

EMR Family Reconciliation Best Practice Group
Thursday 30th August 2007
Venue: Monash Youth & Family Services

Topic	Discussion
1. Introductions	Sok Leana Te, Anglicare; Heather Cummings, REFS; Rhianna Perkin, WEAC; Jane Healy, Wesley; Helen Hunt, Harrison Community Services; Kirstie Edwards, Harrison Community Services; Nick Meuman, Monash Youth and Family Services; Raneer Cornell, FRMP; Amy Carson, FRMP
2. Apologies	No apologies given
3. Service Presentation	<p data-bbox="595 534 1503 571"><u>Helen Hunt - Harrison Community Services - Mediation Program</u></p> <p data-bbox="595 608 2007 676">Helen advised of history of Harrison Community Services and recent securing of federal funding to continue the mediation program for three years.</p> <p data-bbox="595 719 875 756">Mediation Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="640 759 2069 828">- differs from mainstream mediation as has an outreach component and provides short-term case management to families <li data-bbox="640 831 2047 975">- there is no waiting list for the program and a response to a referral is provided within 24-48 hours, referrals are received through Intake, local schools etc, initial assessment is often with the young person and not the whole family at once, often part of assessment is identifying appropriate family intervention <li data-bbox="640 978 1621 1015">- service is flexible and meets with parents in a range of locations <li data-bbox="640 1018 2074 1086">- Overview of mediation provided; mediation focuses on ‘present’ and ‘future’; where past issues keep coming up often the family may be more appropriate for family therapy <li data-bbox="640 1090 2051 1198">- During the mediation sessions; opportunity for all family members to “tell how it has been for them” everything is written down and read back; agreements are made and typed up and sent out to family members <li data-bbox="640 1201 2040 1310">- The case management component can include advocacy at schools with parents and/or young people; case management can also assist in separating issues that may be impacting on mediation ie. couple having relationship counselling concurrently to family mediation <li data-bbox="640 1313 2047 1417">- Heather (REFS) suggested that family can move from mediation to family counselling but not from family counselling to mediation - some discussion around this and how family counselling and family mediation work differently

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helen spoke of 'circles of support' where workers/Agencies are put outside the circle and support is provided by the friends, family, school, activity groups etc. This assists the young person make sense of their community and identify strengths and areas where they need more support.
4. Worker Reflection and sharing of case studies	<p>Kirstie, Harrison Community Services raised case study around methods of engagement with family; various workers workshopped suggestions around bike safety courses, single parents group and methods of working on anxiety issues</p> <p>Further discussion held around issues for Medicare rebate scheme for psychologists as a mental health response.</p>
5. Resources, Training, Events & Sector Updates	<p>Jane - Wesley; advised that she is new to Wesley as part of the Housing Placement YHAP2 Creating Connections Initiative; where possible aim is to keep the family together and works to link people within the region to resources; also has a consultative role - preventative work</p> <p>Heather - REFS; new groups for young people - Girls with Attitude & PUMP; also has parent groups</p> <p>Amy/Ranee - FRMP; training next week (4/9) "Youth Centred Family Focussed Interventions - what does it take?" - check out website for more details</p>
6. Next Meeting	<p>Jane suggested contacting Georgia Taylor, Catchment Youth Services to present on "Catching Families" - research project undertaken. All present agreed.</p> <p>Thursday 15th November, 9:30 - 11:00am Wesley 291A Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood</p>