

General Body of the Child Secretariat & Core Group Meeting Minutes

13th April 2007

Venue - NCRC Office

The General Body of the Child Secretariat & the members of the Core Group Met at NCRC on 13th April 2007 the Agenda of the meeting were as follows.

1. Insurance for Children
2. Discuss about the relief for the child victims of the Nambiar Nagar fire accident
3. Study on the status of children
4. Grievance day for the tsunami orphans at the Collectorate
5. Children Fund
6. Discuss the Registration and the Clause in the MoU regarding the Child Secretariat

Sr. Mercy welcomed the participants to the meeting. This was followed by debrief of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Insurance scheme for children

Mr. Ganesh from CREATE informed that Star Insurance Corporation was willing to amend certain aspects of the insurance scheme in order to suit the local requirements. He said that they have agreed to collect Rs. 100 per child per year. Mr. Jerald from NCRC informed that recently the government has launched a new insurance policy called “**Jan Beema Yojna**” which was exclusively introduced for the Tsunami affected and the policy would cover the entire family.

Relief for the child victims of the Nambiar Nagar fire accident

Mr. Alfred from Real informed that he had not received the list of the names of the concerned children from the NGO Phoenix. The group agreed that it was well past the time to provide assistance.

Christu Raj School incident

Mr. Kannayairam of UNICEF stated that there is a need to take legal action and Child Secretariat can tie up with organizations such as TLAC or the Child Rights Commission etc in such issues. He informed that according to the UNCRC any person can file public interest litigation on behalf of the child, since the parents may not be in a position to do so. The group agreed to do so and MR. Ashok of LCI said that he would prepare a detailed report which could be presented to TLAC. Mr. Kannayairam, also shared briefly on the meeting that he had attended when the Child Rights Commission had visited the District Administration. He informed that he had

mentioned to the Commission about the activities of NCRC and the initiative of the NGOs in forming the Child Secretariat.

Study on status of children

The group took stock of the progress of the study it was noticed that only 6 NGOs had submitted the report on the 3rd April. Health issues and the need to strengthen the already existing mechanisms were some of the issues that were identified in the study.

Mr. Kannayiram stated that UNICEF has also proposed to conduct a study on tsunami orphans and children living with single parent. He briefed the group on the same.

Experience Sharing

The SNEHA staff shared their experience from the meetings held by the Child Rights Commission at both Chennai and Sirkazhi. They also briefed the group on the recommendations of the study.

Grievance day for Tsunami Orphans

Mr. Jerald stated that based on the findings of the study conducted by NCRC, the Collector has accepted to hold a grievance day for those excluded from the beneficiary list on the 17th April 2007. He stated that NCRC and some of the NGOs are already engaged in sensitizing the people on this issue since the scheme is due to close in the month of April 2007.

Children Fund

Sr. Mercy submitted the accounts to the members and discussed the expenditures to date. The group agreed to shift the remaining fund (Rs.46, 682) to the Child Secretariat.

Child Secretariat

Mr. Jerald announced the group about the Executive Board members elected by the members of the Child Secretariat on 3rd April.

President	:	Sr .Mercy from Good Shepherd.
Vice – President	:	Mr. S. P. Ganesh from CREATE
Secretary	:	Mr. S. Jerald from NCRC
Joint – Secretary	:	Mr. Ashok from LCI
Treasurer	:	Ms. D. Danalaksmi from SNEHA
Board Member	:	Ms. Revathy from Vanavil
Board Member	:	Mr. Alfred from Real

Duration of the Executive body – it was unanimously decided that the Executive Body should continue for a period of 3 years. It should be made compulsory that all the members must attend the meetings regularly.

The group was informed that at present the Child Secretariat would function from No. 31 Mahalakshmi Nagar, South Palpanicherry Nagapattinam.

This was followed by a discussion on the following points

- 📌 Objectives and Activities
- 📌 Registration of the Child Secretariat
- 📌 Executive Body
- 📌 Term of Service
- 📌 Admission of new members
- 📌 Logo
- 📌 Inauguration of CSt venue and invitation

The members gave their suggestions and recommendations on all of the above points and necessary action would be taken on the same. With regards to the inauguration function it was decided that this event should be done in a manner that would spread the awareness about the existence of such a body. However the date of the function is yet to be decided.