

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 10 June 2014

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

Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Mr Mick Geaney	MercyCare
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala

In attendance

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

Apologies

Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Ms Melissa Perry	Mission Australia
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Ms Martine Pitt	Communicare Inc
Ms Veronica Rodenburg	Yaandina Family Centre Inc

2. Minutes of Meeting held 13 May 2014

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 13 May 2014 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Actions Arising

3.1 LDC Scholarship – outcome

Ms Benham reported that applicants from Wanslea and Parkerville were successful. They were the only two NGOs to submit applications in this round.

3.2 EOI re CSR membership

The selection process is progressing, applicants will be advised within the week of the outcome.

3.3 L&P Forum

The working group meeting has been rescheduled, an update will be provided at the next meeting.

Action: Update at July meeting.

3.4 Induction pack for new members

Mr Glew reported that relevant papers will be collated and ready for the new members prior to the July meeting. A meeting with the Chair and Deputy Chair will also be offered to each new member to discuss/provide an overview of all pertinent issues re CSR.

Action: induction pack collated and meeting/s to be scheduled.

3.5 Quarterly Statistical report

Members discussed the difference in the rate of indigenous versus non-indigenous children in care. Members also discussed the changes to the Transfer Policy. Where it is in the interests of the child, the case management will be transferred to where the child resides as opposed to where the family resides.

3.6 Information request

Ms Cattalini queried the availability of information that compares the jurisdictions in relation to the child protection services provided by the statutory authority compared to the community sector.

It was suggested that the literature review undertaken by Kevin Boots may be useful. The chair offered to send the report to Ms Cattalini for her information.

Action: Chair to forward report to Ms Cattalini.

4. Agenda Items

4.1 Expansion and development of the Secondary Family Support Networks – strategy for expansion

Working group to meet prior to next meeting.

Items for discussion at next meeting:

- Recommended locations for FSNs
- Marketing plan for rollout out
- Budget submission

It was noted that learnings from the Child and Parent Centres experience could be utilised in determining criteria for site selection.

Actions:

- Points above to be on next agenda for discussion
- Ms Benham to circulate a summary paper re marketing plan/promotion of the model.
- Ms Benham to prepare a paper regarding the criteria for selection of FSN sites

4.2 Macro issues impacting the out of home care system

Out of Home Care 5 Year Strategic Working Group now has 4 subgroups focusing on :

1. Carer Recruitment, Assessment and Oversight Working Group
 - Chair – Basil Hanna
2. Outcomes Measurement and Monitoring Working Group

- Chair – Mick Geaney
- 3. Aboriginal Children in Care and Relative Care Working Group
 - Chair – Mandy Gadsdon
- 4. OOHC Sector Growth, Organisation and Alignment Working Group
 - Chair – Steve Glew
- 5. Permanency Planning Developmental Project
 - Chair – Cheryl Barnett

Ben Whitehouse, Director Coordination and Support, Accommodation & Care Services attends all subgroup meetings. Paul Maher, Executive Director, Accommodation & Care Services will provide an update on the work of this working group at the August meeting.

Mr Glew advised that from August Mr Maher will replace Ms Barnett on CSR.

Action: Working group structure to be circulated to CSR members.

4.3 Self-directed service design

Members discussed whether SDSD should remain on the CSR agenda as a standing item.

It was agreed to leave it on the agenda as a watching brief, given its implementation in varying forms throughout the broader community services sector (including disabilities and mental health) and therefore the impact it may have on secondary services.

Actions: Ms White to circulate a paper on Intensive Family Support by Jeremy Sammut, The Centre for Independent Studies.

4.4 Integration of Youth Services

- Ms Perry advised that the working group has agreed to meet again in approximately 6 months time, unless an issue arises before that time requiring attention. The following points were raised:
- The integration of youth services is going to take some time, there is a lot of competition in the sector.
- The Partnership Forums work in this space is critical.
- YACWA's report has been distributed to youth services.
- DPC's expenditure review on Aboriginal youth services. This is recommending across government policy change. Cancelling funding under \$300,000, mandatory 5 year contracts.
- The drive for integration is continuing.
- It was suggested that the working group look at these changes.
- The Youth at Risk working group and the Aboriginal Youth working group have been given a paper for consideration. It was suggestions that CSR could consider the paper also. The paper may be circulated once it has been finalised.
- Regional Chairs forum on 20 June is focused on youth at risk. This will provide some direction for the Integration of Youth Services working group.
- The issues regarding integration are not necessarily with the CPFS funded services, but with the broader sector – agencies funded by other departments. Queried whether CPFS should take the lead in youth integration.

Action: Integration of Youth Services Working Group to consider the outcomes of the Regional Chairs forum on 20 June 2014.

5. Other Business

5.1 NPAH

Concern regarding the NPAH was raised, including the lack of exit housing from NPAH programs. Members discussed that current reviews re NPAH and NAHA and the impact on the sector should the programs continue as they currently exist or not at all. Families are already being affected by the uncertainty and the on-going lack of exit housing.

At present there is no clarity as to how the State will engage in the Commonwealth review.

It was suggested that a delegation be sent to Canberra to discuss the issues.

Federalism discussion – role of Commonwealth versus the State versus local level and community. WACOSS is preparing a paper on housing and homelessness to articulate what they believe the role should be at each level of government and community, including funding. Ms Cattalini requested feedback on this issue from members.

DSS is now offering 6-12 month rollovers on the family support and other programs. Concern was expressed over what will this mean in the short term and significantly, the impact on service delivery. Services involved with DSS contracts are entering another period of uncertainty and staff may be off-line preparing tenders etc. This will impact the capacity to deliver secondary services. Redundancies are becoming an issue. In many cases it may be a portion of an FTE.

6. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 10:45am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 July 2014.