** Hout Bay Forum Meeting Minutes**

**15th February @ 13h00**

**on Zoom**

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**PRESENT:** Jeanine Swile (DSD Metro South), Shelli Marx (Health Forum, Shawco), Tjarla Norton (Community Cook Up), Liz Huckle (Lions Club, Health Forum), Yvahn Gerwel (WCED Safe Schools), Jana Steinmann (James House) Glenda Kayster (WCSCF), Janice King (WCSCF). LATE ARRIVALS:Shumeez (Community Cohesion), UT (DSD Metro South).

**APOLOGIES:**  Sgt Pholelwa Njara (HB SAPS Social Crimes), Bronwyn Moore (Community Cohesion), Andre Morgan (Safe Schools), Captian (SAPS), Vicki Schaefel (Eyethu Skatepark).

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| **AGENDA TOPIC** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION TO BE TAKEN** |
| 1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS**
 | Janice introduced those in attendance. |  |
| 1. **Adoption of Previous Minutes**
 | Proposed by Glenda Kayster and seconded by Jeanine Swile. |  |
| 1. **Current situation with vulnerable children in Hout Bay**
 | The following concerns were raised by Shelli Marx and Tjarla:* Abuse of alcohol now that the ban has been lifted.
* Will the old cases of families with alcohol issues be followed up by DSD?
* Starvation and Hunger in the township.

Tjarla confirmed that a total of 46000 parcels were distributed to families within Hout Bay and confirmed that many more families were added to the database during lockdown as many more were struggling. She mentioned that it has been a huge challenge as people are still approaching herself and Shelli for assistance and it has been really difficult for them to fulfil that role. JS mentioned that there is ‘donor fatigue’ with usual parcel donors. Tjarla also confirmed that the organization managed to purchase a Covid compliant food truck which was sponsored. This food truck is used to feed the hungry in the township.* Kids begging poses as a security risk and issue when the kid’s request is not fulfilled. Due to the latter, an idea to create a token system will be introduced to the community being fed as well as to the people who usually assist the kids on the streets by giving some kind of donation/money. The token can be exchanged at the food truck for a meal.
* Unemployment is a big issue as many women and children are selling alcohol. The police need to get involved with the illegal sales of alcohol.
* Malnutrition in children is a challenge in the community. Liz has been delivering nutritional porridge supplied by the Rotary Club to the creche’s in the area.
* Jana (James House) gave an update on what her team has been doing. They have been doing house visits and by doing so are ensuring that all Covid safety precautions are taken. They started a garden project. They have also been distributing food parcels to the various families. She has noticed an increase in the need for assistance during lockdown.
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| 1. **DSD**
 | Feedback from Jeanine:* In terms of DSD office space in Hout Bay, the lease has not been signed yet and a date cannot be confirmed as yet. The DSD Team are looking forward to being able to do their work based in Hout Bay.
* There have been minor shifts in the DSD team and how it will work. The new Team that will service the Hout Bay area consists of:
* **Simpiwe Stifans (Swker)**
* **Tamlyn Issacs (Swker)**
* **Ashraf Arendse (Swker)**
* **Veliswa Xolie (SAW)**
* **UT (SAW)**: introduced to those at the meeting. He is now responsible for DSD’s programs and for re-establishing the networking relationships between external stakeholders and the community members in Hout Bay. Janice noted that it would be good for UT to be present in the Hout Bay CP Forum Meetings held.
* All Court Work has been centralized. Odura is no longer in the Team and will be doing the Court Work. Gillians’ is shifting to another area, so it is his last month with DSD Hout Bay. Cavin serves Wynberg-Parklands.
* There has been an increase in Form 22 cases, discharge forms from hospital, and old existing cases, which DSD is following up on.
* DSD has also been faced with the challenge of getting children into a rehab facility or children’s homes. The system is unable to keep up with all the applications. There is a long waiting list for these applications. Hesketh King going to help. There is no space for girls especially. If a group of siblings needs to be placed, it is not easy to place them in a facility without having to split them up. There are two private facilities who have committed to assisting accepting applications to alleviate the pressure as most government facilities are full. In response to this challenge, Janice referred back to a piece from Robert MacDonald where he committed to doubling the size of child and youth care centers. Jeanine could not confirm if this was indeed taking place and will investigate this on her side.
* Jeanine said that that services are continuing, although they are on a staff rotation roster at Metro South, which is very frustrating. Matters are being taken to court. Children are being placed in foster care with family members. Crisis or emergency calls are being attended to.
 | **JS to give UT’s email address to JK****Jeanine to follow up on the extra child and youth care centers** |
| 1. **Education**
 | * Safe Schools plays a support role, while DSD plays the lead role in creating awareness. Safe Schools offer schools training in terms of drug testing and provide the schools with drug testing kids. The key element to this is that drug testing and the consequences thereof forms part of their code of conduct. The problem arises when there is not institution to refer the child to and therefore it becomes a vicious cycle.
* **SIAS Assessments.** Information regarding the Sias protocol has been sent to Sgt Njara. Janice has also informed Sgt Ngada of Learn to Live (Salesian) in Greenpoint which offers assessments to children aged 13 to 15. Carol can be contacted for those assessments.

