



KEEP THEM SAFE

Child Protection Advisory Group Minutes

		Meeting Date:
		30 April 2010
Meeting Location:		Meeting Time:
Meetings Room G1 & G2 , Community Services Head Office, Ashfield		10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Attending Members:		
NSW Minister for Community Services Linda Burney (Chair), Gillian Calvert (Deputy Chair), Danielle Domanski (CREATE), Emeritus Professor Jacqueline Goodnow (Macquarie University), Andrew McCallum (ACWA), Rita Fenech on behalf of Sue O'Connor (FPSN), Alison Peters (NCOSS), Bill Pritchard (AbSec), Rey Reodica (YAPA), Steve Turner (PSA), Sue Richards (Family Services), Brian Smith (LCSA), Carolyn Hodge (COTA) Jennifer Mason (Human Services), Annette Gallard (Community Services), Vicki D'Adam (DPC), Elizabeth Callister (DET).		
Also in attendance:		
Anne Campbell (Community Services), Helen Freeland (Community Services), Leigh McLaughlin (Office of the Minister for Community Services), Geoff Taylor (Office of the Minister for Community Services), Nazli Munir (Department of Premier and Cabinet), Liz Knight (Community Services) Toni Allan and Kathy Karatasas (Secretariat).		
Apologies:		
Dr Judith Cashmore (University of Sydney), Kate Lee (ASU), Cathrine Lynch (NSW Health) Sue O'Connor (FPSN).		
Minutes:		
Agenda #	Item discussed	Action by
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair noted the decisions from the last joint advisory group meeting on 17 February 2010 on the way forward for advisory groups, reiterating the agreement that CPAG focus on robust discussions and high-level policy advice and less on presentations on information.</p> <p>Minister Burney welcomed new members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Chair Gillian Calvert (formerly the Commissioner for Children and Young People) • Brian Smith (Local Community Services Association) • Carolyn Hodge (NSW Council of Ageing NSW) • Sue Richards (NSW Family Services) • Elizabeth Callister (Department of Education and Training). <p>Preferred contact details for all CPAG members will be posted on the Community Services' website shortly.</p> <p>The Chair reiterated the Terms of Reference requirement that CPAG members communicate CPAG discussions to constituents, and to reflect their constituent's input in discussions by the CPAG of various issues.</p> <p>The Chair stressed that meetings were a forum for discussion rather than for reporting, and invited members to nominate specific pieces of work CPAG</p>	<p>CS to update CPAG information on its website.</p> <p>Members to advise Secretariat of any specific future agenda items</p>

	could focus on going forward.	
2	<p>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes from the previous meetings were circulated and endorsed out of session. Actions arising from the group's last CPAG December meeting have been completed (Tab 2.2)</p> <p>The Chair invited comments on the action log and work plan (Tab 2.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rey Reodica (YAPA) queried progress on the Brighter Futures program for 9 to 14 year olds. Anne Campbell (Community Services) advised that feedback from an earlier discussion paper including from CPAG members has been considered and the proposed model had been put to <i>Keep Them Safe</i> Senior Officers Group. The proposed approach has been endorsed, but requires some further work. A Working Group which will include government and non-government representation will meet in May 2010 to progress this. • Danielle Domanski (CREATE) suggested the Funding Review component of the CPAG work plan currently focuses on the CSGP component yet there are a range of other programs. Annette Gallard (Community Services) confirmed the broader scope of the <i>Keep Them Safe</i> Funding Review commitment, including NGO Capacity Building and Workforce Development, the NGO Red Tape, Better Services Value Taskforce, and out-of-home care reform, among other things. However there was also a consciousness of the pace of change and it had been agreed not to overburden the sector with additional work at this time. • Alison Peters (NCOSS) sought elaboration on the Better Services Value Taskforce and was advised by Human Services Director General Jenny Mason it was a component of the review of Human Service agencies. The review specifically examines how the agencies work internally, together, and with external partners to deliver better and more integrated services. • Steve Turner (PSA) sought advice on the role of the Boston Consulting Group in the process, and was advised the BCG review produced high-level principles, while other work focused on a detailed roadmap. • Annette Gallard (Community Services) advised members that John Tansey had been appointed to head Community Services Funding and Contracting Strategy and Reform Directorate for this purpose. 	
3	<p>NGO Capacity Building and Workforce Development</p> <p>Samantha Taylor (Human Services) and Liz Forsyth (KPMG) provided an update on stakeholder consultation and the progress of development of the draft five-year plan. Ms Forsyth delivered a short presentation summarising the key findings of the consultations and implications for the plan. The presentation (attached) outlined key themes emerging from the consultations, including separate consultations around Aboriginal capacity building and workforce development.</p> <p>The greatest implication from the emerging consultation themes was the need to ensure the five-year plan was jointly developed and implemented. Other identified implications included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring focus areas were appropriate and reflected sector priorities • Greater recognition of existing NGO capacity and need for <u>sector</u> capacity building (government change to support NGO service delivery) • Devolved decision-making commensurate with change in legislation to the local level • Culturally sensitive models of care and service provision 	

