

# Campbelltown Interagency

P.O. Box 3477 Narellan 2567 Tel: 4647 5604 Fax: 46485944

## MINUTES

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2010**

### **Present:**

Angela Lonergan	Campbelltown Council
Patricia Ceulen	Sector Connect
Suzanne Hart	BCS LifeCare
Sana Al-Ahmar	MDSi
Silvia Tedeski	MDS Haven Project
Nhan Tran	Community Services
Liz Tinney	The Benevolent Society
Jacqueline Dayes	MDS - HACC
Susan Duran	Baptist Community Service
Kelly Watson	Forum Sentencing
Paul Nunnari	Grahame West MP Office
Sarah Douglas	Catholic Care
Chris Manny	Centrelink
Annie Lee	TAFE
Richard Feeney	Hillsong Citycare

### **Apologies:**

Alicia Constable	Odyssey House After Care
Jeff Wilkin	Good Beginnings
Janet Robinson	YWCA
Emma Doukakis	Ideas – Disability Advocacy Brokerage
Kate Fitzgerald	MDSi

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### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Western Sydney Community Forum Training Calendar received and this will be distributed at various meetings.

### **Guest Speakers:**

#### **Sana Al-Ahmar Macarthur Diversity Services Inclusive, Family Settlement Worker.**

Sana spoke about what life is like for a family (from a non English speaking background) when they arrive from overseas as a migrant, asylum seeker or refugee and the impact that the change of circumstances can have on all family members. There are many difficulties that are faced including learning and understanding English language. Language becomes a very big barrier and Sana provided us with an example to read a form in Arabic even when given the Arabic alphabet as a guide! People are given assistance to learn the language however this can increase stress when the Mum has young children to look after and know no one to assist or when

men have a job they have no time to attend classes which are most likely scheduled during the day.

Sana spoke of the differences between asylum seekers and how these people have fled their home with little or no personal belongings and are seeking protection from another country stating that he or she is a refugee, but whose claim has not been evaluated. In Australia asylum seekers must prove to the government that if they were to return to their home land they would face persecution, imprisonment or harm for reason of race, religion, nationality, their social group or political opinion. The government will investigate and if satisfied will grant a visa to stay. People that have arrived as asylum seekers often have experienced great hardship including persecution, violence, or even had close family murdered. As a result many will require intervention and support services to help adjust into their new life and mental wellbeing. People have described being harassed, spat upon, sworn at and experience discrimination when accessing services or jobs. However many are hesitant to report this to Police for fear of further harassment and their negative experience of how police have treated them in their native country. Also Police require evidence or names of people inflicting the aggression.

Many people have had to have families separated or may not know if family members are still alive. As such people experience a deep sense of loss. This does make it difficult for establishing themselves or fitting in within a community.

So if your service works with recent arrivals from overseas there are many issues that one needs to be aware of, including those described above. Also it is important the people can feel safe to disclose to workers if they have experienced discrimination or harassment. If all services keep a record of any incidents then this may give a clear understanding as to where it may be occurring or establish strategies to engage with the police and have them working together better.

Thank you Sana for providing us with a better understanding about this topic and highlighting the important role we all have to support these people better and reduce issues of discrimination or harassment.

### **Liz Tinney – The Benevolent Society**

The Saver Plus Programme is a \$1 for \$1 match which has been funded by the ANZ bank and the Federal Government for six (6) years.

Saver Plus is piloting a change at the moment where clients make one deposit a month (up to max of \$50 per month) for a period of 10 months –

Over 70% of clients are now saving the same or more after 2 – 3 years.

Liz said they are leading the world with this programme - very simple to show ideas that do work.

Liz said March is a great time to encourage people to start the programme as they reap the benefits in time for 'Back to School' purchases.

Steps are:

- Join the programme – save for 10 months.
- Attend 4 x 2 1/2 hour sessions = 10 hours
- These cover credit/debt - small amounts/large amounts
- Awareness and control.
- At the end you will have your account with savings – matched funds go to education of self or children.

With this program you go from 'have not's to have' – 'Bills not paid to bills paid'. You can participate only once in this program.

Eligibility – Parents with children at school, individuals on low income, pensioner card holders, health card holders

Liz has said she is available to go anywhere as she is 'FREE'! – so please refer any clients to her. A recommendation about this program goes a long way with clients being willing to take up the program.

#### **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

Follow up from November 2009 – changes in age for TAFE enrolment. Annie Lee will send through the information. I will also send this through with the minutes. Thanks Annie for keeping us up to date.

#### **ITEMS WITHOUT NOTICE:**

Nil

#### **INFORMATION SHARE:**

*Please forward your information share to [networking@sectorconnect.org.au](mailto:networking@sectorconnect.org.au) to be included in the minutes.*

#### **Campbelltown TAFE**

Contact: Annie Lee – Outreach Coordinator: 4620 1866

Various TAFE courses including Cultural Food & Hygiene and Table Setting for various dining experiences.

Basic Introduction to computers course at Airds Neighbourhood Centre

Introduction into Community Services – one day per week for 16 weeks.

Basic English lessons

Macarthur Textile Challenge 2010 – See your way, seeing our way. Entries open till 23<sup>rd</sup>

April and exhibited from 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at Camden Civic Centre.

