** Hout Bay Forum Meeting Minutes**

**12th April 2021 @ 13h00**

**on Zoom**

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**PRESENT:** Claudene (Principal Sentinal Primary), Shelli (Health Forum, Shawco), Jana (James’ House), Kristine (Learning Support Supervisor from Education Dept), Janine (DSD Metro South), Tjarla (community Cook up), Andre (Safer Schools education Dept ), Letitia( School social worker from WCED from Metro), Janice (WCSCF), Rushni (WCSCF Coordinator)

**APOLOGIES:**  Sgt Pholelwa Njara (HB SAPS Social Crimes)

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| **AGENDA TOPIC** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION TO BE TAKEN** |
| 1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS**
 | Janice welcomed all. All members introduced themselves. |  |
| 1. **Adoption of Previous Minutes**
 | Minutes of previous meeting accepted by and Shelli Marx and Tjarla Norton. |  |
| 1. **Guest Speaker:**
 | Presentation on Scouts in schools was done by Rebecca Sparg.Presentation attached. The South Africa scouts have a Scouts in School (SIS) programme, which recruits learners in schools and teaches them life skills, takes them on adventures an detaches them how to survive in tough situations.The scouts ae taken on camps and are involved in many different activities. They also earn badges according to the skills they have acquired. |  |
| 1. **Janine Swile: DSD New offices**
 | * 1. New DSD offices situated at 30 Victoria Road above the Hout Bay Clinic Unit No.8.

Operational as from 12th April. Office Hrs 9-13:00 Intake other appointments after 2Logistical issues still being sorted.* 1. Decentralized Probation Services:

New manager Keith Brink - services Wynberg, Hout Bay and Phillipi Area (based in Phillipi office) Ms April is still around- services Fish Hoek areaDesignated social worker for Hout Bay – Social workers **Ashraf Arendse** and **Simphiwe Stefans**Auxiliary Social workers are **Vulisa Kholi** and **UT Mkize** Both Wynberg and Hout Bay.Changes and Community Development will be added to the portfolio for a bigger team, only two Social Workers for the Hout Bay area. Workers will be based at the new offices. New DSD Manager willing to meet with all stakeholders.DSD business whatsapp number: **067 607 4248** – Clients with Child protection issues onlyOther clients encouraged to go into the office.* 1. Shelli - Asked for places of Safety for disabled children and could they be referred to Victoria Hospital when do they become known as adults.

Janine - at the age of 18 they fall outside of children’s act and considered as adult. DSD still places children and adults.4.4 Incident over the weekend- Teenagers were left by a DSD at a safety parent who was drunk the next morning. Previous incident same child had to go to Victoria hospital because of neglect and not taking medication. Tried to get hold of Social Worker at Victoria again but was unsuccessful. Shelli left her number but no response. Placement needs to be found for children with disabilities.Janine - Social workers had gone in on Friday night. JS has assigned a Social Worker to the case and will follow up.  | Rushni to contact Ms Charlotte September |
| 1. **SAPS**
 | Sergeant Njara to stay in Hout bay as the social crimes officer. |  |
| 1. **Schools and education**
 | * 1. Gangs in schools - Tjarla and Sergeant Njara were called in to Silikhamva School because of gangs’ activity. They have initiated a meeting with the parents on the 23rd April.

“Bokoram”, one of the big gangs, have started up again and are recruiting children from this school and children from the Moravian school. There have been incidences of knife fights.A list of stakeholders has been set up to discuss programming in the schools.Mr Qaba, Principal of the Moravian school will be approached in order for programming to take place in the Moravian school.Gang violence is rife and has not been registered with safer schools yet.Pastor Burt from Ubuntu will do drug testing as the schools refer.School rotation makes it hard to get control of the situation and another gang seems to be operating out of the Moravian school. They call themselves “Umthonso”.Violence has increased as children are fighting, lighting fires and throwing stones at cars.* 1. Safer schools have spoken to the Principal of Silikhamva and has asked her to report it to the Safe Schools Call Center but as of yet nothing has come through. Call center number is 0800454647.
	2. Tjarla had logged the issue of violence in November and has gotten reference numbers for the emails sent. However, the process is that a complaint must come via the school safety committee. Safer schools can provide a scanner for the school so children can be scanned before they enter.