	<p>paramount – Aboriginal NGOs are uniquely place to work with Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities. Capacity within CALD and Aboriginal NGO and NGOs can be shared with government agencies.</p> <p>Next steps in this project will involve revising the draft plan, which will be presented to CPAG for final discussion; developing high-level costings and the development of an evaluation, implementation and governance strategy; and finalisation of the plan.</p> <p>Members' views were sought out of session on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Leadership around key focus areas • Which components lent themselves to sector leadership. <p>Jenny Mason (Human Services) raised the need to further coordinate the redesign of Human Services and its regulatory funding structure to ensure it linked appropriately to the sector as a whole.</p> <p>Annette Gallard (Community Services) said the themes emerging from the consultation process reflected many of those from the Culture Change workshops conducted by Community Services with other government and non-government agencies. Community Services was currently working on plans to drive more collaborative work by the agency with NGOs and other Government agencies. The Minister indicated that it would be useful for the CPAG to hear more about the culture change process.</p>	<p>Members to provide views on governance and area leadership out-of-session.</p> <p>Progress on CS Culture Change to be added to subsequent CPAG agenda.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>OOHC Contracts Reform Project: Establishment of the Working Group</p> <p>Annette Gallard (Community Services) said the extensive out-of-home care (OOHC) reform agenda was very closely linked to <i>Keep Them Safe</i> and the Government's commitment to transfer much of OOHC to the non-government sector. However for the transfer to occur it was critical that the OOHC system be sustainable, with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention - a strong emphasis on family preservation in safe circumstances • faster restoration in safe circumstances • a new recruitment campaign for additional carers in both the government and non-government sectors. <p>Issues existed in relation to the variability in NGO service provision and costs, while there was an identified need to change the way Community Services managed its contracting arrangements.</p> <p>A working group was necessary to assist Community Services with the development of new contracting arrangements. Some 11 agencies, along with ACWA and AbSec, had nominated to participate in this NGO Consultative Group. The group will be examining Community Services' contracting approach, service models and placement requirements. Terms of Reference were disseminated with members' agenda papers.</p> <p>Ms Gallard acknowledged the difficulty the OOHC reform process had caused and the strains it had created in the Government-NGO relationship.</p> <p>Steve Turner (PSA) indicated his organisation's interest in the process. Discussions have already been held with the PSA, and it was agreed to keep this process separate in the industrial sphere.</p> <p>Alison Peters (NCOSS) asked whether the NGO Consultative Group would be setting broad contracting and procurement principles, as NCOSS would like to have input. Members were advised that this group would have a tight timeframe and would be focused on OOHC. Ms Gallard indicated she would have further discussions with Ms Peters to determine the best method for input</p>	<p>Further CS-NCOSS discussions on input into broad principle</p>