#### **YWCA**

Contact: Janet Robinson

Email: [janetr@ywcansw.com.au](mailto:janetr@ywcansw.com.au)

The YWCA has commenced as a Job Network for the Campbelltown area. Janet is the Community Coordinator and looking for placement opportunities for unemployed people.

#### **The Haven Project – Macarthur Disabilities Services**

**Contact:** Silvia Tedeski **Phone:** 4621 8400 **Fax:** 4628 4006

The Haven Project is made up of a consortium of 5 organisations- BCD Community Care, The Disability Trust, Macarthur Disability Services, Community Links Wollondilly and Anglicare as the lead agency. The Project covers the four LGA s across Macarthur and Wingecarribee. I am based at Macarthur Disability Services and I cover the Camden and Campbelltown Areas. Colin Garrad is also based at MDS two days a week and covers the same area. Colin has a youth focus and aims to support young carers aged 12-18.

The Haven Project is able to provide a range of resources and planning for time out for carers of a person living with a severe mental health illness. It is aimed at allowing carers to focus on their needs for wellness and recreation. We can help carers plan a personal respite experience tailored to the individual needs of the entire family. We provide flexibility and choice to ensure carers have access to a range of activities and experiences.

## **MDS – HACC**

Currently updating information in directory and will be available on MDS website soon.

## **Hillsong Citycare**

Contact: Karissa Kohring

Phone: 0450 308 118

Emergency relief food hampers at MDSi. Appointments can be made through MDSi for Wednesday afternoons.

## **MDSi**

Contact: Kate Fitzgerald. Ph: 4627 1188

Multicultural Family Worker

- Focus on Children Services
- Eight Playgroups throughout Macarthur region, covering multicultural communities – 2 with Arabic community, 1 within Vietnamese community and 1 within the Pacific Island community.

Contact: Sana Al-Ahmar

- Parenting Between Cultures – this course will be run during 2010
- Family Harmony and Healthy Relationships – Facilitators being trained so that they can deliver this course to their local community in their own language.
- Environmental Workshops will be developed.

## **The Benevolent Society - Fostering Young Lives**

Contact: Veronica Marskell Phone: 02 8778 0600 Fax: 02 9734 6588

33 Moore St Liverpool NSW 2170

PO Box 135, Liverpool NSW 2170

The Benevolent Society's Fostering Young Lives program delivers general foster care, relative and kinship care, wraparound support and family preservation services. The children and families we help come to us through the NSW Department of Community Services.

The Benevolent Society's Fostering Young Lives program puts children at the centre of the service, creating a single point of contact and offering much greater ongoing and coordinated support for foster carers and children.

For information on becoming a foster carer at The Benevolent Society visit our website at [www.bensoc.org.au](http://www.bensoc.org.au)

## **Foundation For Young Parents Program**

Currently running Playgroups for young parents and are working well at Macarthur Square and Mawson Park in Campbelltown.

## **Catholic Care**

**Contact:** Sarah Douglas Email: [sarahd@catholiccare.woll.catholic.org.au](mailto:sarahd@catholiccare.woll.catholic.org.au)

Currently revamping some of the parenting course including grand parenting courses where they may be a part time of a full time carer.

## **Baptist Community Services**

Provide light house work, meals for Aged care, disabilities including mental health. Referral by self or through Agencies.

## **Ideas NSW**

Contact: Emma Doukakis Phone: 0402 665 924

Disability Advocacy Brokerage – Can provide help for people with a disability and can provide an advocate who will: protect and promote your rights; support your decision making; represent your interests, assist you to be heard.

### **BCS LifeCare**

**Contact:** Suzanne Hart, Phone: 4628 4393 Fax: 4627 2650

Information Share:

Counselling services we provide are:

- ❖ Marriage and Relationship
- ❖ Individual
- ❖ Child & Adolescent
- ❖ Grief & Loss
- ❖ Domestic Violence
- ❖ Carer

We also run a number of programs:

- ❖ Living Beyond Abuse- 9 week program for women who have experienced Domestic Violence. Cost- Free
- ❖ Owing Up-6 week program for men who are willing to own their violence, also an introduction to the following program. Cost- \$35 per week
- ❖ Facing Up-18 week program for men who are willing to own their violence and look at it at a deeper level. Cost- \$35 per week.
- ❖ React- 6 week program for young people who want to manage their anger responsibly. Cost- Free.
- ❖ Kids Time- 8 week program for children who have witnessed Domestic Violence in their own home. Cost –Free.
- ❖ Kids Between-6 week program for children whose parents are separated or divorced. Cost \$10 per week.

Our centre manager is Denise Markovics, should you have any queries regarding our service, feel free to contact either Denise, myself or Petrina on 4628 4393.

### **Sector Connect Inc**

**Contact:** Patricia 4648 5933

Training Calendar for February – June 2010 now available

Free training opportunity Cert III / Cert IV information session with Prime Learning to be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 9.30 -10.30am.

Free Training by Our Community – How to Fundraise: 17<sup>th</sup> March at West's Leagues Club 9.30am – 1.00pm

*Next meeting*

*Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.*

*2pm to 4pm*

*At Campbelltown Library*