Sentinal Primary has not had any incidence of violence from their learners but Mr Julius, Principal of Hout Bay High was informed of all parties involved in the fight.* 1. Education Dept was unaware of gang violence in the school and have met with Mr Qaba who was willing to do programming in the Moravian school. Sergeant Njara will speak to the Principal and ask for more programming to be done at the school. Part of the problem is that children are not at school every day and organisations need to add programming to fill the gaps.
 | Tjarla will register the issue with safer schoolsSgt Njara to liaise with Mr Qaba, Moravian. |
| 1. **Other Topics- Identification of learning disabilities**
 | * 1. Education Department to elaborate in the next meeting on the training teachers receive to identify **learning disabilities** and how to deal with them. This has been on hold (??) and will only be starting towards the end of the April in Hout Bay but will ask the school Psychologist to present at the next meeting. To know the process of where children would be referred to and what age groups could be referred and what to do with a younger child with a learning barrier.
	2. Children are only assessed at the age of 14 and then referred to a school of skill. A psychologist assesses the child and then the referral is made, Batavia in Lansdowne is one of the schools but resources are limited. The need is placement and resources for children. There is a large amount that really struggle with academics and trying to find resources are a challenge.
	3. The Moravian school doesn’t seem to recognise this as an issue and many children are placed into high school where they are not coping.
	4. JK recalled that in 2017, a Mr Mather from the National Education Dept spoke at a WCSCF All Regions Meeting about the ***3 Streams Model*** that was then being piloted in 22 schools of skills. These schools introduced the 3 streams of Academics, Occupational and Vocational options into the schools curriculums. This has, however, not been further rolled out since, as high schools still remain mainly Academic. The resources and people to teach the skills and money for the schools is lacking.
	5. Kristen also said she recalls this but has not heard anything about it lately. She thinks it is currently only occurring in 3 school of skills: Batavia, De Grendel and Cafda.
	6. Education wants a school of skill in Hout Bay. A lot of the preteens who take part in gang activity could have done well in a school of skills.
	7. Process of application for a school of skill: Child must be 14yrs old, a scholastic assessment is done by a remedial team from the District Dept of Education. This year alone 183 assessment were done for Hout Bay and Manenberg with 83 applications. It is hard to get parent interaction, as there is a stigma attached to sending your child to a ‘special school’.
	8. Current practice is “inclusion”, following the philosophy that every child has a right to learn in a mainstream environment, therefore help needs to be brought to them. The exception is only in extreme cases where children are referred to a school of skills. Many factors contribute to learning disabilities of children.
	9. The meeting felt that the **3 Streams Model** would be a welcome change. It was also felt that more effort needs to be made to discover a child’s barriers to learning at a yonger age, so that they can receive appropriate education for their needs.
	10. Kristen will talk to their head of SLES, Enver Hassan and work through him and find out who in the dept is working on the 3 Streams Model. WCSCF to lobby for the 3 Streams Model and resources for the model to be successful.
 | Letitia to organize the school psychologist to present at the next meeting.Kristin to talk to Enver Hassan and provide feedbackJanice to make contact with Mr Mather to see what is happening with the 3 streams model. |
| 1. **Other: Silikhamva Reporting issues on school**
 | 1. Andre checked while at the meeting: Silikhamva has only reported 3 incidences to Safer Schools since 2019. Land eviction, burglary and Gang activity. Lack of reporting affects their risks assessments.
2. Safer schools will visit Silikhamva and Oranje kloof schools. If a programme is done then it should be done in all schools.
3. Moravian school seems to be resistant. Kristen and Letichia to follow up with him.
 | **Andre to provide feedback** |
| 1. **Next meeting**
 | Date: TBC |  |

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