	into any broader principle development.	development.
5.	<p>Service System Realignment Project (CSGP Reform):</p> <p>Establishment of Working Group</p> <p>Annette Gallard (Community Services) indicated the need to take the next step in the CSGP Reform process via the establishment of an NGO Consultative Group. The Minister indicated that an astounding amount of work had been undertaken by Community Services and the sector over recent months, and a monumental effort was still being invested in seeking more resources for formerly CSGP-funded agencies.</p> <p>These services would look at realigning into two streams; <i>Community Builders</i> and <i>Keep Them Safe</i>. Proposed models had been developed for the <i>Keep Them Safe</i> stream and there was a significant focus on getting this underway.</p> <p>The action was supported by members, and Deputy Chair Gillian Calvert proposed a two-stage process. This would initially focus on CSGP reform before moving into a second broader phase looking at secondary prevention in the Human Services, Health and Education sectors.</p> <p>Rey Reodica (YAPA) indicated the difficulty experienced by youth organisations, given that a significant amount of funding was formally tied to specific programs.</p> <p>Members proposed that the NGO Consultative Group have the same membership as the now-defunct CSGP Roundtable. Members were proposed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Action and Policy Association (YAPA) • NSW Family Services (FaMS) • Local Community Services Association (LCSA) • Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS) • Association of Children’s Welfare Agencies (ACWA) • Western Sydney Community Forum. <p>Feedback on this proposal and on potential Terms of Reference were sought from members out of session.</p>	<p>Members to provide feedback on proposed membership and draft Terms of Reference by 21 May 2010.</p>
6.	<p>Cross-Agency Implementation Update</p> <p>It was agreed that the Cross-Agency Implementation Update would be dealt with on a by-exception basis, with the report circulated in advance of meetings and only relevant issues or concerns raised.</p> <p>Sue Richards (FAMS) sought advice on the progress of a piece of work prepared by members of the former Community and Carers Group (CCAG) relating to <i>Keep Them Safe</i> communication strategies for clients. The work had been submitted to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.</p> <p>Nazli Munir (DPC) indicated that the issue was on the agenda for the next meeting of the <i>Keep Them Safe</i> Senior Officer’s Group. Agencies were encouraged to submit anything they were working on in this area to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.</p> <p>Alison Peters (NCOSS) advised members she had been invited to sit on the Evaluation Working Group for the Family Referral Services.</p>	<p>Members and Associate Members invited to submit any client communication strategies relating to <i>Keep Them Safe</i> to DPC</p>
7	<p>Other Business: 2010 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>A 2010 meeting schedule was tabled for comment and members asked to advise the Secretariat of any potential clashes with known events.</p>	<p>Members to advise</p>

	<p>Proposed dates were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 16 June 11.00am – 13.00pm • Wednesday 11 August 10.00am – 12.00pm • Wednesday 13 October 10.00am – 12.00 noon • December meeting tbc <p>The Secretariat was advised at the meeting that the 16 June date was not suitable, and undertook to seek an alternative.</p> <p>Other Business: General</p> <p>Deputy Chair Gillian Calvert reminded members of the retirement of Centre for Child Protection Director Dorothy Scott, and her succession by Dr Marianne Berry, formerly Professor of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas.</p> <p>Andrew MacCallum indicated that the formal dinner at ACWA's 2010 Conference would be dedicated to a celebration of Dorothy Scott's work in the sector.</p> <p>Ms Calvert also noted the appointment of the former New Zealand Chief Social Worker Marie Connolly as Melbourne University's new Chair of Social Work. She also anticipated the Life Without Barriers Carol Paltola Chair at Griffith University would be advertised in the near future. This Chair is to focus on out of home care through a child's eye. Ms Calvert also advised members that recruitment for a new NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People was now underway.</p> <p>Carolyn Hodge (COTA) sought an update on the assessment of relative carers as part of supported care reforms. Annette Gallard (Community Services) advised that progress had been made and the CPAG Working Group on Supported Care would again meet to discuss this issue as soon as there was a more rigorous proposal to present for feedback.</p>	<p>Secretariat of potential clashes with proposed meeting dates for 2010.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>11:00 am – 13:00 pm, Wednesday 30 June 2010</p> <p>Community Services Meeting Rooms G1 & G2</p> <p>4-6 Cavill Ave Ashfield</p>	