

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE STATE CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY, ASSAM

The second meeting of the State Child Protection Society, Assam was held on 12th September 2011 in the Hotel Pragati Manor, Guwahati from 11:45 A.M. The meeting was presided over by the Chairperson of the Society, Shri H. K. Sharma, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Social Welfare Department and the following members were present.

Sl.No.	Members	Designation
1	Shri H.K.Sharma, IAS Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Social Welfare Department, Dispur	Chairperson
2	Shri R. L. Duarah, Director Social Welfare Department, Assam	Member Secretary
3	Dr. Bandana Bhuyan, Regional Director, NIPCCD	Member
4	Smti. Jeuti Barooah, Director,LRI, Gauhati High Court.	Member
5	Fr. Lukose, Founder & Director, Snehalaya	Member
6	Mrs. Ruprekha Mushahary Director, CHILDLINE	Member
7	Mrs. Sunanda Das Joint Secretary, ICCW	Member
8	Smti. Neera Gogoi Sonowal Deputy Secretary, Social Welfare Department	Representative of Social Welfare Department
9	Shri Vedprakash Gautam	Member Representative from UNICEF

While welcoming the members of the Society the Member Secretary, Shri R.L. Duarah, IAS, Director Social Welfare, Assam briefed about the purpose of the day's sitting and progress of action taken on the resolutions adopted in the first meeting of the State Child Protection Society (for brevity sake refer to as SCPS here in after) held on 5th August 2010.

The Chairperson asserted that the first item in the agenda should be confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting. He also stressed the need for preserving original copies of minutes in security proof folder because the minute of any society or organization are a vital document depending on which the activities of the society take place. Moreover, for audit purpose the minutes are the guiding documents, said the Chairperson. It

was suggested that one of the Programme Manager in SCPS should be made responsible for handling all SCPS meeting matters and preservation and maintenance of documents and papers related to it.

The meeting took stock of the progress and action taken on the resolutions adopted in the first meeting. As regard to the Resolution No.2 for re-notifying District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) as District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), the Chairperson expressed his opinion that the change was not so necessary as it is more appropriate and relevant for the district set up of the Society to function as District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) and other members were of the same opinion as expressed by the Chairperson.

As regard to the Resolution No. 10, regarding operationalization of DCPC office, the Chairperson desired to know the actual status district wise. From the information furnished by the Programme Manager (Child Protection), inference could be drawn that in number of districts buildings were taken on rent but practically the offices have not become fully functional. The Chairperson and also other members viewed the matter with concern. The Chairperson and other members urged the SCPS, Assam to take affective steps to make combine offices of DCPC, CWC and JJB (in the same building) functional by 31st October 2011.

As regard to action taken on other resolutions the members did not express any specific views or suggested any change / modification / alteration and confirmed the minutes of the 1st meeting.

The meeting then discussed the status of the Juvenile Justice Programme. The status report placed in the meeting was discussed and examined by the members. The Chairperson as well as three other members namely Jeuti Barooah, Fr. Lukose and Bandana Bhuyan pointed out that number of sittings vis-a- vis number of cases disposed, both by CWCs and JJBs do not reveal good quality delivery of services rendered. The disposal of cases appears to have been tardy .The members felt that the disposal of cases needs to be geared up so that children are put in safety net for their all round, social, physical development. Non- posting of Probation Officers in some districts, delay in submission of enquiry report by the social worker or child welfare officers and in inadequate sitting of the JJB / CWC could be the cause of low disposal of cases as well as huge pending cases. The member suggested that this problem should be resolved by the Government and State Child Protection Society, Assam by taking appropriate necessary action.

The Chairperson took an exception on being informed about the combined functioning of JJB Kamrup (Metro) and (Rural) just because the members of both the Boards are same. He strongly suggested that henceforth both the JJBs should function separately and if necessary steps could be taken to change the composition of the Boards.

