

## COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 11 June 2013

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 Deputy Chair welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable meeting.

##### Present

Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection
Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Mr Mick Geaney	MercyCare
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc

##### In attendance

Mr Terry Murphy	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

##### Apologies

Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection
Ms Melissa Perry	Mission Australia
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala
Ms Anne Moore	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)

#### 2. Minutes of meeting held 14 May 2013

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 14 May 2013 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings, with two minor amendments.

#### 3. Actions Arising

##### 3.1 Leadership and Partnership Forum 2013

The Deputy Chair advised members that the working group on this item is meeting tomorrow, therefore a detailed update will be provided at the next meeting. Members were given the opportunity to provide further input on the theme. The following suggestions were made regarding Self Directed Services as a possible theme:

- A comprehensive overview of the model.
- A critical analysis of what this means for organisations in the context of child protection services.

- What is the interface for child protection services in how this is being progressed in the disabilities and mental health space.
- A range of government departments form a panel for discussion and questions/answers regarding self-directed service design and funding models.
- Practice examples of self-directed service design and funding models and what this means for child protection.
- The impact of self-directed design as implemented by other agencies on the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) and CPFS funded agencies and their clients.
- Consideration of engaging a professional MC to facilitate the forum.
- There was concern that if Self Directed Services was to be the theme for the Forum, other important issues would not have the space for discussion, given the enormity of this issue.

**Action:** Working group members to meet to progress the membership, theme and agenda for the Leadership and Partnership Forum.

### **3.2 DCP's position on Outcomes**

Mr Glew advised that the paper is currently being prepared and once completed will be emailed to members for consideration prior to discussion at a CSR meeting. The paper will include detail on the program, individual and community outcomes and the Departments perspective. The intent of this paper is to provide clarification on outcomes and is an internal document, not for broader circulation.

It was agreed that broader consultation will be sought in the development of this paper. The following people were identified for consultation:

- Kylie Hanson, WACOSS
- Jennifer Duffecy, Anglicare WA
- Paul Flatau, Centre for Social Impact, UWA
- David Gilchrist, Curtin University
- Julie Waylen, Department of Health
- Kathryn Spini, Centrecare

**Action:** Mr Glew to consult with the above individuals regarding their work on outcomes.

### **3.3 Mechanisms for supporting the sector.**

The Deputy Chair reiterated that the four working groups have agreed to keep this item on the agenda in the work they are undertaking. It was suggested that principles be developed to assist in ensuring mechanisms for supporting the sector are considered and incorporated into CSRs four key agenda items. The principles prepared by the Partnership Forum are considered to be a good starting point. The Deputy Chair and Mr Geaney agreed to work together to prepare draft principles for consideration by CSR members at the next meeting.

It was suggested that it would be interesting to map out what each peak body is currently doing to support the sector, where there are overlaps and/or what the different peaks may 'specialise' in. WACOSS, on behalf of the WA Peaks Forum, is preparing a paper identifying the scope of representation of each peak body.

**Action:**

- Communique to be emailed to members with the minutes.
- Ms Cattalini and Mr Geaney to prepare principles for incorporating mechanisms for supporting the sector into the work being undertaken by the CSR working groups.

**3.4 CSR EOI process**

Mr Glew advised that the successful applicants for CSR members are Mr Ashley Reid, Ngala; Ms Irina Cattalini, WACOSS; Veronica Rodenburg, Yaandina Family Centre Inc; and Martine Pitt, Communicare Inc. The Chair has provided written correspondence to all applicants advising of the outcome.

**3.5 Development Fund**

Mr Glew advised that that the Development Fund is an initiative of the Commonwealth, as part of the one year Transitional NPAH Agreement, for capital projects and requiring States to match the contributions. CPFS worked with the Department of Housing to submit applications for this Fund. The outcome is not yet known. The Department is currently completing the Implementation Plan for the Transitional Agreement.

Concern was expressed regarding the fact that no money has been allocated to the NPAH in the Commonwealth Government budget forward estimates.

The Deputy Chair queried whether or not the transitional arrangement provides access to social housing placements for the homelessness services as it has done in the past. It was advised that CPFS is still working with the Department of Housing on this, there is a commitment that they will try to work with CPFS as much as they have previously.

Members discussed the on-going issues they have encountered with allocations for housing placements. Many are unable to meet the demand. With the Community Housing transfer of stock, the Department of Housing is maintaining status quo of stock, the policy position is no net loss of public housing in any transfer of stock. The Department for Housing, WACOSS and Shelter are holding to this. It may be that there is a shift in a local area even though the numbers are static overall.

The affordability of housing was discussed, increased creativity is required to tackle this issue. Mr Murphy advised that the Community Services Director Generals group had diminished over time, however Mr Murphy is meeting with the Chair of that group, Mr Ron Alexander, next week to re-start the group on a smaller, but more focused level. It is intended that these issues will be a focus of this group.

It was suggested that the CSR sponsor a discussion with the growth providers, as they now share a wait list. Members discussed meeting with Mr Graeme Searle, Director General, Department of Housing, in the first instance.

Several issues were identified for discussion with Mr Graeme Searle:

- Certainty that the allocations will continue as they have under NPAH
- The Transitional NPAH Agreement and the impact on housing allocation and affordability.
- Data and information on public and social housing allocations, exit points and transfer of housing stock.
- The effectiveness of NPAH programs has been hindered by the lack of exit point accommodation.

- The interface between housing and homelessness, including effective integration of homelessness services with community and public housing.
- Housing Wait List.
- Priority Wait list.
- Proposed changes to the priority housing waitlist protocols and procedures.

