

Macarthur Child & Family Interagency

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st June 2010

Venue: Sector Connect, 351 Welling Drive Mount Annan

Chairperson: Kate Fitzgerald

Minutes: Karen Chisnall

Present: Marie Fletcher, Amanda Dawson, Sandra Templeton, Nancy Ward, Tom Reeve, Alison Daley-Lovett, Margaret Hudson, Celina Ang, Margaret O'Dea, Yvonne Porter, Melissa Tonga, Judith Taylor, Hong Lu, Leanne Charles

Apologies: Kellie Ryan, Phebe Boardman, Donna Crawford

1. Confirmation of previous minutes: Yvonne Porter, Judith Taylor

2. Business arising from previous minutes:

- Chinese Market Garden project has ceased for the time being
- Supported Playgroups Working Group meeting being held on Wednesday 9th June 2010 at 1pm
- Sector Connect in the process of setting up website – looking into having links to community service websites

Presentations:

- **Marsdens Law Group** – Alison Daley-Lovett
Tom Reeve

11:00-11:20 Morning Tea/Networking

3. New Business:

3.1 CALD Working Group:

- Karen raised the issue of possibly reforming a CALD working group
- There was concern that if there is no clear purpose for meeting then people don't have the time to commit to working group
- Possibly time to take a new direction in reference to working on the issues surrounding CALD groups in the area
- CALD training was supported by the interagency rather than a working group or forum
- Karen to organise training focusing on CALD issues
 - Suggestions were made around introductory training to new CALD workers, focus groups for issues workers may be having who work with CALD groups, closing the gap in relation to language barriers and access to services

3.2 Ideas for Families NSW next strategic plan:

- Yvonne Porter (CFSS)– family support focus books are quite busy and this is an issue that needs addressing
- Leanne Charles (Northcott Disability Services) told the group how successful their engagement with Aboriginal carers has been and believes that the strategic plan could focus on working with carers to promote early intervention, sustainability and helping families and children
- Judith Taylor (MDSI) also raised that services working with volunteers need training and support, and organisations need to know what to expect from volunteers. Possibility of linking volunteers with cultural awareness
- Celina Ang (Dept. Community Services) at this stage in the meeting asked interagency to support and promote the Triple P program which

now offers Aboriginal Triple P training. Celina to check dates for Triple P training and give to Karen so she can inform the group

- Margaret Hudson suggested working with dads as another focus area for the next Families NSW strategic plan. This suggestion was supported within the interagency because fathers are a hard target group to engage even though this issue is an area of growth with more fathers seeking services
- People were encouraged to provide feedback after thinking about possible areas of focus for the strategic plan and emailing their ideas to Karen (familiesnsw@sectorconnect.org.au)

3.3 Focus areas for Families NSW 2010/2011 work plan:

- Leanne spoke about 2 DVDs (Early Words) which have been developed. One is mainstream and the other is Aboriginal specific. Leanne believed these resources were highly useful and relevant and could be an area to utilise and work with. 17th August Aboriginal Professional Workers Forum. It was also discussed that working in small groups was found to be beneficial for workers in order to build rapport and engage with clients
- Copy of the priority areas for Families NSW project officer were handed out and people were encouraged to provide feedback to Karen Chisnall (familiesnsw@sectorconnect.org.au)

3.4 Training:

- Training held from 12pm onwards was considered a good approach to training for the second half of the year
- Yvonne said that training on the run training was good because it was relevant and straight to the point
- Marsden's interested in attending Attachment workshop
- Possible suggested topics for future training include:
 - Engaging parents with children with learning difficulties – Early words DVD
 - ADD
 - ADHD

- ODD
- Tourette Syndrome
- Training around workers being more aware and working with children
- Possibly tailor training to focus on fathers

4. Standing items:

- Any arising gaps and issues:

5. Any other business:

- Campbelltown Family Support Services 30th Anniversary
 - Launching a competition to design a new logo and encourage children and families to enter
 - Everything should be finalised by the end of the financial year
 - Celebration will be held in august 2010

Close:

Next Chairperson: Yvonne Porter

Next meeting: Tuesday 3rd August 2010

Venue: Community Links Wollondilly,

6 Harper Close, Tahmoor

Time: 10am- 12noon

Morning Tea Provided

****Please complete your information sharing sheet and return via email or give to Karen Chisnall at the end of the meeting – your information will then be distributed through the networks***