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EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

held on 15 August 2019 at 10:00am in Caroline Springs Library & Civic Centre

Present:

- Cr L Carli, (Deputy Mayor)
- B Ball, City of Melton
- G Callander, Djerriwarrh Health Services
- K Curson, City of Melton
- J Gemoh, The Salvation Army - Children and Parenting Support Service
- F Norman, Department of Education and Training
- D Clarke, Community
- S O'Kelly, BPA Children's Services
- J Weber, Caroline Chisholm Society
- E Smith, Try Australia
- L Semini, Try Australia
- N Smith, Early Childhood Management Services
- C Reich, City of Melton
- C Turner, VICSEG New Futures
- Proxy, B Gilthorpe, Department of Health & Human Services
- D Nedjip, City of Melton - (minute taker)
- K McCluskey, City of Melton
- R Spielman, Ideas at Work
- R Inglis, Ideas at Work

Chairperson: G Callander, Djerriwarrh Health Services

1. Welcome

G Callander welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the meeting taking place in the land of Kulin Nation and paid respect to Kulin Nation people and their Elders both past and present and extended this respect to any Aboriginal people at the meeting.

2. Apologies

- Cr S Ramsey, Councillor
- C Owens, Djerriwarrh Health Services
- C Fisher, Tweddle
- C Middleton, TRY Australia
- J Macfarlane, Foundation House
- L Oliver, North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network
- H Schiele, Independent Schools VIC
- T Watson, City of Melton
- D Wright, Victorian Inclusion Agency

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J Newey, Department Health and Human Services
S Allison, Goodstart Centenary Ave
J Taylor, Department of Education and Training

Resignations of Chloe Mortimer (Community)

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**Motion**

S O'Kelly/J Gemoh

That the Minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2019 and adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting held on 22 July 2019 be noted.

5. Business Arising

Actions still outstanding;

Koolin Balit evaluation presentation to be arranged, this will be discussed at Koolin Balit Babaneek Booboop Steering Committee Meeting.

C Owens has updated that paperwork is being completed to request access to local data from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community obtained through the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) 2018.

6. General Business**6.1 Identifying opportunities to meet community need**

Kate McCluskey, Acting Coordinator Social Planning, City of Melton

Ruth Spielman and Robin Inglis, Consultants, Ideas at Work

In 2018 a Health and Community Services Gap Analysis of the municipality was undertaken. This involved long-term population forecasting overlaid on current service levels, and health and social indicators. This highlighted some striking local demographic changes that will impact health and community service needs.

Consultants from Ideas at Work have been appointed to engage with agencies in identifying opportunities to meet the current and future service needs of the municipality.

Discussion was held around population growth and non-government stakeholder at the meeting shared their organisation perspective. Discussion was held around the services provided, physical space requirements and capacity, current demand and demand suppression, difficulties around accessing services, and the barriers each service faced as well as barriers faced by the community.

Maps of activity centres, community centres (existing and planned) were provided to the committee. B Ball identified that the discussions were mostly around growth, diversity, and vulnerability and volume, reach, and access. He also asked about the



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opportunity to utilise technology to extend our reach and broaden our access as a leverage in the interim.

Action

K Curson to share consultant contact details and maps with committee.

6.2 Best Start update

Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, City of Melton

Discussion was held around the vacant EYPC positions this include: two community member positions, Catholic Education sector, Early Education and Care sector, Early Intervention & Disability sector and Drug & Alcohol sector. K Curson suggested extending the term of these positions to align with the current nominations therefore expiring in the January following the expected end of the term as identified in the Terms of Reference, the committee were in consensus with this change.

Motion –

N Smith/C Turner

That the term of the vacant positions be extended to the following January after the full term of the position, either 2022 or 2023 to fall in line with the current nomination process for existing members.

Best Start Logic Model handout provided. The logic model is designed to be reviewed every twelve months and has been provided today and will be discussed at the remaining meetings for 2019.

The number of Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) cycles has been much lower this year than last year. However, one on one meetings with direct services staff is beginning to generate further understanding and confidence in completing cycles. Identifying specific staff who are motivated to participate in continuous improvement is key to increasing the number of change ideas being tested.

K Curson is available to have further discussions with committee members who have particular staff who may be interested in developing their understanding and confidence to complete Best Start PDSA cycles.

6.3 DET update

Fiona Norman, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor, Department of Education and Training

Transition to School Learning & Development Statements for children going to school in 2020 will be completed online this year. There is a number of communications available to support Early Childhood Teachers engage families in the benefits of sharing information between Kindergarten and Primary School. DET have developed information for families in a variety of languages to further support discussions with families.

DET are offering a range of scholarships and Incentives for people considering a degree or postgraduate qualification in Early Childhood to attract qualified teachers and support the implementation of subsidised kindergarten programs to all three-year-old Victorian children over the next ten years. Specific early childhood Aboriginal pathway scholarships are also available for qualifications of Certificate III, Diploma, Degree and

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postgraduate level to support an increase of Aboriginal staff working within the Early Years sector.

The Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan was released in 2017, with reforms including; expansion of Enhanced Maternal & Child Health and Supported Playgroups, additional Maternal & Child Health Family Violence visits for woman and children at risk of, or experiencing family violence and the implementation of School Readiness Funding. A strategic evaluation is currently being completed by ACIL Allen Consulting to identify benefits and challenges of these reforms. Selected sites and services have been asked to complete an online survey, as part of broader consultation activities focusing on a number of communities across Victoria.

Kindergartens have recently completed School Readiness Funding (SRF) mid-year surveys to capture how services are tracking against their annual plans, funding to additional local government areas will commence in 2020. SRF is ongoing and DET will continue to work with providers to develop annual plans for 2020.

Action

F Norman to share information for circulation to the Committee.

6.4 DHHS update**Proxy, Beth Gilthorpe, Senior Child Protection Practitioner, Department of Health & Human Services**

Anna Ashton has joined DHHS as Acting Assistant Director Child Protection for Brimbank Melton while Shane Wilson acts as Area Director for Western Melbourne, Anna will continue to act in this role for about another month.

DHHS redesign and Child Protection's move into geographical areas is underway, it is proposed that the Contracting team, the Practice Leader group, the Permanency Team and the Community Based team move to the Sunshine office. DHHS are currently working through the processes involved in undertaking the redesign, it is expected this will be completed within the next 6 weeks.

The partnership with the Royal Children's Hospital continues to be successful, with a number of great examples of how that has been of assistance to our staff and clients. OF note, the partnership has been key to supporting Child Protection staff to better navigate the hospital system, to better support children with identified health, wellbeing and development needs.

7. Other Business

S O'Kelly asked the committee about their policies around immunisation and No Jab, No Play legislation. Discussion was held identifying the need to refer to DHHS legislation and the DHHS Chief Medical Advisor for clarification.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 10 October 2019 commencing at 10:00am in Caroline Springs Library and Civic Centre.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12:07pm.