern that the meeting times are scheduled for one hour only with 20 questions to cover.

Ms Murray will forward further information, after discussions with Families Australia.

Action: Ms Murray to provide further detail after the meeting.

3.2 Similarities and differences between CPCs, FSNs and CfCs - update

The Chair noted the paper was circulated to members yesterday and can be circulated to networks.

Members were happy with the paper and had no further questions. They thanked Ms Dixon for her work on the paper.

3.3 Valuing Children

The Chair advised that the working group met and discussed the way forward. The primary goal is changing community attitude about the value of children. It was suggested that a tiered plan be developed, to include extensive media strategies through to limited/cost free initiatives.

Initiatives may include social media campaigns, a "thunder clap" and messages to be included under signature blocks on emails. It was suggested that an ambassador be selected. The campaign should be led by the non-government sector. This campaign is about all children, not only vulnerable children. The department may be able to provide support via the various campaigns already run by the Department such as Child Protection Week.

A discussion a paper is required before decisions/actions can be made. The Chair and Mr Pietropiccolo to develop the paper over the next two months, then provide to the working group for further discussion/action. It is envisaged that a broader group of stakeholders will be invited to join the working group.

Action: Chair and Mr Pietropiccolo to develop the discussion paper.

4. Agenda Items

4.1 Family Support Networks

The Chair advised that the next report should be available for the April CSR meeting.

It was agreed to host a future meeting of the CSR at the Armadale FSN.

Action: Organise a CSR meeting at the AFSN.

4.2 Macro issues impacting the out of home care system

The Chair suggested that the next step to the process of developing the 5 Year Out of Home Care Plan is to discuss the Department's response to feedback received from the sector on the draft plan.

4.3 Integration of Youth Services

Ms Hunt agreed to take the lead of this working group.

Action: Information on this working group to be provided to Ms Hunt.

4.4 Self-directed service design

Members agreed to remove this item from the agenda. To be included only when a member has specific information to discuss.

5. Other Business

5.1 Leadership and Partnership Forum – OOHC system

The Chair sought input on the suggestion to focus this year's Leadership and Partnership on the Out of Home Care system and the 5 Year Strategic Plan. There was concern that the Plan would not be finalised in time for the forum. It was suggested the forum participants could look at the actions required and perhaps also look at the homelessness sector, given the significant funding issues currently facing that sector. It was also suggested that it would be beneficial to invite some representatives from Victoria to discuss their experiences over the past 10 years.

Agreement in principle for further discussion and decision at the April CSR meeting. It also was agreed to host the forum in late August or early September.

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| Action: Venues and dates to be determined prior to the next CSR meeting. |
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5.2 Commonwealth Procurement process

Mr Glew asked members for feedback on the recent Commonwealth procurement process. The following issues were raised:

- Debacle, atrocious – in terms of illogical decisions, time frames, notifications
- Media releases occurred before successful applicants had been notified resulting in concern being raised by staff members worried about employment issues.
- Notification that a tender, or portion of a tender had been successful received via a phone call, with the officer making the call having no information or knowledge about which portion of the tender was actually the successful part.
- In some cases services were told that the amount, tenure and location may not be as tendered.
- Part information provided eg: being told they were successful with a tender, but told they were unable to let them know how much funding or the length of contract they would receive.
- Closing services down – then being refunded for a limited time 3 or 4 days after the service had been closed. Too late to re staff for a very short term contract (3 or 4 months).
- 80% or more of the AIS tenders have not been funded what they asked for. For example a tender for \$200,000 may have an offer of \$120,000. Thus requiring significant change to service provision.
- Commonwealth did not utilise local staff or local knowledge in decision making processes. Local (Commonwealth) contract managers have no knowledge of the Commonwealth decisions creating difficulties in contract management meetings with services.
- If a provider is only offered a piece of what they tendered for, there is no knowledge of what happens to the rest of that funding or the gap that remains in service delivery. Do the services then have to try to find other ways of filling those gaps? Or are other services picking it up? No information on this is being provided by the 'coordinated' process.
- Five year contracts were wiping significant sums off the balance sheets, 3 year contract may have been able to sustain the service. Had to say no to the amount offered over five years.
- Told 5 year contracts were going to the norm. However many seem to be much shorter, including 12, 18, 30 month contracts with no explanation as to why.
- The Offers stipulate that indexation MAY apply, causing concern that it may not.

- Commonwealth has no understanding of the distances in WA, expecting services in small towns to provide service over unrealistically large distances. Eg Anglicare offered \$19,000 and \$29,000 per year to provide emergency relief in two regions. Anglicare considered undertaking this as they were the largest emergency relief provider in WA and the metropolitan arm could help sustain the regions. However they were then told they did not win the metro tender. Not possible then to accept the contracts for the regions.
- No transparency. In the past details were released as soon as possible on the website. This has not happened.

6. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 10:25am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 April 2015.