Meeting Minutes

**Name: YJF Working Group**

**Location: Barkly Regional Council Chambers and Telephone**

**Date and Time: 12.00pm – 1:30pm 9 October 2020**

**Co-Chairs:** Kevin Banbury and Mark Parsons

**Facilitator:** Tim Candler

**Minute Taker:** Erin Elkin

**Opened:** 12:05pm

## Welcome, Introductions, Acknowledgement of Country

**Attendees:** Craig Kelly (NTG), Sandy Beattie (TF), Rachelle Hobbs (TF), Brent Warren (TF), Kevin Banbury (Chair / Legal Aid), Geoff Evans (Julalikari), Linda Turner (Julalikari), Raihan Anwar (John Moriarty Foundation), Kirsten Wilson (NAAJA throughcare), Aysha Kerr (TF), Debra Bennett (TF), Norman Frank (Julalikari), Tim Candler (Backbone), Margot Eliason (Backbone), Stewart Willey (John Moriarty Foundation), Mustafa Kangulu (John Moriarty Foundation), Doug Dunlop (Anyinginyi), Heather Burton (Anyinginyi), Barb Shaw (Anyinginyi), Ross Jakamarra Williams (Anyinginyi), Barb Kelly (TF), Alyne Fry-Croydon (IGT Youth Representative), Brian Obiri (Julalikari), Mark Parsons (Barkly Regional Council), Pat Brahim (Patta), Steve Hirvonen (Youth Co-ordinator), Heather Wilson (Elliott representative), Erin Elkin (Backbone).

**Apologies:** David Grant, Matilda Holmes, Michelle Bates, Steve Moore, Kylie Anderson, Francine McCarthy, Darryl Fitz, Patrisha Frank, Anna Gill, Ray Wallis, Dean Gooda, Dylan Kerrin, Kym Brahim

Tim Candler performed acknowledgement of country.

## Review of previous minutes and action items

* Amendment of previous minutes, 3rd paragraph needs to be amended to say ‘’one of the challenges’’. With this noted Previous minutes then accepted by the group.
* Minutes moved by Brent Warren and Seconded by Stewart Willey.
* Backbone team have invited Anyinginyi and Julalikari to attend working group.
* Territory Families (TF) have taken on board recommendations of the joint report and have created a new design model.
* Kevin Banbury has sought assistance from TF with joining the report and design together.
* It is acknowledged that an ongoing challenge is obtaining the remote voice, however Backbone team have been travelling remote to obtain feedback where possible.

## Agenda items

1. **Agenda item 1: Joint report from Anyinginyi & Julalikari**

**Report Overview**

* Kevin Banbury introduced the Anyinginyi and Julalikari Report (the report) to the group. It was acknowledged that many have already seen the report and it has been discussed through the Steering Committee.
* It is noted that the report is a well-structured and thought out report which the steering committee and working group endorse.
* Linda Turner from Julalikari then read sections of the report. Barb Shaw and Ross Jakamarra Williams from Anyinginyi also spoke up about key points to the report.
* The report is attached.
* Ross Williams advised that Anyinginyi have been meeting with NAAJA to discuss how to incorporate a wrap around and therapeutic model. Anyinginyi are completing a memorandum of understanding with NAAJA for a legal health framework and model. This tool can be utilised when the facility is up and running.
* Kevin Banbury advised that the Youth Justice Facility Working Group support the recommendations. Kevin Banbury also spoke about how there are examples of services that are successful and that today is a good example of services working together for a greater outcome.

**Age of young people**

* A discussion occurred regarding age of young people who will utilise the facility. Education says that young people are 10 to 25. The legal age of responsibility currently sits at 10.
* Brent Warren spoke about how some of TF’s Back On Track programs they have adjusted to accommodate 8 years old’s if the need is there. The age of users for the Facility will need to be determined.
* Pat Brahim raised that cultural age should also be considered. For example, when a young person has been through business they may be culturally seen as a man or woman.
* Kirsten Wilson pointed out that NAAJA’s throughcare does not cut off at age 18.
* Brent Warren also pointed out that there would be considerations if a young person was in the facility and turned 18, they be assessed on a case by case basis. Brent also explained that it is rare for a child under the age of 13 to be detained and that there are current discussions occurring across the states and territories regarding criminal age of responsibility.

**TF taking on feedback from the working group and the joint report**

* Brent Warren explained in regards to the Anyinginyi and Julalikari report, the CEO of Territory Families Ken Davies provided feedback to the reviewer and shared NTG information. There is nothing in the review that TF do not agree to and TF are happy to build the scope of the model. When looking at a provider, TF agree that Diagrama is not the best option for this facility. TF want the working group to provide their opinions, views and options on who would be the local representatives for the panel that decides on a provider for the facility. TF have a Cultural Security Framework that will also need to be adhered to.
* A question was asked regarding if there could be joint providers. Brent Warren responded that there are examples where two organisations have partnered. Sandy explained that one would need to identify as the lead agency.
* The importance of having the facility for the children and young people of the Barkly was also discussed. Brent Warren agreed the Facility is for Barkly young people, however he could not guarantee that in the future there would not be a special exception where this would highly benefit one particular young person and so this would not be ruled out completely.
* Heather Wilson spoke about her work she has done with Amnesty International in response to the incidents that occurred in Don Dale in 2017. She said that she is writing a letter to see that kids are supported and not sent to prison. She does not want to see the young people that get out of the centres then end up in adult prisons. She also advised that there are issues with ongoing counselling and that she knows two young men who were not able to get counselling after their time in detention due to them now being over the age of 18. Health needs to be a priority for the young people that will be in this facility. Heather Wilson also spoke about how it is good for the young men to be together to support each other. A health facility that also considered disability and mental health is important.