**Admissions without Birth certificates*** A list for all who are awaiting IDs needs to be sent to Jeanine to escalate with the social workers. Shelli to action.
* Closure is needed on the birth certificate for Ilona Halonga in order for her to attend school. The foster mother is Sibongile Makalaza. The court dates were set and on two occasions Gillian did not pitch for the court session. No further communication was made regarding this matter after numerous attempts by Shelli. This matter has been with DSD since 2008.
* A request to notify people if any cancellations take place because some people have to miss a day’s work. Jeanine has communicated this with her staff and has set up a WhatsApp business account in order to communicate with the clients. JS will also accept new referrals on this whatsapp no.
* Schools usually give parents a 1-year window period to submit the birth certificate. Jeanine advised that this is period is too short as there are major delays at The Department of Home Affairs who are currently only looking at 2019 applications. This time frame and delays needs to be discussed with the Provincial Children and Families Forum (PCFF).
	1. **Gang fights at schools**
* Gave some insight into the programme for a group of children that formed part of a gang from Silikamva. Sgt Njara and Community Cohesion run the 4-week programme and work closely together. They currently have 16 children enrolled for this programme. A programme for women, mostly mothers, will also be held on Fridays.
* Limited resources for drug addicts who really want to become clean. The only drug rehab in Hout Bay can only accommodate 16 adults. Hangberg Dream, which is managed by Florence October, needs funding and she will apply to DSD for this funding. Hangberg Dreams is more for post therapy rather that the more formal medical rehab. It is a struggle to get drug addicts into formal rehab centers because they are always too full. The children need assistance as well especially the 17- to 19-year-old category. Drug awareness needs to happen within the schools. The new principal at Moravian school does not want anybody to run any drug awareness programmes at the school. It was noted that the organization needs to check in at the Moravian school and that the children need to have drug awareness workshops and needs to provide help to the children that most need it
* Learner searches can be conducted by the Principal and can call SAPS to assist with it as well. Janice to communicate this with Sgt Njara.
	1. **Update from Sgt Njara:**
* She noticed an increase in skateboarders in the area, who are getting close to cars and riding recklessly. Tjarla confirmed that the skateboarders are the same group of children who beg.
* Janice complimented the work that Tjarla and her team together with Sgt Njara are doing, which she had heard about in a conversation she had with Sgt Njara in preparation for the meeting. She made reference to the vegetable garden behind SAPS. Janice to share some photographs of the garden created behind SAPS. Tjarla confirmed that Love in a Bowl is responsible for the garden at SAPS. Their aim is to create 96 crop circles around Hout Bay so that they can feed the community. Some of the crops are donated to families once per week. The other crops are sold off to the community members who are able to afford it.
* Sgt Njara also initiated taking some of the children on a hike on Wednesdays.
* Sgt Ngada is qualified as a social worker and has on occasion been involved in the community when off duty as well.
* Vicki (Eyethu Skatepark) noticed a considerable decrease in the number of children attending a valentine’s skate event at the skate park. Previously about 70 children attended the after-school programme held at the skate park but now that the park is under reconstruction children are bored and some of the children have gone back onto drugs. She is currently working with Riaan from Community Cohesion to assist in getting these children back to school and due to the need for an educational campaign arounf skateboarding, they are in the process of creating video content in order to provide awareness.
* SAPS is not allowed to confiscate the children’s skateboards as it is illegal, but they have tried to educate the children on the rules of the road etc.
 | **Shelli to send the list of those awaiting ID documents****Jeanine to follow-up on this and advise Shelli on the new court date****JS’s Business Whatsapp no can be used for this.** **Janice to communicate with Sgt Ngada.****Janice to share some photographs of the vegetable garden** |
| 1. **Children at the Harbor**
 | * This point was not discussed.
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| 1. **Hout Bay Safe Space**
 | * There is a huge demand for foster and safety parents. Jeanine advised that an education or an awareness drive on how to be a foster or safety parents should take place as many foster or safety parents think that they have a choice about which child they choose to care for and currently this is not the case. Children with behavioral issues are referred to a facility instead.
* Carla and her team are being trained up and in the process of getting clearance in order to become foster and safety parents.
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| 1. **Services to victims of Crime and Violence**
 | Shumeez arrived a bit late and told us about the services offered by Community Cohesion:* They are 3 in the office and they assist people who are victims of crime and violence, especially those experiencing domestic violence.
* They also have office is Oceanview and Masiphumelele, and a Team in Paarl .
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| 1. **Other matters**
 | * Can DSD assist with drug awareness in schools? Jeanine and her team cannot assist but the PIC team can assist with awareness regarding the substance abuse. The supervisor is Minaaz Essop. Jeanine to action and advise.
* James House runs two programmes B.E.S.T and the Isibindi programmes and an outpatient Drug Programme. These programmes are served by teams at Moravian, Hout Bay High, Silikumva and Sentinal Primary School. House visits, counselling, etc are offered to homes with problems. Child and Youth Care workers live in the community and they also reach out to the families via WhatsApp calls and home visits. Problem families can be referred in writing to the James House Programme Manager.
* DSD has not found a suitable CYCC for disabled children as yet. They have a short term solution, and have made contact with the Faciliaties Directorate Central Admissions, who have a very long waiting list.
 | **Jeanine to action with the PIC Team** |
| 1. **Date for next meeting**
 | * Monday, 15 March 2021 at 1pm via Zoom.
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