The Committee then discussed the functioning of the existing institutions of the JJ Programme. The Chairperson as well as the Member Secretary informed the meeting that

necessary proposals for setting up one Observation Homes in Bongaigaon, Children Home, one in each of the districts of Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Silchar have been included in the budget proposal for 2001-12. Also a proposal has been included for setting up of one special home. The Member Secretary assured that the Observation Home at Silchar will be made ready to receive children in conflict with law as the necessary physical and other infrastructure would be in place very soon. The State Government has already sanctioned Rs 10 Lacs for each of the above proposed new institutions. The Member Secretary further informed that at the behest of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India the Social Welfare Department has already submitted to the DoNER Ministry, plan estimate for setting up composite Observation and Children Home in six places.

The Chairperson, as well as the members, stressed the need for improvement of case record maintenance and there should be regular check and review of case records in the Institutions by the Probation Officer and Superintendents of Homes.

The Committee took stock of Adoption Programme in the state. The Committee members were informed about the development that took place with the roll out of Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in Assam and expressed satisfaction that State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) and State Adoption Advisory Committee (SAAC) are in place. The Committee was also informed about the 1st meeting of SAAC held on 12th April 2011 and important decisions taken in the meeting. The Member Secretary informed the members, that for promotion of adoption in the state, setting up of more state Adoption Agencies was felt necessary and accordingly the State Child Protection Society, Assam, through competitive bids short listed 9 NGOs for setting up of SAA and urged the members to finalize the selection of NGOs out of the short listed NGOs. The Committee members unanimously selected 7 NGOs for setting up of SAA in different districts.

Foster care and Sponsorship Programme were discussed broadly. All the members agreed with the view that both these tools of Child Protection are effective alternative for Institutional Care but at the same time it is a delicate and sensitive process. The people in the state are not so familiar with Sponsorship and Foster Care Programmes, and the prerequisite and priority should be laid to acquaint the people with foster care and sponsorship process through extensive awareness drive. Fr. Lukose highlighted the fact that CWCs in Kamrup particularly has had to handle cases of child labour and homeless children for whom foster care and sponsorship would have been a better alternative for 'social rehabilitation. He specifically emphasized to embark upon Sponsorship and Foster Care Programme on felt need and area specific basis.

Open shelter scheme, which is directed towards protection and welfare of street children, abandoned and missing children, etc., was thoroughly reviewed. The Chairperson as well as Member Secretary and other members shared the view that the magnitude of the

problem of street children was not ascertained and there was no survey ever undertaken. The Member Secretary informed the meeting that a proposal was sent to JPISC with a request for undertaking extensive survey of street children, both in urban and semi-urban areas of the state. The functioning of the existing open shelters run by 3 NGOs was discussed as per information made available in the meeting. One shelter home located in Nagaon was reportedly not functioning on expected line. The meeting strongly suggested that non performing NGOs should not be entertained for any financial aid and if necessary grants already sanctioned should be free zed.

Further the meeting was of the opinion that selection of the NGOs short listed through competitive bidding by the SCPS, Assam should be put on hold till an extensive survey is undertaken. If such survey reports favour setting up of more Open Shelters than only selection of NGOs by a sub- Committee to be constituted for the purpose might be undertaken - felt all the members.

The matter of extension of term period of SPSU and staff engaged there under was discussed and reviewed. As per schematic pattern the primary task of SPSU is to roll out ICPS from the state level to the Gram Panchayat level within a definite time frame. The SPSU cannot continue for an indefinite period of time, and particularly after the SCPS becomes fully functional, a parallel apex body (SPSU) becomes redundant. After threadbare discussion on the 'matter, the committee members expressed their unanimous view that the SPSU may continue to function till next meeting of the society is held.

The Committee discussed child tracking system and the pilot project to combat trafficking of children as these two are vital mechanisms of ICPS. The Chairperson enlightened the meeting about the child trafficking system undertaken by Sarva Siksha Abhijan (SSA) to track drop-out children. He strongly urged that a child tracking system be put in place as incidence of child trafficking and child abuse are reportedly increasing in the state. The members felt that coordination between law enforcing authority, i.e police and other related agencies to weave a child safety net is advisable. Fr. Lukose informed that the Home Link software, as used by Bosco India for tracking missing children could be useful and suggested that SCPS, Assam invite them for more enlightenment.

