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Northern Suburbs Street Children’s Meeting

6th June 2017

9:00 – 10:45

Durbanville Council Chambers

Present: Nick Van Rooyen (TEAHMO), Magdalena Koch (Durbanville Kinderhuis), Jane Gelderman (FCD), Loraine Waterboer (Badisa Trio), Amber-Rose Canfield (Badisa Trio), Elzanne Basson (Badisa), Caritha Randall (Badisa), Getruida (Hagar Home), Maritha Roukema (Durbanville CPF), Theresa Uys (COCT), Leon Brynard (Vredekloof CID), Vanessa Brink (Badisa), Akhona Mvakwangu (SDECD), Wilmot Arends (DSD), Colleen Brookes-Gain & Janice King (WCSCF).

**Welcome and introductions**. Janice welcomed everyone. Introductions went around the room. Janice invited those present to feel free to bring their banners and brochures and business cards, basically any resources along so we can get to know each other better. Nick asked if Brackenfell SAPS are invited to the Northern Suburbs Meeting. Janice responded that they are indeed invited but we not certain who actually gets it but there are those who get personal emails.

**Corrections to the minutes as follows**:

The name Magdalen**a; Jade** not Jay

The SA-Yes programme **also** assisted older children those who are employed or have nowhere to go, to find their feet **to the age of 25yrs.**

**Two Northern Suburbs Sub-Forums**

When we started this Street Children forum we had people coming from all over the Northern Suburbs. This forum has now multiplied, with this one attracting Roleplayers from Durbanville, Brackenfell and surrounds and the second in Parow, run by Wilma from the VRCID, both connected to the WCSCF. It would be great if someone from the Durbanville area who knows the area, the organisations and the people, were to take over this sub-forum, in the same way that VRCID has – this way it can grow, being coordinated by a local – **please let me know if you are willing**?

We would still assist with admin and mailing, etc. A local will have a better relationship with key roleplayers (eg SAPS) and be more able to connect with /visit them and get them involved. If you have **anyone in mind** **who we can approach, also let me know.**

**Magdalena**: DSD & Badisa Swrkers from Bellville who works in Durbanville, Fisantekraal area…. Where would they attend? **Janice:** Badisa SW who works in this area will attend her*e.*

**Nick**: When this forum initially started the idea was that it was not going to be run by WCSCF forever. We should explore the potential of local roleplayers taking over.

**Jane:** Is there a Durbanville CIDS yet? **Nick**: It’s still in the making.

**Discussion topic – CIDS : “social development vs security” – where does the true power lie?**

As a Forum, we have a good relationship specifically with the Social Development ‘arm’ of the CIDS. We’re also aware that the Soc Dev arm often comes into conflict with the “Security” and “Cleansing” arm / priorities of the CIDS; as is happening in the CBD. The various roles of the CIDS was under discussion? Is the main emphasis a big business clean up or is the Social Development side actually able to bring about real impact???

**Nick**: My understanding of special rated areas is basically about safety and cleanliness; but safe and clean can become quite tricky. There’s huge differences between corporate/ residential and City CID. From a business point of view, Business owner’s expectations are for their premises and surrounds to be clean and safe for potential clients to come to their business premises. Their focus isn’t so much on the social aspect of life in the city. That’s more of an afterthought.

Also I think the CIDS didn’t take into account the scope of the human aspect /social component and they are now stuck.

**Janice**: The root of the CIDS came out of the priorities of business?

**Nick:** the need was established and they brought in the vehicle called CIDS.

**Janice:** the talk about’ cleaning up’ an area is often meaning/ talking about people. But people are really very desperate, hence the crime. Our system is broken.

**Leon**: I struggle with the idea of people living on the street but I have to remove them. But then they come back again and its always the same people. Residents and businesses don’t understand the actual problem. We need to make people aware of the real problem we are having.

**Nick:** Via the sub forums there’s a lot going on. But there comes a time when you hit the ceiling. That’s where the challenges are. What lies beyond that ceiling is another story. There are resources needed and then there are gaps. Certain roleplayers are supposed to stand in those gaps but if they are missing we will forever go around in circles. That’s why we are looking at the Indaba. What we have in the WCSCF is a collective voice which can formulate a collective document that can be presented to those beyond the ceiling. WCSCF needs to take it up higher.

