

Child Safety Planning and Partnerships Network

Newsletter update on progress of the Child Protection Statewide Partnership Taskforce

February 2007

Update from Taskforce Meeting held on 12 February 2007

The 24th meeting of the Taskforce was held on 12 February 2007 with a particular focus on Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI).

Report Back on Actions from last Taskforce Meeting

- **Child Placement Principle:** A think tank was going to be held but after further consultation it was decided to meet with some peaks instead and workshop some of the issues in detail with QAIHC.
- **Wellbeing:** Another meeting had been reconvened and a proforma for a survey to be distributed to service providers was being developed. The working group is putting together a definition of wellbeing that will complement SDM. A departmental staff person with comprehensive knowledge of SDM will be attending the next meeting to be reconvened.
- **Cultural Competence:** A proposal for building cultural capacity within non-government organisations had been developed. Two options were proposed based on ideas put forward in presentations at the Taskforce meetings relating to Indigenous issues:
 - *Option One:* An action research process undertaken over six months using four compatible and matched organisations – two indigenous and two non indigenous. The project would be evaluated and test resources, time and knowledge required to achieve successful skill transfer between agencies. The report would build from specific knowledge to generate a generic set of requirements and documents for wider use.
 - *Option Two:* The development of a theoretical paper based on a literature review with recommendations for a pilot project to test implementation of the report findings.

A meeting was held at Woodridge with NUTCHA Indigenous organisation and Life Without Barriers. They will be discussing placement models, funding round, developing protocol and relationships.

- **Kinship and Foster Care:** QAIHC, the Department of Child Safety (DChS) and Foster Care Queensland (FCQ) had met to develop models of support for Indigenous carers, especially in communities. Some of the models that are currently being used with non-Indigenous carers are being considered in the context of the unique needs of Indigenous carers. A further meeting will be convened to progress. FCQ is working with the DChS on holistic support. There are also links into cultural competency.

Kinship Carer Information DVD

A DVD had been developed by the DChS relating to information for kinship carers. Launch opportunities are being considered and it is anticipated that the launch will be undertaken in the near future. The information is as important for non-Indigenous carers as for Indigenous carers. Key impact is around the importance of culture and maintaining connections. The DVD will be helpful in pre-service training of foster carers.

Needs Based Models for Support to Families

“Another approach to the discussion about early intervention and prevention” was presented as an alternative by Jill Lang of QCOSS, the purpose being to cut through the current approach to service models as they are being conceptualised at the moment.

Needs Based Planning and the Allocation of Funds

Powerpoint presentations were made to the Taskforce on Evidence Based Policy and Practice for Community Services in Queensland and PEI Funding.

Needs Experienced by Families from the Perspective of Providers

Perspectives were provided to the Taskforce by Kathleen McBride of The Community Place, Woolloowin and Coralie Kingston of Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre.

Action Network Teams (ANT) and Referral for Active Intervention (RAI) Services

The Zonal Planning and Partnerships Officers (ZPPOs) from the Central and Northern Zones provided overviews of the situation relating to ANT and RAI services in their zones, highlighting gaps which had become evident in the arrangements. They are still working out the complexities of what is required and linkages to be made.

ZPPOs Report on Common Themes Across Zones in Relation to Prevention and Early Intervention

The ZPPOs from Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast and Ipswich and Western Zones reported on Consistent Themes, Innovation and Opportunities and Gaps and Challenges which had been identified across the zones.

Selection of Three High Priority Actions for Discussion at Next Meeting

The Taskforce broke into three groups to identify three areas where energy and time of Taskforce members and resources they represent can be invested. The three priority areas were identified as:

- causal factors and prevention - what keeps children out of the tertiary child protection system
- what are the characteristics of successful, innovative and holistic PEI delivery models for high risk families
- what mechanisms do we use across agencies, both government and non-government, to appropriately prioritise and integrate funding and resource services to work across the child protection spectrum.

**For further details visit the website at www.childsafety.qld.gov.au
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