

Northern Suburbs Street Children’s Meeting

Thursday, 28 May 2015

9:00 - 12:00

Durbanville Council Chambers

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Present: Juanita Beukes (Badisa), Jantjie Booysen (Ubuntu), Hewitt de Jager (HewLin Compassion), Wilma Piek (VRCID), Crystal Fielding (Durbanville Kinder Huis), Caretha Randall (Badisa), Leon Brynard (Vredekloof CID), Cassie van Zyl (BBID), Lucinda Valentine (WCSCF) and Janice Sparg (WCSCF).

Apologies: Nick van Rooyen (Teahmo), Jaylene Jemane (CoCT – SDECD), Jenny Bester (Communicare) and Mr Kopela (DSD).

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Communication and database
3. Current issues
4. Flow chart
5. Research
6. Upcoming events
7. Any other business & Next Meeting
8. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Janice welcomed all present and thanked them for coming. Introductions went around the room. Minutes of last meeting proposed by Leon and seconded by Cassie.

1. **COMMUNICATION AND DATABASE**

Janice asked if there was anyone present who is not receiving the email communication. All were receiving it. Juanita said she felt there was too much communication coming from the WCSCF. Hewitt said he is finding it all very useful. We released Juanita from the pressure of having to read it all ☺. It was apparent that many would like to be able to access the minutes and other information by means of the WCSCF website. Janice gave Hewitt a copy of the Fieldworkers Training Manual for their use.

After discussion in the group, it was agreed that the Northern Suburbs sub-forum would join the WCSCF at their next meeting - **A STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION – on the 24th June.**

**Therefore the next Northern Suburbs meeting (25th June) has been cancelled.**  Please all join the full Forum on the 24th to plan the next year. (9am-1pm, followed by a light lunch, at The Salesian Institute, Greenpoint.)

Future Agenda items:

* Monthly events of each organisations
* Show and tell sharing by different organisations each meetings, so we get to know each other better.

1. **CURRENT ISSUES**

**DSD’s new SOP.** The topic of the new DSD Standard Operating Procedure was raised. Roleplayers expressed the following concerns:

* The lack of space in the secure care facilities (especially for boys) – this was felt to be a provincial issue and not just a northern suburbs issue; that it is not just street children that are not getting placed but any child – due to the length of Charlotte September’s waiting list.
* that there is not enough focus on preventative measures in the communities - that Provincial DSD needs to be on the same page as organisations working on the ground in the communities, and how bad the situation really is. (Mr Booysen mentioned the effectiveness of the past “No-Limits” Model in this way.)
* That the new DSD SOP needs to be functional for all areas.
* Will all placements be 3-6mnth placements? Or will individual children’s needs be taken seriously.
* After 6mnths, then what (?) for the children whose home circumstances are not conducive to family reunification.
* Will caseworkers refer the cases to the Social Worker from the child’s community so that family preservation / rehabilitation work can be done in that community?
* Section 104 of the Children’s Act needs to be a focus.
* Action steps were to include for Janice to give Robert MacDOnald a list of children that needed to be placed (if not at this meeting, then in the future.)

Janice has a meeting with Robert MacDonald on Wednesday 3rd June and assured the group that she would ask these questions. She said she felt that the initiative being taken was the most positive (DSD) step in a long time and that it will surely have been taken with a good sense of how it will pan out in all these areas. She was keen to give Robert MacDonald a chance to answer questions about his procedure.

**Kids Count.** Wilma had meeting with Parow roleplayers regarding number of children – 4. Badisa Trio has a list of details of 21 children. Brackenfell - is it still 18? Hewlin working with 2 girls 17&18 who need placement. Onsplek has space for girls, with babies. St Annes is also an option to be explored.

**Streetview**. Hewitt presented his “Show and Tell” segment. Hewitt explained some cases he has with a young girl you is pregnant and has 3 children already, and then three other girls under 18. Juanita insisted the two of them meet to find a way forward. Janice suggested Beth Uriel to Hewitt for the street youth that he deals with on a week to week basis. Also that he should attend the WCYDF meeting on the 22nd July.

**Mothers with Babies**. It was mentioned that many give the mother’s on the street two warnings and the third time they take the child away. Mr Martin confirmed that it is not true that DSD does not take the child away if the mother does not want to let child go. If they have warned and the mother continues to use the children to beg, then they take the child away.

**Law Enforcement “Outreach” today**. Leon mentioned that there was going to be a Law Enforcement operation on the R300 at 1pm that day, which entailed the removal of street dwellers. BBID and VCID were to be involved. There might be children there and Leon was briefed on following the SOP to see how effective it could be in this situation. Juanita and Hewitt asked that Leon please let them know which children they come across. They were asked if we could be made aware in advance of these events in future in order to be able to plan properly for the safe removal of the children.

**Badisa’s Foster Parent Campaign** & **Give responsibly Campaign**. Badisa busy with a foster family’s campaign to attract temporary and long term foster parents – part of the plan to secure stability for children. Badisa wants to advertise to all the churches in the area.

Leon feels that there needs to be consistency in any lobbying efforts done, be it give responsibly campaigns, Foster Parentes Drives, etc. Needs to be done over a longer space of time.

Wilma said we should meet with the Prevention and Awareness Task Team at the VRCID to come up with a strategic well planned awareness campaign around all pertinent sector issues. Janice and Lucinda to get in touch with Wilma in this regard. This can involve Media, Social Media, our website, etc. Badisa has video’s on FosterCare which we can use and 5 other movies. Maybe we could get Stacey Doorly-Jones from WCSCF Exec onto this task team as well.

**WC Youth Rehab Centre** – closing down!! (lack of funds apparently). Last intake 8th June.

1. **RESEARCH**

Juanita asked where lobbying came into the focus area chart and Janice explained that it may come in under research. Juanita explained how Badisa piggy backs with the school social workers for their TPA school visits.

1. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Janice presented the idea of combining our next meeting (strategy) on the 24th June, and wanted to hear the thoughts of the group.

The conference dates (19th 20th 21st August) were given to group and they were made aware that the AGM would be a part of this conference. Janice asked that any topic suggestions for the conference be emailed to her.

Hewitt introduced The Amazing Grace event to the meeting. Two pronged purpose (i) Community engaging with organisations (i) promotion of sector organisation. The group loved the idea and would like to be involved.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Membership and the types of membership was discussed and the group reminded, that they have till the end of June to become members. Janice explained how the CID’s are able to become membersif they have a social development arm (which are the change that needed to be made to the constitution and those proposed changes are to be discussed and voted on by members at the AGM).

1. **NEXT MEETING: 24th June 2015** - Stragetic Planning - 9am-1pm @ Salesians, GreenPoint

- All sub-forum roleplayers encouraged to attend and contribute

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