

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 11 December 2012

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 Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection
Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Ms Les Evans	Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Mick Geaney	MercyCare
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Ms Melissa Perry	Mission Australia
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala

In attendance

Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection
--------------------	---------------------------------

Apologies

Ms Carol Jones-Lummis	Share & Care Community Services Group
Ms Anne Moore	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)
Mr Terry Murphy	Department for Child Protection

2. Minutes of meeting held 9 October 2012

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 9 October 2012 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Actions Arising

3.1 Changes to General Provisions - update

Mr Glew reported that after his discussions with FaCS it was clear that there is no intention to change the provisions to reflect functional practice. As it is written, it is not possible for services to comply. WACOSS has prepared a letter to the Premier outlining concerns with these changes. This will be finalised (if required) after the meeting with

the Minister on this matter next week. It was suggested that CSR prepare a letter to the Minister, supporting the WACOSS letter.

Mr Glew noted that the Department of Finance explained that it is up to each department how they implement the policy. It was also noted that the Partnership Forum tried to prevent these changes from being incorporated into the policy.

Action: CSR to send a letter to the Department of Finance and the Minister. Mr Geaney will also organise a letter from the Alliance. A copy of the letter from CSR to be forwarded to Mr Geaney.

3.2 Opinion piece

Deferred to next year.

3.3 Individualised funding

Mr Glew advised that this paper will be finalised through January and the Director General, DCP, will table at a number of forums.

Discussion on the following points ensued:

- This paper is broader than Individualised Funding, it includes a full spectrum of funding types, for example - leaving care and homelessness brokerage funding, and will mean significant change to funding allocation.
- Changes are being made to carer funding, to lessen the burden regarding day to day costs, this is also included within the paper.
- Agencies would like to see a common framework around Individualised Funding as they may have funding from a number of sources.
- The same framework is not applicable to all service types. A clearer understanding by service type may be more appropriate.
- Individualised Funding is very different from Client Centred Practice.
- The *Family by Family* approach was queried by members, with confusion regarding the Department's intent. It was clarified that the Department is happy to support this new initiative if a service wanted to trial/implement it. It is not a requirement to utilise or a replacement for existing models.
- There is a risk that *Individualised Funding* will become a buss word, there needs to be discipline in how it is discussed.
- Confusion was expressed over the intent of the paper. It was clarified that the paper was intended as a starting point to developing DCP's position by lining up current services and determining the appropriateness and potential effectiveness of Individualised Funding.
- *My Life, My Way* was initiated to determine how to give the people of Western Australia greater control of their own supports and services. Not appropriate for all people/sectors.
- A Practitioners Group has been initiated out of the Partnership Forum to look at this issue.

Action: An updated version of the paper to be distributed in January 2013.

3.4 NPAH – future funding

Mr Glew advised that Minister O'Connor announced that the Council of Australian Governments Select Council on Housing and Homelessness have agreed that, subject to their Cabinet processes, they would enter into negotiations for a new NPAH. While that agreement is being negotiated, a one year transitional partnership agreement for 2013-14 will be established. There is a meeting scheduled with FaHCSIA today to work

through some of the details for the transitional period. This will provide some certainty for services. It is understood that the Commonwealth would like to secure the transitional agreement with Western Australia before the State enters Caretaker mode.

Concern was expressed that any delay in the allocation of housing would cause serious issues. It was advised that the Department of Housing is involved in the NPAH discussions and this item is on the agenda.

Action: DCP to explore further correspondence to services on the transitional agreements regarding NPAH funding.

3.5 Leadership and Partnership Forum – de-brief

The Chair briefly discussed the evaluation which had been distributed prior to the meeting. The forum was rated highly by those who attended, however concern was expressed that a large number of people had indicated they would be attending the forum but did not, and several people left through the day. Unfortunately this meant that the number of participants were significantly reduced by the final session. It was queried whether CSR should continue hosting these yearly forums.

Action: Further discussion on these issues in early 2013.

3.6 Financial Implications report - outcome

Mr Glew advised that DCP is awaiting feedback from Treasury, this is expected before the end of the year.

Action: Feedback to be provided at a meeting early in the 2013.

3.7 MACCP minutes

The Chair noted that the minutes from the two previous MACCP minutes (ratified) had been emailed to members for their information. The most recent meeting was held in July, these minutes have not yet been ratified as the November meeting was cancelled. A meeting has been scheduled for January.

3.8 CCSA Review – update

Ms Benham provided a brief overview of the Children and Community Services Act (CCSA) Review. The following points were discussed:

- Twenty five written submissions were received.
- The Review included a review of Mandatory Reporting.
- Significant areas for strengthening the Act were identified, most significantly around information sharing, which includes enabling funded community sector organisations to share information.
- Strengthening of the Domestic Violence provisions, even when children are not involved, and to clarify psychological abuse versus emotional abuse. There is a high level of substantiation of emotional abuse regarding DV, the proposed changes to legislation reflect current practice as there have recently been significant reforms to DV practice in Western Australia.
- No changes to mandatory reporting have been recommended, however the government response to the Blaxell Inquiry was noted.
- The Review has been tabled in Parliament and the Minister will consider the recommendations.
- The submissions will not be made public.