**Leon:** We need to mobilize the masses.

**Janice**: Part of my Varsity course I’mdiong distinguishes between the Empire system (which is all about power, control, hierarchy) ) and Community system, but here, this 2nd system is very much ‘under that ceiling’ including even DSD / NGO’s etc. fighting a capitalist system that holds resources out of our reach, not caring about those under the ceiling. The Social Dev. arm of the CID is also under that ceiling but they in touch with those above the ceiling, meaning the business owners. But they fighting the battle against the business owners who’s first/main priority is a clean, safe business premises and not necessarily caring how it’s done. I know there are individuals running businesses that have soft hearts but I think they don’t necessarily know how to action this. Maybe our sector needs to provide more of a lead here?

**Jane:** we often underestimate the willingness of people to support it. What is the initial purpose of the CID? Is it just to improve business and increase profit or is it a combined effort of the business factor and the human factor. I’m sure there are key role players in the business district who will take hands, but they just need to be pulled in, informed, eyes open to opportunities that exist and convinced to clean streets in a more humane way.

**Leon**: The reason **for Residential CID’s**  - The initial idea was more because of crime. The initial purpose was to establish a NHW but NHW wasn’t sustainable and lots of people were willing but didn’t have the time. To get rid of the crime we decided to band together and put some money together and got a company/ professional people to look after the safety and security of the residents for us.

**Jane:** It’s like treating the long term symptoms as opposed to the cause.

**Janice:** more like building a wall where the security is the wall. The cause of having to get security in the first place is Unemployment.

**Nick:** that’s where the ceiling comes in. From a negative side…The CIDS cannot do everything. The custodian of a healthy economic govt should address unemployment….. Not businesses. From a positive side, we can show what is and what’s not working in the case of adults / children etc. We need to break through that ceiling. It happens in very rare occasions that someone beyond the ceiling has taken note of things happening under the ceiling and then takes it to legislation. We should however continue doing what we are doing.

**Jane**: If we wait on National govt to address unemployment we will wait forever. This we need to do locally on a community based platform. We can get local govt and local businesses to work with us.

**Nick:** I agree with you. The value of the local forums is that (i) we have local council sitting in from time to time and (ii) hearing our orgs needs and story. If we sit with local council around a table then we hear what the minister’s constraints and challenges are, then we have a better idea of what we can expect and what not expect from them. That might not be the answer I was looking for but at least I know where our sector lies and prioritise.

**Janice**: That’s why I often feel bad putting pressure on Robert MacDonald: He also has the system working against him, asking him to do miracles with no resources.

**Nick:** Unfortunately the buck stops with him and he has to locally knock through that ceiling to get it to the next level. And it’s not an attack on the person per se. HE is the vehicle to get us to the next level and we unfortunately have to keep pushing him.

**Janice:** One good thing with the CIDS, even if it started out just about safety and cleaning, is that they eventually saw the need to develop a social dev arm. They have enough heart to pay for SW’s. We need to break through that ceiling though. We have to get the message above the ceiling and maybe the CIDS could be the channel. Even the LNOC falls under the ceiling – they have been given the street people problem, which is the city’s problem. Then the City says it’s doing a lot for street people via the LNOC. But it’s actually also just the NGO’s below the ceiling doing all the work again. When actually, the city has many contacts above the ceiling.

**Nick:** I agree LNOC has a lot of value but at least hear us when certain topics / issues are raised and take it up higher.

**Jane:** Who do we see taking it to the next level? What model do we take to beyond the ceiling?? What are the key issues…we need to choose the big ones.

**Nick**: There are collective groups who can do that ie; WCSCF/LNOC Street peoples forum etc. I don’t know what the success of it will be.

**Wilmot**: I agree in terms of the City. We also have to work within the communities. The city also does preventative work in Klipheuwel and Fisantekraal coming into the Durbanville area. We should see how that social dev arm works and strengthen it. Maybe we need to watch that video again.

**Janice**: Govt cut the preventative budget, so who is left to do it? Its NGO’s who have to scramble around looking for money to do it. MES/ CIDS are looking at the needs of the homeless people to create a safe a Drop In Centre in Parow Bellville area, a factory or an old church – but they are not finding anyone willing to open their area to ‘this kind of people’. Central Admissions tried to transform Tenderton into a Rehab Centre in their switch of facilities, but the Wynberg residents said “no, we don’t want addicts in our area”. There is still very much segregated areas, where people are kept out for economic value reasons. Are people even aware that the drug users are people without hope? We need to put a holistic, well-motivated strategy to those beyond the ceiling. That is where the resources are all lying. People who pay rates/ levies to the CIDS are expecting safe/ clean areas… nothing more. But in a democracy, people of all kinds (ie also the marginalized) should have some power.

