** Hout Bay Forum Meeting Minutes**

**15th March 2021 @ 13h00**

**on Zoom**

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**PRESENT:** Janice King (WCSCF), Leticia Swarts (Metro Central Education Department), Lezanne Raath (Sinethemba Special Care Centre), Shelli Marx (Health Forum, Shawco), Noel Milner (James’ House), Yolande (School Social Worker from Metro), Liz Huckle (Lions Club, Health Forum)

**APOLOGIES:** Tjarla Norton (Community Cook Up), Sgt Pholelwa Njara (HB SAPS Social Crimes), Bronwyn Moore (Community Cohesion), Jeanine Swile (DSD Metro South)

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| **AGENDA TOPIC** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION TO BE TAKEN** |
| 1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS** | Janice welcomed all. |  |
| 1. **Adoption of Previous Minutes** | Meeting minutes accepted by Liz Huckle (Lions Club, Health Forum) and Shelli Marx.  All members introduced themselves. |  |
| 1. **Lezanne Raath: Sinethemba Special Care Centre** | 1. Lezanne, gave some background on Sinethemba Special Care Centre.   The centre is based in Masiphumelele between Fish Hoek and Kommetjie and is registered to take 60 children with severe disabilities physically, intellectually or both. The Sinethemba Special Care Centre deals with school readiness and does not do any formal education. Sinethemba works closely with Red Cross or Victoria Hospital who usually gives the approval for the children to attend a mainstream school. The goal of the Centre is to get a child as independent as possible for that child to move forward. The staff of Sinethemba Special Care Centre work very closely with the Department of Education’s task team called the CSPIT team. CSPIT assists with getting the child into the best schools according to the child’s ability. The age group at the centre ranges from 3 to 24. The main service area is in Fish Hoek. Funding for the some of the Hout Bay children has been granted. There are about 4 children from Hout Bay which are transported to the centre on a daily basis. There is a support system on the transport. There is space available for 6 more referrals. This service was started in October 2018. Funding has been received by Social Development and 40 of the children has been funded by Health. Support from the Department of Education has been received in terms of assistance and PPE but they have not given any funding.   1. The following documentation is needed to apply to Sinethemba Special Care Centre.  * Written referral from the member * Medical Report / Referral – Red Cross or local clinic * An assessment will be set up between the parents and the therapists at Sinethemba Special Care Centre. * A decision will be made thereafter. The fee of R180 is charged per month, during Covid the centre charges a fee of R70 per month. It includes a main meal, transport and all therapists etc.  1. Shelli advised that she currently has two referrals. Liz to advise on any referrals on her side. 2. Lezanne raises concern over one particular child that they are struggling to locate. Lezanne will hand it over to Shawco. The child needs to see a dietician. Shelli advised that the Shawco Pediatric Clinic will be open on 10 April. Shelli will communicate with Tjarla and ask for her assistance on locating the child. | Liz to advise on any referrals  Lezanne to hand over to Shelli |
| 1. **Metro Education Social Worker feedback regarding physical and intellectual disabilities** | Feedback regarding physical and intellection disabilities were requested from the WCED Social Workers, namely, Yolande and Letitica.   1. Leticia advised that she does not deal with any cases for the disabled children, it is usually handed over to DSD. 2. Yolande, who services the Silikamva, advised that teachers were trained in last month on how to identity any learning difficulties or challenges. To date, no referrals were submitted to Yolande or any of her team members. She also mentioned that challenges faced are that children are only allowed to attend the school of skills at the age of 14 and above. In response to this, Shelli advised that the school of skill in Mitchells Plain takes kids from 14 years of age and up. 3. Shelli advised that the Moravian school does not want to release the children with learning difficulties and challenges. The problem lies with the school and some of the parents who do not accept that their child is experience difficulties in learning. 4. Lezanne advised that Elsen school in Ocean View assists with children from school going age to 18 years old. Shelli countered this and advised that from her experience, Elson, caters specifically for children with mental and physical disabilities and it is not a school of skills. 