This issue is a focus for the Western Australian Council on Homelessness and the CPFS is working with the Department of Housing to ensure capacity is not reduced. The WACH consider housing affordability issues across all work that they undertake.

**Action:**

- Invite Graeme Searle, Director General, Department of Housing to the July meeting of CSR.
- Mr Pietropiccolo, Mr Hamilton, Mr Carter and Mr Hanna to provide input into discussion points for Mr Searle.

### **3.6 Safety and wellbeing assessments by region – next quarterly report**

Ms Benham confirmed that this will be included in the next quarterly update.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **4.1 Expansion and development of the Secondary Family Support Hubs**

The Deputy Chair advised that this working group has not met since the last meeting. This item will be discussed in more detail at the July meeting.

Ms Benham advised that there is a great deal happening in this space. The evaluation of the Armadale Family Support Network (AFSN) is almost complete and will be distributed to CSR members in the near future.

It was queried how the wait list issues impact the effectiveness of the Family Support Network (FSN). It was explained that, in theory, the wait lists of all agencies in the area are known to the lead agency – they have a common wait list, common assessment and common referral process – so that as a group they are able to manage any blockages. The steering group is able to make funding decisions about how best to alleviate the blockage. While it is a challenge to make this work effectively, improvements and solutions are being developed as issues arise.

It is important to stay true to the model, a lean assessment, front end, active holding process, putting money into the services to come together to solve those problems in the sector.

The Murchison FSN is funded by Karara Mining and managed by Parkerville, using the same model as the AFSN. It will begin operating later this year. Mirrabooka is progressing and will be going to tender soon. The Mirrabooka FSN has been establishing itself 'organically' over the past two years and is now looking to be formalised. This will be based on the same model as the AFSN, but with the advantage of incorporating the learning's from AFSN. It will be a staged opening.

Members discussed the possibility of a broader group than Parkerville and CPFS reviewing the evaluation and developing a forward strategy.

It is valuable to have three live examples of the FSNs, a comprehensive picture and understanding for the budget bid for 2015/2016 for the expansion of the network.

#### **4.2 Macro issues impacting the out of home care system**

Mr Geaney advised that work is progressing and he has sought CPFS nomination for the working party. Mercycare will have a resource in July to coordinate the literature review.

Ms Benham queried the discussions at the national level with agencies around the National Standards and keeping children out of care. Mr Geaney advised that a conversation with FaHCSIA indicated they are very interested in the question of sustained placement and the child care rebate for foster carers. At present it is an impediment for attaining new foster carers. This is an agenda item on the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. The Department of Treasury and Finance have control of this item. Michael Lye, FaHCSIA indicated a desire to solve this problem. The Deputy Chair suggested this needed to be on the ACOSS budget submission list. This has also been raised through Families Australia. Mr Geaney will raise this with Catholic Social Services. FaHCSIA are working to understand this issue.

Mr Murphy discussed out of home care. It was acknowledged that this is a tension point between the CPFS and NGO's around who does what in the system. There are not enough carers or funding, however the number of children coming into care is reducing with the assistance of intensive family support services.

Nationally there is work being undertaken regarding professional foster care and this has been accepted as part of the National Framework. The current mantra is to grow the system at every point. Growth is pitched at the non-government sector. At present, 45 general placements will be open to the market, 15 in the metro area and 30 in country areas.

A long term strategic plan is required, a five year plan. Mr Murphy asked members if this should be set up through the Alliance or the CSR working group on *Macro issues impacting the out of home care system*? A document, *Community Sector Partnerships – June 2013*, was tabled.

Members agreed that the Alliance is best placed to be the reference committee for the development of the Strategic Plan and the *Macro issues impacting the out of home care system* working group should contribute to the steering committee for the development of this Strategic Plan.

#### **4.3 Self-directed service design**

The Deputy Chair advised that this working group will meet prior to the next CSR meeting and report at the July meeting.

<b>Action:</b> Mr Glew to organise a meeting for this group.
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#### **4.4 Integration of Youth Services**

Ms Benham reported that the group has not met since the last CSR meeting. Ms Perry is in the process of gathering the information required from each of the respective areas.

The work with YACWA is progressing, the report is due in July so can be discussed at CSR in August.

The Deputy Chair reported that the structural location of Youth Justice Issues in government since the machinery and ministerial changes seems to have stalled while

the new minister settled in and waiting to see who will take over as head of the Department.

Youth is on the agenda for the Department of Premier and Cabinet. DPC prepared a paper for the Partnership Forum, providing a description of youth services across the sector. They highlighted problems, and may be proposing a new fund for youth services. CPFS has not been involved in these discussions. It would be beneficial to open communication with Mr Tom Lemming, who is leading this work. Ms Benham noted that Mr Leeming met with Mr Murphy last week, so there may have been some discussion at that point.

The Deputy Chair queried how CSR was being kept informed on Child and Parent Centres (CPC's). Mr Reid is the provider non-government representative on the CPC committee and MS Cattalini is the non-provider representative. Ms Benham is CPFS's nominated representative. This item can be added as other business on the CSR agenda as required.

It was queried why the CPC committee is not developing a model/framework to plan for the roll out of CPC's. The value of establishing a model/common framework for establishment and operation needs to be understood and acted upon by the CPC's. It is unclear what CPCs are, why they are only school based, they appear to be ad hoc and uncoordinated. The Deputy Chair requested that Ms Benham advocate for this at the CPC working group meetings.

<b>Action:</b> Ms Benham to provide a detailed update on this issue at the July meeting.
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#### **5. Other Business**

Mr Geaney queried the Department name change. Mr Murphy advised that the name now better reflects what the Department does, the portfolio has not changed.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The Deputy Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:30am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 July 2013.