**Nick:** The human problem is being looked at beyond the ceiling by people who are politically motivated. And govt red tape is utterly unbelievable. MES found property but its 2 years later, 3/4 finished and they can’t go further because red tape blocks the way. The City’s solution to the homeless people in the CBD is enclosing a space just outside the CIDS boundaries under the bridge area and put up ablution blocks, fencing it to keep them safe and the problem is solved. That’s how a box is ticked off. That’s politics. Then they think “we have done something”. A few weeks later City then realizes that MES has the initiative of the safe space in Bellville and tehn they try to adopt it and take it over in their own way. Instead of supporting MES doing it the proper way. Then MES gets another delaying email about this or the other that must be sorted out. Politics are hindering a lot of good stuff.

**Jane:** The quicker route to immediate and quicker solutions is to involve and convince the long-term homeowners / businesses of the long term objective, the long –term solutions, the models that work and the processes that work and the responsible giving. You will draw in key members of the community and then they might just come on board and it can work. If you going to wait on govt you will wait forever.

**Another example of injustice in our city, putting children at risk: Sanitation**

Recently went on a “SHIT” (Sanitation Health Initiative Talks) walk on the outskirts of Khayalitsha, a community that developed 25 years ago. The public toilets are in an appalling condition, unmaintained by the City, hemorrhaging water and is a life-threatening, ‘health risk’ as women get raped going to the toilets at night. The Warehouse’s sanitation drive in one area was to get the City to provide a ‘janitorial service’ to at least maintain the toilets. Also, they analyse the City’s Sanitation Budget - The majorty if the money is used for areas that already have good sanitation, instead of being allocated to providing sanitation for communities who have no sanitation yet. A toilet is such a Dignity thing! But also a Safety thing. And then some of us have 5-7 toilets in our homes. ☹

**A Workshop with NGO’s, City and Province is urgent. Therese** (apologized for being late)**:** Has sensed that the recommended workshop between NGO’s, City and Province is urgent. Everything is budget related and everyone is busy with their ‘budgets’ . She has spoken to Minister Fritz about how the budgets will be allocated. A joint workshop is urgently needed to discuss our concerns. Social Dev for children is a Province mandate and for shelters because the city doesn’t build shelters or old age homes. We have to present from Community / NGO sides the needs / challenges and frustrations are.

Separate it into city and province. The city has signed a protocol agreement with province so that we can implement some of the social dev factors and we have to abide and are guided by our protocol agreement and can’t overstep it. We allocate budget according to that.

Now the city has relooked at that protocol agreement and also the protocol agreement with clinics because the clinics are province but the city is doing them. I think that at the meeting we will have with Alderman JP Smit (who will be heading up the Social dev directorate and the Law enforcement), we must clarify the challenges. Unless we have that presentation we can talk but will achieve nothing.

We need to talk to people who matter. We have to voice what we are doing and what’s not being done where the void and gap is. So what is needed can be sensitized in the budget process.

I think that without the cooperation of all these orgs etc our challenges would be so much greater and we would not be keeping our heads above water if it wasn’t for the committed dedicated orgs who make a difference. We need to streamline these.

LNOC was funded by the Homemac portfolio. It shouldn’t just be a street people focus.

CoCT may have the lowest unemployment but its Youth unemployment is shocking.

We have to see what the Provinces “Game Changer” Program and the Entrepreneurial Programs entail and where we fit in. We can improve our programs if we aware of what’s on offer and what’s being done. And unless we voice it continuously, we will not get a piece of the pie. (There is a provincial game changer / entrepreneurial program for the youth, vision and rollout to address unemployment but you haven’t seen it.) I need to expedite it that this Forum urgently needs it.

**Nick**: We need to look into….What is the origin of unemployment? Whose table does that fall on?

**Janice**: Someway we need to get above that ceiling. We already have some contacts above that ceiling. There are so many structural laws in place that need to change.

**Nick**: wrt to sanitation - Stellenbosch has a moratorium in development up till 2019 for sewerage. A developer looked for a solution. He thought thinking out of the box. They found 60 units had less sewerage than 2 households. He developed something to assist by due to thinking out of the box, and got the approval of Stellenbosch municipality.

We are thankful for Theresa that she is hearing our heart but it shouldn’t just be for Durbanville. It should be one big workshop for the entire Province of the Western Cape. We need to expand on the solutions we have.

**Janice**: This has been an interesting discussion. We have not stuck to the agenda, but please do contact me if there are any issues around Street Children.

The meeting was followed by a Networking Tea, and then the LNOC Meeting took place afterwards.

**Next meeting**: 19 September 2017 @9:30am @ Durbanville Council Chambers