Many issues beyond the scope of the Review have been raised through submissions. Relevant issues raised will be tabled at CSR over the next 12 months. It was asked that members read the report, as provided, and place items on the CSR agenda as required.

Mr Geaney commented on the issue of Aboriginal children are coming into care at a rapid rate and expressed concern that the Act may facilitate this process as people are alarmed by what is occurring in those communities. The Act does not facilitate a change in practice for those communities. It was observed that this is open to interpretation and perspective. It is a value laden topic requiring broader discussion at CSR.

Ms Catallini advised that the WACOSS Policy Advisory Council has undertaken some analysis of the issues that did not make it into the recommendations, within the constraints of confidentiality of submissions and items flagged in the report. Ms Cattalini advised that WACOSS can do some of this analysis and feedback into CSR, but has limited capacity. Ms Benham noted that it is acceptable to raise the issues without stating where the issues came from.

Action: Members to place issues arising from the review process on the CSR agenda as appropriate.

3.9 Range of residential placements

Ms Barnett tabled a paper on the current residential Care and Specialist Placements and provided an overview of the information detailed in the paper. The snap shot of data provided is to be read in conjunction with the *DCP quarterly executive report* (item 4.2) and the data relates to departmental residential (high needs) placements not funded placements.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- It was requested that additional data be provided in future, if possible, including a geographical breakdown, with the aim of providing a more comprehensive picture of children in care and will assist in identifying where bottlenecks may be occurring. Clarity around the type of service and how they are distinguished for data analysis is required. Exit points need to be identified.
- Concerns were expressed regarding instances where children in a family or residential group home are doing well, then a young person with very complex needs is brought into the group. This can have a significant impact on the other children in the home and destabilise the environment and existing residents very quickly.
- Concerns were noted regarding capacity, as increasing numbers of young people are moving to these homes. A greater depth of understanding of these issues is required.

Mr Glew advised that the tender process for the new Specialised Fostering Program has now been concluded, the correspondence should be going out in the near future.

Members require clarification about the names of the type of residential care and Tiers. A common understanding and language for these services is required to eliminate confusion and misunderstandings.

Members would prefer to have a complete picture of children in care for departmental and funded services.

Action: Future data analysis on residential placements to be inclusive of departmental and funded placements and include a geographical breakdown.

AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 The placement of “Children in the Care of the CEO” in youth crisis/homeless accommodation

Mr Hamilton expressed concern that there have been instances where children in the care of the CEO have ended up in homelessness services. There is concern for these young people and the impact they have on the service as homelessness services are not equipped to meet their needs. Ms Barnett agreed that in some cases these issues arise once a young person turns 17 especially when they choose to disengage with services.

It was suggested that this discussion should go beyond this group to determine how often this is occurring and to develop a solution to prevent these young people ending up in homeless accommodation. One solution may be improved exit planning and pathways for this group of young people.

The Chair suggested that before members take this matter further more information is required including:

- The number of instances this has occurred;
- What is the shortfall on places for these young people?
- Is this a result of overloading the foster carers we currently have in the system?
- What do we want and how are we going to get there?
- What is the process for CSR to support DCP in getting there?

Members agreed that this item should be discussed in detail in a strategic planning session.

Resolution: *To schedule a strategic planning session in February 2013. The scheduled February meeting will be extended to three hours and focus on strategic planning. A working group will meet in January to develop an agenda for this meeting.*

Action: This item to be discussed at the Strategic Planning session.

4.2 DCP quarterly executive report

Ms Benham noted that the report had been emailed to members prior to the meeting and offered to take questions on the report out of session. Income Management has now been included in this quarterly report, and it was requested that before quoting this data, members first check with FaHCSIA.

Action: Members to seek permission from FaHCSIA before quoting data on Income Management.

4.3 Meeting dates for 2013

The Chair noted that meeting dates for 2013 have been provided to members out of session. Mr Carter noted that he will be an apology for the February meeting as he will be interstate.

5. Other Business

5.1 Outcomes Funding

Mr Pietropiccolo queried outcomes based funding and noted the difficulties in measuring outcomes. It was suggested that broad sector communication is required regarding this issue including auditing processes. Members agreed this item should be on the agenda for the Strategic Planning meeting.

Action: This item to be discussed at the Strategic Planning session.

6. Future Discussions

See agenda – future discussions list.

7. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:35am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 February 2013 from 8:30am to 11:30am to allow three hours for strategic planning.