1. **Funding**

* It was discussed that currently there is $2 million dollars ($1 million per year) set aside for the operation of the facility. The working group discussed that this is not a long-term focused goal and that they would like a longer commitment.
* Brent Warren noted that TFHC would be proceeding with the project, however agreed that a longer-term commitment to the project would be supported. This would need to occur via the usual NTG budget request process.
* The working group agreed that they would advocate through to the Barkly Regional Deal Interim Governance Table that a longer-term funding commitment should be sought.

1. **Agenda item 2: Design Plan**

* TF provided a new and upgraded design model of the facility for working group members to look at. This new look considers the recommendations made by the joint report for a more homelike model.
* Some changes made are that there are now smaller units of bedrooms, a multipurpose space including a recreation room, space for group activities, more landscaping to fit into the local environment. They have also included a phase 2 design for further expansion including a workshop and more accommodation. This is just the building block design and there is still a lot of room for discussion regarding interior and furniture.
* Rachelle Hobbs explained that what TF are looking for now is to understand from the group what homelike would look like. The current design is modular and not dongas so can be moved around. The pictures provided are examples. Once the working group agrees on a general design then they need to think about how it gets delivered and what contractor to use. Modular housing is quicker and more cost efficient. The company that builds the facility can also complete the civil works at the same time therefore it is a quicker process. There are several things to consider such as air flow, textures, colours and outlook when planning.
* TF will also look at outdoor shade structures and outdoor cooking facilities.
* Until the modular design is decided upon it is hard to budget for power and water. Even after finalising the modular system, there is still lots of opportunities for changing the design if needed.
* It was discussed that the staff who will be employed for the facility should start to receive training concurrently as the facility is being built so that it can be utilised straight away and the staff are well prepared for when young people attend.
* TF will have an inclusion on their tender for strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and where possible increased local employment.
* A question was raised regarding the staff accommodation on site. TF explained that staff will be alert whilst on shift at all times so will not require accommodation.
* Discussion occurred regarding the need to progress with a common intent. There has already been a lot of discussion on this and that there is still time to be flexible with the service model and final design. Once a decision is made regarding the general model of the squares, this can then go out for tender. There are design principles already in place. The current design is within the current budget. There is a plan for stage 2 development which will include more recreation, however with current budget need to look at what is the priority, a basketball court or more accommodation for young people.
* Kevin Banbury spoke about how the process of the working group and the different organisations coming together is positive and shows that the NTG is taking steps in the right direction.
* Example facilities were discussed with Derby and Central Street in Ampilatwatja being named as places that did not look like a prison camp.
* The group was reminded that these young people coming to the facility have done something wrong and they are facing the consequences of their actions, however this also needs to include rehabilitation and healing.
* Linda Turner advised that the first drawings that TF provided were unacceptable, but these new designs show that they are listening, and she can appreciate the flexibility that TF are showing to make it look different.
* Rachelle Hobbs also advised that a lot of feedback she receives regarding these facilities is that it is important that sports and recreation are separate from the bedroom spaces as this creates more of the home feel.
* The working group discussed that moving forward there needs to be a particular smaller group that works with TF. It was discussed that this group will be made up of Patta, Anyinginyi and Julalikari. TF agreed to working with these organisations.

1. **Agenda item 3: Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA)**

* Pat Brahim advised that Patta had a meeting with their lawyers the previous Friday and that she had been advised that there had been no correspondence from TF. The NTG has been pushing for Patta to sign off on the ILUA for a fossicking park before the Youth Justice Facility. Pat explained that Patta disagreed with this and said they would not sign off on the Fossicking park until the Youth Justice Facility had been agreed upon.
* Brent Warren advised that TF had sent a letter to Patta and the Land Council and he would provide a copy of this to Pat. He also advised that in this letter TF have addressed Patta’s questions.
* It was agreed that a meeting will be held between Patta and TF the middle of the next week to discuss ILUA.

1. **Agenda items 4: Next Steps**

* The group was reminded that young people are still getting in trouble, they are still getting sent to Darwin and that progress needs to be made so that the facility can be utilised by these young people.
* TF explained that once a provider is found then the core has been started and all the other services and details can wrap around.
* A recommendation will be made to the Interim Governance Table that a smaller group comprising of TF, Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Patta, Anyinginyi and Julalikari is formed to continue moving forward with the design plan.
* A recommendation is made that the Youth Justice Facility working group endorses the Julalikari and Anyinginyi join report recommendations.
* A recommendation is made to the Interim Governance Table that advises that a 2-year financial commitment is not sustainable and for the Interim Governance Table to advocate for 10-year funding for the facility’s operations.

## Actions

**Action List**

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| Item | Action | Time Frame | Comments / Responsibility | Status |
|  | A recommendation to be drafted for the Interim Governance Table including the 3 recommendations made by the working group | By 26/10/20 | Backbone team to draft |  |
|  | A meeting to be arranged between TF, DIPL, Patta, Anyinginyi, Julalikari to discuss design model | By  1/11/ 2020 | TF |  |
|  | A meeting with be arranged between Patta and TF to discuss ILUA | By 23/10/20 | TF and Patta |  |

**Next Meeting Date:**  To be confirmed

**Meeting closed:** 1:40pm