5. Leticia advised that SPSTs are needed in schools so that they can identify these challenging areas with the learner at an early age. Parent workshops should be held. She also made reference to the stigmatism around special schools and school of skills and that parents need to be educated on this topic. The problem arises when parents do not attend any of the meetings scheduled. Leticia also further advised that there was some progress with identifying some of the children with learning difficulties and that sessions were held with some of the parents and that referral letters were drawn up and some of the kids have been accepted at certain schools of skill already. 6. The following contacts services the Hout Bay area and were shared in the meeting:   **Enver Hassan** – *Head: Specialised Learner and Education Support*  Contact: 021 514 6919  Email: [Enver.Hassan@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Enver.Hassan@westerncape.gov.za)  **Sarah Hendricks** – *Social Work Supervisor*  Contact: 021 514 6903  Email: [Sarah.Hendricks@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Sarah.Hendricks@westerncape.gov.za)  **Neil De Waal** – *Acting Senior Educational Psychologist*  Contact: 021 514 6902  Email: [Neil.Dewaal@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Neil.Dewaal@westerncape.gov.za)  **Irma Du Toit** – *Learning Support Coordinator*  Contact: 021 514 6779  Email: [Irma.duToit@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Irma.duToit@westerncape.gov.za)  **Schools serviced by Leticia:**  Oranjekloof Moravian Primary School  Sentinel Hout Bay Primary School  Kronendal Primary School  Disa Primary School  Llandudno Primary School  **Schools serviced by Yolanda:**  Hout Bay Primary  Hout Bay High School  Silikamva High School   1. Janice found that many School Principals are reluctant to use the SIAS process, due to already high case loads and the admin-high task it is. She asked Leticia and Yolande for feedback on their experience with regards to this. Yolande advised that the principals for Silikamva High School, Hout Bay Primary and Hout Bay High School are all onboard for identifying and assessing the challenging cases at their school. She also advised that Silikamva High School and Hout Bay Primary have new Principals. 2. Leticia requested that if members experience any problems with the Principals going forward, that they please include the Social Worker for that particular school in all correspondence. They will then follow up with the various schools. Janice to share the email addresses for Yolanda and Leticia.   Shelli advised Leticia and Yolande that all medical cases for children under the age of 13 can be referred to the Shawco Pediatric Clinic. The clinic opens on the 10 April 2021. It is available every two or three months due to Covid. The adult clinic is open every Wednesday evening. Children are allowed as well. The location will be confirmed. It is possible that it will be held at Centennial Primary School. The clinic is run by UCT Medical Division/Shawco Student Health Welfare Organization.  Lezanne left the meeting room at 13h35. | Janice to share the email addresses of Leticia and Yolande  Shelli to confirm the location of the clinics due to be held. |
| 1. **DSD** | 1. A new office for DSD has been obtained in Victoria Road, Hout Bay. The unit needs to be confirmed. 2. A meeting has been set up with the PIC team to discuss programmes for children with behaviour difficulties. – Feedback needed from Jeanine at DSD. 3. In the previous meeting held, the members requested that Jeanine shares the email address and contact details for each of the members in her team. | Leticia to share the Wynberg office number with Janice. Janice will share it with Liz, Noel and Shelli  Feedback on the meeting with PIC to be shared by Jeanine.  Jeanine to share the contact details for each member on her team |
| 1. **Other** | 1. The contact details for each member were shared via the chat group. 2. Leticia explained that she is part of a CBST team (this is the district base support team). The CBST consists of a Social Worker, an Education Psychologist, a Leaner Support Advisor and a Curriculum Advisor. Each one has a role to perform. The school base support team is situated at the school. If the school base support team is not able to handle the issue, it will be handed to the CBST. 3. Liz raises concerns regarding an entire family that have no identity documents and the case has been referred it to DSD. Shelli advised that Jeanine suggested that you have to go directly to the children court. The court then assigns DSD to the case. This will speed up the process. 4. Janice explains the concept of a youth café such as RLabs. The more courses you do and the more you volunteer, you earn ZLTO (online currency) that you could use to purchase electricity, water, MR Price etc. Please refer to the below link for more information: <https://www.zlto.co/#dashboard> | Janice to enquire if Lezanne takes children from Lavender Hill.  Leticia and Yolande to ask the principals of the schools attend this meeting. |
| 1. **Next meeting** | Date: 12 April 2021 |  |
|  | Meeting adjourned. |  |

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