The committee then discussed about the Childline Programme in Assam. The Chairperson expressed his surprise that Childline Programme proposed to be set up in Dibrugarh and Silchar more than two years ago, did not materialize as yet. He urged the Director, Childline present in the meeting to expedite setting up of Childline in Dibrugarh and Silchar as well as on other places of Assam like Bongaigaon, on need based basis, as absence of Childline has been a hindrance in smooth functioning of CWC and JJB.

The meeting then discussed in nut shell about Training/IEC and other programmes. The members urged that UNICEF and JPISC assistance should continue to

strengthen training and IEC component. The meeting also agreed to the proposal for engaging the former UNICEF Consultant as a part time consultant of SCPS.

Financial statement showing receipt and expenditure of fund, Central Share, for the Year 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 was placed in the meeting. The Chairperson categorically asserted that the accounts of the SCPS should be immediately audited by engaging recognized firm of chartered accountant and submitted to the authorities concerned and also to place the audited statement of accounts in the next sitting of the SCPS. The other members agreed to the Chairperson's assertion.

Most of the members raised the matter of placing vital functionaries such as social workers, counselors and other functionaries envisaged in the ICPS schematic pattern for effective delivery of Child Protection services.

The meeting examined / cross examined every aspect of the developments that took place after onset of ICPS mechanism in the State and wind up the day's deliberation by adopting the following resolutions.

Resolved that:-

1. The meeting of the SCPS will be held on quarterly basis hence forth.
2. The Member Secretary , SCPS will entrust one of the Programme Manager of SCPS with the task and responsibility of handling all matters relating to conduct of SCPS meeting and maintenance / preservation of documents and papers related to it.
3. The monitoring committee constituted to oversee and monitor the functioning of JJBs should be activated immediately.
4. The resolution adopted in the first meeting for re notifying District Child Protection Committee as District Child Protection Unit be dropped .
5. The office of District Child Protection Committee and the JJBs and CWCs should be housed in a single building and made functional by 31st October 2011. The Member Secretary should spread out the Programme Managers to different districts for ensuring full functionalization of DCPS office with JJBs and CWCs.
6. The term of State Project Support Unit extended till the next meeting of SCPS is held or till 31st December, 2011 whichever is earlier.
7. All funds released by Govt. of India under the scheme Sishu Greha and Open Shelter will be released to the concerned NGOs subject to satisfactory inspection report from Programme Manager concern.
8. The practice of combined sitting of JJB Kamrup rural and metro should be done away with, with immediate effect and the Probation Officer should take step to hold sitting

separately. The Deputy Director handling ICPS matters in the Directorate of Social Welfare will examine the possibility of having separate members for JJB Kamrup and rural so far being manned by the same persons in both the JJBs of Kamrup rural and metro. Further the CWC Kamrup rural should function at Amingaon.

9. The Director Childline will take up the matter of expediting setting up of Childline in Dibrugarh, Silchar and as well as other places on need base basis.

10. The following NGOs be recommended for setting up Specialized Adoption Agency shown against each of the agency

- Morigaon Mahila Mehfil,.....in Jagiroad area of Morigaon District.
- Sarvangi Vikash Trust, Bongaigaon..... in Bongaigaon town.
- Ayur Herbal Natural Health care Diseases Management and Research Society, Dibrugarh in Dibrugarh town area.
- Bajali Gaon Unnayan Samiti, Barpeta In Bajali town.
- Jagriti Sanmilita Unnayan Kendra, North Lakhimpur.....In North Lakhimpur town.
- NEVARD, Dhubri..... in Dhubri town.
- Roghurtook Club and Library, Karimganj..... In Karimganj town.

11. Foster Care and Sponsorship Programme are promoted on experimental basis in Kamrup district only after undertaking proper preparatory and spade work.

