

EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**held on 10 October 2019 at 10:00am in Caroline Springs Library & Civic Centre**

Present: Cr S Ramsey, Councillor
C Reich, City of Melton
H Schiele, Independent Schools VIC
S O'Kelly, BPA Children's Services
N Smith, Early Childhood Management Services
G Callander, Djerriwarrh Health Services
J Gemoh, The Salvation Army - Children and Parenting Support Service
B Ball, City of Melton
Proxy, B Gilthorpe, Department of Health & Human Services
E Smith, TRY Australia
L Semini, TRY Australia
J Macfarlane, Foundation House
J Taylor, Department of Education and Training
K Curson, City of Melton
Proxy, L Xerri, City of Melton - (minute taker)

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 L Carli, Deputy Mayor
D Clarke, Community
C Owens, Djerriwarrh Health Services
C Turner, VICSEG New Futures
T Watson, City of Melton
F Norman, Department of Education and Training
C Hirst, Department of Education and Training
J Newey, Department Health and Human Services
D Wright, Victorian Inclusion Agency
L Oliver, North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network
D Nedjip, City of Melton

K Curson advised the Committee that C Turner no longer works for VICSEG New Futures

Action

K Curson to contact VICSEG New Futures and identify if there is another suitable person to fill the membership position on the Committee.

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

S O'Kelly/C Reich

That the Minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee Meeting held on 15 August 2019 were adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 September 2019 be noted.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising

Consultant contact details and DET update have both been shared with minutes.

The vacant positions have been advertised with a good response received, the Committee's Executive are in the process of reviewing the nominations.

6. General Business

6.1 Terms of Reference yearly review

Karen Curson, Early Years Partnership Coordinator, City of Melton

Terms of reference handed out for all to read and review.

Action

Comments to be submitted to K Curson before the next meeting.

6.2 Speed Networking

Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, City of Melton

K Curson provided an opportunity for committee members to network. Members were to provide an 'elevator pitch' about themselves and their role and shared this in rotating pairs.

6.3 DET update

Janelle Taylor, Koorie Engagement and Support Officer (KESO), DET

Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, City of Melton

An update prepared by Millie Olcay, Early Childhood Improvement Branch Manager, Brimbank Melton was provided prior to the meeting and presented by K Curson, further details were provided by J Taylor.

Three year old kindergarten information sessions have been held for both LGAs in Brimbank and Melton. The initial rollout will commence in 2020 in six LGAs, and will rolled out in Melton in 2022. A number of strategies are being developed to support

this, this includes scholarships and incentives to become a qualified teacher to cover shortage

Both MCH and Supported Playgroups have transitioned to DHHS

A six month recovery plan has been implemented to support the transition of children and families to NDIS.

School Readiness Funding 2020 funding was launched on 19 September 2019. An additional 25 menu items have been included for 2020. Planning workshops will occur across Brimbank Melton to approved early childhood providers over the next two weeks and 2020 Annual Plans are due on 30 November 2019.

The online Transition Learning and Development Statements are open for services to develop statements for children attending school in 2020.

There will be a new KIS application form from 2020, the new form will go live on the DET website in the near future.

Respectful Relationships Professional learning opportunity continues to be rolled out across the state.

Brimbank Melton Koorie Family Day will be held on Sunday 17 November at Korororit Creek Primary School between 11am – 2pm, a flyer is currently being developed.

Action

K Curson to share information for circulation to the Committee.

F Norman to provide further detail in regards to the changes in Kindergarten Inclusion Support (KIS) funding at a future meeting.

J Taylor to share Koorie Family Day flyer for circulation to the Committee.

6.4 DHHS update

Beth Gilthorpe, Senior Child Protection Practitioner, Department of Health & Human Services

Shane Wilson has returned to the position of Assistant Director Child Protection for Brimbank Melton. Child Protection staffing has enjoyed a period of stability over the past 12 months which has had a positive impact on the team. However there has been less stability within the Investigations team.

The partnership with Royal Children's Hospital continues to support improved outcome for children.

Supporting families to access Early Start Kindergarten has been valuable for Child Protection staff as it has ensured that families are engaging with professionals on a regular basis through Kindergarten services, staff will continue to refer families to Early Start Kindergarten.

6.5 Best Start Update

Karen Curson, Coordinator Early Years Partnerships, City of Melton

The 2019 Best Start Logic Model was shared with the Committee and the Committee were reminded that as the governing body for Best Start in Melton they would be asked to endorse the 2020 Logic Model when it was developed.

The Melton Refugee Communities of Practice has had a successful year with engagement from a number of Sessional Kindergarten Providers, Long Day Care Centres, Supported Playgroup and the Victorian Inclusion Agency, this group will continue to meet until June 2020.

The Vulnerable Children's Working Group has an updated meeting format that includes discussing case studies and through this, identifying areas that need improvement locally.

Work as part of the Early Years Compact Agreement between DET, DHHS and local government has remained a large focus for Best Start for this year, with an increasing number of local representatives working together to progress identified outcomes.

A Social Worker sitting within the MCH team, with partial funding through a Central Enrolments Grant has worked towards identifying children eligible for Early Start Kindergarten and being the main contact point for Out of Home Care Children and worked with professionals locally to increase knowledge of Early Start Kindergarten. The position is funded until the end of the year.

Discussions held around the kindergarten application fee, how families can assess the fee waiver, and how this is promoted to families. The Committee identifying a need to find a systemic solution, to ensure that the application fee was not a barrier for families experiencing vulnerability in accessing Kindergarten programs.

Participation on Koolin Balit Babaneek Booboop Steering Group and Cultural Safety working group continues and participation on the evaluation of the Koolin Balit projects is now complete, there is continued discussion with DHHS on providing a presentation on the evaluation finding to this Committee.

Action

K Curson to share the Koolin Balit Evaluation document with the Committee.

6.6 Time to share – two achievements and two plans

Committee members were given the opportunity to share two of their achievements for 2018 and one of their plans for 2019.

Action

K Curson to add a discussion on Family Violence to the agenda of a future meeting.

7. Other Business

Nil.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 28 November 2019 commencing at 10:00am, venue to be confirmed.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12:11pm.