

**Southern Region Family Reconciliation Peer Support Group
Thursday 12 March 2009
Venue: Southern Direction Youth Service, Moorabbin**

Topic	Discussion
1. Introductions	Amy Carson, FRMP - Melbourne Citymission; Angela Dupuche, Gateway Reconnect - Melbourne Citymission; Yin Zhang, FRMP - Melbourne Citymission; Sandra Roldan, WAYSS; John Ravesi, Family Mediation Centre; Elsha Tuner, Handover; Barry Cairns, SDYS - Moira; Jane Smith, Moira; Robert Coller, Youth for Christ; Paula James, Connections; Valeria Reid, Berry Street; Fiona Rout, Fusion Youth Housing; Gareth Hampson, Fusion Youth Housing;
2. Apologies	Susan Fallow; Southern Networker, Lisa Prince; Murumbeena Police Station, Frances; Springvale Community Aid & Advice Bureau
3. Previous Minutes	Passed
4. Guest Speaker	<p>Paula James - Finding Solutions at Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finding Solutions is a mediation and diversionary service for adolescents and their families where the young person is at the risk of being placed in the out-of-home care system due to family conflict. ▪ Referrals only come from DHS Child Protection. ▪ It is a voluntary service which provides outreach, individual support and offers mediation. ▪ Workers will usually contact families first for them to get background information or a deeper understanding of this program before they start to engage with young people. Sometimes they work alongside school coordinators. ▪ Family mediations offered have been seen leading to positive outcomes for family conflict. ▪ Young people in this program are on average 14 years old. ▪ There are a lot of similarities between Finding Solutions and Reconnect. The major difference, apart from referral resources, is that Finding Solutions works with young people and families with more complex issues and Reconnect is an early intervention program. ▪ Workers engage with both young people and their families with young people being their primary clients. ▪ Overview provided of other programs at Connections Child was provided and the handouts were distributed.
5. Worker Reflection & Sharing of Case Studies	<p>Barry Cairns - SDYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barry is working with a single parent who is a full time dad to two teenage girls. There is not

	<p>enough support around him and Berry wants to find out how he can link this single parent with some parenting support program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jane Smith suggested to check info on Eddie Gallagher’s website (www.eddiegallagher.id.au) <p>Elsha - Handover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elsha is working with a 17-year-old who has physical disability or possible mental health issue. She was rejected by her dad and is now living in an aged care facility. She has to move out of the age care centre shortly and the worker is looking at putting her into Fusion. ▪ She is not attending school due to her lack of mobility and worker has tried to ask her dad to send her to school but was refused. ▪ The young person is keen to live somewhere else and to resume her studies. ▪ There are not enough funds to arrange a taxi for this young person. ▪ Rob from Youth for Christ suggested he could work with this young person’s dad to engage him in supporting his daughter. <p>Rob - Youth for Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob shared a successful case where a young person was living in a THM and was asked about the possibility of moving back with his family; he agreed and moved back to the family home. This highlighted the need to keep family in the conversation when working with young people in the homelessness sector.
6. General Discussion	<p>Amy - FRMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy raised the question about increasing membership of group in the Southern Region. • Sandra mentioned that the most important thing is to talk to those who are at upper level like managers or coordinators about this practice. Workers will greatly adapt this practice or pay greater attention if the message is from the upper level. This also applies to gaining interest from workers in attending the Southern Region Peer Support Group. • Amy suggested rotating the peer support meeting to attract other services’ attention. • Amy also asked that workers share details of the network with colleagues. • Sandra suggested doing a presentation in regards to family inclusive work approach at the Southern Housing Network meetings. She talked about this with Rob and they are happy to team up to deliver the presentation.
6. Resources, Training, Agency & Sector Updates	No time available

7. Next Meeting	When: 10:30am - 12.00am, Thursday 11 June 2009 Where: WAYSS, 294 Thomas Street, Dandenong Guest speaker: Youthlinks - Sandra Roldan has followed up and confirmed a speaker on CLD families and challenges workers may experience.
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