

Northern Suburbs Street Children’s Meeting

25th February 2016

9:30 - 11:30

Durbanville Council Chambers

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Present: Vanessa Brink (Badisa Fisantekraal), Capt Niemand (Kraaifontein SAPS), Ruth Tshabangu (Private), Nick van Rooyen (Teahmo), Elmarie Janse van Vuuren (Teahmo), Stacey Doorly-Jones (2nd Chance), Wilma Piek (VRCID), Dick Smith (DSD Metro North), Benny Martin (DSD), Wendy Bosse (The Olympians), Delicia Williams (Olympians) and Janice Sparg (WCSCF).

Apologies: Juanita Beukes (Badisa Trio), Amber Confield (Badisa Scottsdene), Caretha Randal (Badisa Trio), Lorraine Waterboer

1. **Welcome and introductions**. Janice welcomed everyone; introductions went around the room.
2. **Feedback from other WCSCF meetings**

Janice gave feedback about the SOP Children. The discussion about addressing gaps and blockages to take place later in the meeting.

Janice gave feedback regarding alleged budget cuts by National Government from DSD as told to the Eden Karoo Regional Engagement. Points made (still to be clarified for accuracy):

* R438million is to be cut from DSD Budget and given to free universities.
* National NACCW Isibindi Project frozen. DSD has just trained 77 CYCW’s in Eden Karoo, but there will be not further rollout. It will be reassessed with no expansion.
* There will be no calls for new services. And only 2% increases will be given to current services.
* There will be cuts in all Community Based activities to cover cuts.

The truth and details of this will be sought. Dick Smith mentioned that their Dept is having to return R11million this present financial year and they are not sure where it will be taken from. Discussion ensued. It was thought that it is not acceptable to take money away from Child Care and Protection in favour of higher education.

It is clear to those present that we need to find other avenues for funding aside from government to use for necessary programmes, and that the solution must come from us. Examples given were to apply to City of Cape Town, who has money budgeted for Child Development. The Northern Suburbs organisations could approach Gerard Fourie, who was instrumental in initiating this NS Forum.

1. **Presentation by Stacey Doorly-Jones of 2nd Chance of their new Equine Facilitated Substance Abuse Counselling and Mentoring Programme.**

8 week programmes starting on 17 March and 18 March 2016.

See attached Info.

1. **Current issues on the street**

Wilma Piek - Still no assistance from Parow DSD or Tygerburg Badisa.

Joint Opperations and Whatsapp Group: Nick reported no operations during the festive season. This will be pursued further as it is definitely a need from Badisa’s side. Hewlin will be included as they have a relationship with the kids.

Hotspot Areas / Number of children on the street:

* Brackenfell: Squatters in Industrial Areas – pre-school kids in daytime.

Kids have still moved to less visable areas and times.

* Durbanville: Many children on the street from Fisantekraal.
* Parow: The same children are still on the street, except one placed in Lindelani.

Focus on the kids causes dissipation around station road.

There was an influx of children from Uitsig during the festive season.

The “spark-plug gang” from Eerste River is active.

Belville Taxi Rank – parents with their children.

VRCID is employing a fieldworker

Oudtshoorn and surrounds – vulnerable children. Janice to please send Nick all WCSCF contacts in Oudtshoorn. And a .jpeg of WCSCF Meeting.

1. **Upcoming events**

Teahmo Substance Abuse Mini Workshop – 21st April, 8:30-11am @ Kuilsriver Golf Club. R30 per person. RSVP to info@teahmo.org.za.

1. **Any other business**

Unpacking the challenges and gaps in terms of implementation of SOP, related to compliance and intergration:

* Dick mentioned Human Resource challenges. That it works better to have a dedicated person or to use the after hours person, having them on standby.
* Dick said an SOP for CINOC & P is in Draft form.
* Removing children from the street
* Capt Niemand said the Swker who needs assistance needs to have a consultation with the Station Commander of their local SAPS in order to attain their cooperation for street removals and for Court Appearances.
* Or Janice to go see some key Station Commanders to get them on board??
* Placement Options needed – bottleneck at Lindelani.
* Caseworker / Social Worker follow-up of children’s cases – Quality Assurance – who does this? It’s necessary.
* Court Appearances and Abscondments
* Discharges from CYCC - Magistrates
* Specialised Unit

Janice to meet with Robert MacDonald. Agenda to include:

* Budget cut concerns
* High level meeting between Robert and SAPS Commissioner
* Consolidation of CYCC’s – is this being addressed?
* Street Children Task Team option

1. **Next meeting**: 26 April 2016 @ 9:30-11:30 @ Durbanville Council Chambers