12. The process of selecting NGOs for setting up open shelter are put on hold till the proposed survey of street children in the State is completed and final report submitted.

13. Govt. in Social Welfare Department may be requested to issue notification constituting Project Screening Committee.

14. The State Child Protection Committee should submit a proposal to Govt. for opening of Joint Bank Account in the DCPC for joint operation of fund by the Deputy Commissioner and the Member Secretary of the DCPC in all the districts.

15. The State Child Protection Society should take immediate steps for engagement of C.A firm and get the account of the SCPS audited as early as possible.

16. The SCPS issue instruction to all JJ institutions Superintendent / Principal to float expression of interest for hiring vehicles for the purpose of transportation of children to JJBs medical centers etc.

17. Smt. Rachel Kabi, former UNICEF consultant is offered to provide consultancy services on part time basis to the SCPS on a daily honorarium of Rs. 1000/- for eight days in a month.

18. For recruitment of essential functionaries envisaged under ICPS, the SCPS authorities submit a recruitment plan and submit to the Chairperson for approval.

In fine, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the chair.

Sd/-

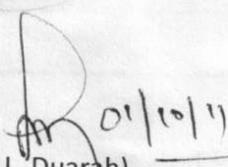
(H.K Sharma)
Chairperson
State Child Protection Society, Assam

Memo No. SCPS (G) 11/2010/70-A

Dated, Guwahati the 1st October, 2011

Copy forwarded to:

1. The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for information.
2. The Commissioner to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, CMO's Office, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for kind information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
3. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Department of Social Welfare, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for information and necessary action.
4. The PS to the Hon'ble Minister, Social Welfare Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for kind information of the Hon'ble Minister.
5. All Members of the State Child Protection Society, Assam for information and necessary action.
6. All the Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, District Child Protection Committee for information.
7. All Principal Magistrate of JJBs for information and necessary action.
8. All Chairman of Child Welfare Committee for information and necessary action.
9. All District Child Protection Officer for information and necessary action.
10. All Principal / Superintendent of Observation Home / Children Home.


R.L.Duarah
(R.L. Duarah)
Member Secretary
State Child Protection Society, Assam

THIRD MEETING OF THE STATE CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY, ASSAM

Date: 15th June, 2012

Venue: Nakshatra Hotel, Beltola, Guwahati-28

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Signature
1	SHRI H.K. SHARMA	CHAIRPERSON Commissioner & Secretary	<u>H.K. Sharma</u>
2	SHRI R. L. DUARAH	MEMBER SECRETARY Director, Social Welfare	<u>R. L. Duarah</u>
3	Smt. Shyamali Boruah	President Indian Council for Child Welfare, A.S.B.	<u>Shyamali Boruah</u>
4	Fr. Lukose Cheruvall	Chairperson CWC / Director Snedden	<u>H.C.</u>
5	Ruprekha Mishra Ray	Secretary ICCW, Assam	<u>Mishra Ray</u>
6	Cpl. Brisoya	OSD, Finance Dept	<u>Brisoya</u>
7	Mahadananda Hazarika, ACS	Joint Secretary, Home & Political & Representative & Principal Secretary, Home Deptt.	<u>M. Hazarika</u> 15/06/12
8	VEDPRAKASH GAUTAM	Child Protection Officer UNICEF Assam	<u>Vedprakash Gautam</u>
9	Jenki Baruah	Director, LRI. Gauhati High Court.	<u>Jenki Baruah</u>
10	Bandana Bhuyan	Reserve Director NPCCD	<u>Bandana Bhuyan</u>
11	G. K. Kalita	Labour Commissioner	<u>G. K. Kalita</u>
12	A. K. Gogoi	St Secy - LSE Deptt	<u>A. K. Gogoi</u>
13	Neera Gogoi Sonowal	Dy Secy, Social Welfare Dept	<u>Neera Gogoi Sonowal</u> 15/06/12
14	J. N. Dutta	Joint Director Social Welfare Deptt	<u>J. N. Dutta</u>
15			