

Gauteng Care Crisis Committee

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

4 April 2024

Gauteng NPOs, shattered and utterly disheartened by Department of Social Development's handling of their subsidies, say communities need services now – not department's public relations messages.

On 1 April, the Gauteng Department of Social Development's (GDSD) started its new 2024/25 financial year. But for many non-profit organisations (NPO) in the province, 1 April was the end of the road. Having depleted their subsidies for 2023/24, and with no indication from GDSD as to whether they would receive subsidies in the new financial year, they have been forced into closing – both permanently and temporarily. This is the second consecutive year that the GDSD's tardy decision-making has caused a crisis in the NPO social care sector.

In June 2023 it was already apparent to NPOs that the delayed decision-making and budget cuts characterising the start of the 2023/24 financial year would likely repeat in 2024/25. Letters written since to the senior leadership in GDSD requesting clarity around the department's threat to take over services, as well as reduce funding, have – at best – only been acknowledged as received. The remainder have gone unanswered.

Instead, in March 2024, the GDSD started responding to our questions via a series of press releases. In their first release of 7 March the GDSD instructed NPOs to be patient and to wait for the department to complete a forensic audit of the sector. While the audit was announced by the Premier in May 2023, the GDSD only initiated the process in October, ensuring that a process intended to uproot the mismanagement of funds by some GDSD officials and NPOs has resulted in the destruction of services. This is because the GDSD ignored the impact on organisations of having to function for a month without their subsidies. NPOs' subsidies are paid on a quarterly basis in advance. With the final instalment of their 2023/24 subsidies having been paid in January, organisations' funds were exhausted by March.

Then, on 15 March, the GDSD attempted to obtain an urgent interdict preventing NPOs from participating in a sit-in that never was, as well as from ever meeting to discuss protest. When that was dismissed outright by the court, the GDSD resorted, on 20 March, to claiming that NPOs were conspiring with the Democratic Alliance to cause panic in the province around the imminent cuts to their budgets.

NGOs do not have time to engage in Gauteng's election politics. Their priority is, and has been, the wellbeing of their beneficiaries, the survival of their services, and the futures of their staff. The following series of statements of impact offer a snapshot of the impact on 18 organisations of the GDSD's delayed decision-making, opaque procedures, and unwillingness to engage with organisations about their subsidisation for 2024/25.

These statements reflect the experiences of NPOs assisting women who have experienced gender-based violence; children in need of care and protection; older persons; persons with disabilities; homeless men and women; families; adults and children in conflict with the law; and communities struggling with poverty, inequality and unemployment. We have reproduced the statements as is to allow organisations to convey their losses in the manner they thought best.

Over the next few days, as the GCCC comes to grips with the extent of the immediate losses, along with those still to come, we will be releasing a series of updates, by service sector, of the way organisations and their beneficiaries are being affected by the GDSD's cuts to their budgets, as well as their inadequate decision-making.

**Note: The Gauteng Care Crisis Committee is a voluntary association of 67 NPOs in the province formed during the crisis caused by the GDSD's attempt to impose severe budget cuts on NPO social care service in 2023/24.*

Contact details for each organisation are listed at the conclusion of their statement.

Gauteng Care Crisis Committee: Statements of impact

1. Epworth Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC)

We are a stand-alone CYCC with over a century of service in the field. We recently received our 5-year registration certificate after years of tedious frustration. The lack of funding whilst we awaited the signing of our certificate by DSD and the months they refused to pay have created a hole we cannot recover from. DSD withheld R1.5 million after refusing to renew our temporary registration in 2022 year and then withheld R380 000 for November 2023 whilst they were busy signing our registration. We can't recover from that unfortunately.

We are able to service 84 children but have reduced to 50 due to the ongoing funding crisis. Closure is imminent. We will be retrenching staff from 22 April and will have moved all our children by 31st May. We also run a therapy and assessment centre which offers psychological services to the community - around 500 clients a year. We offer mostly educational assessment and therapy. Unfortunately, our closure will be final as we need to sell the property to pay retrenchment and outstanding debt.

Epworth CYCC formally announced its closure on 2 April with the following statement:

Epworth Children's Home Announces Closure After 105 Years of Service

After 105 years of dedicated service to children and families in need, Epworth Children's Home sadly announces its closure, effective May 31st, 2024. This decision comes after careful consideration by the board and management, who have tirelessly explored every avenue to sustain the organisation. Despite exhaustive efforts to secure funding partnerships, Epworth Children's Home has been unable to continue its operations without the critical support of the Department of Social Development. As a result, the difficult decision to close the doors has been made.

Since its inception, Epworth has served as a beacon of hope for countless children and families, leaving behind a legacy that transcends physical buildings and programs. The impact of Epworth's work is reflected in the lives touched and futures shaped through its unwavering commitment to care. As the organisation prepares for closure, Epworth expresses deep gratitude to all supporters who have contributed to its mission over the years. Their dedication and generosity have been instrumental in the organisation's ability to make a profound difference in the community.

In the remaining months, Epworth remains steadfast in its commitment to providing the best possible care to the children entrusted to its charge. Every effort will be made to ensure a smooth transition for the children, prioritising their protection, safety, and psycho-social needs.

Epworth also acknowledges the invaluable contributions of its dedicated staff, many of whom have served with unwavering commitment under challenging circumstances. The organisation is committed to ensuring the financial well-being of its staff during this transition period.

In closing, Epworth extends heartfelt gratitude to the community, donors, and supporters who have stood alongside the organisation throughout its journey. Together, we have made a lasting impact on the lives of countless children and families, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and care that will endure for years to come. Our last ask of all of you is that you continue to support us and help us see this through to the end.

Contact: Penny Lund, 082 965 4781

2. People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA):

We have 6 offices, 2 shelters, 2 TCCs and 5 VFRs, that will be affected should DSD not fund. Almost 13 000 beneficiaries per annum receive services in the form psychosocial support and sheltering.

Below is the breakdown per annum:

We provide service to almost 2400 beneficiaries from 6 office situated in the Sedibeng, Ekurhuleni and JHB regions that will go without services.

We have two shelters that accommodates about 157 women and their children that won't have a place of safety. We operate from five VFRs in Police Stations and can reach about 6191 beneficiaries per annum that will no longer receive services. We provide service from TCCs [*Thuthuzela Care Centres*] in two hospitals and reach about 4208 beneficiaries that will also not receive services.

Almost 17 000 beneficiaries are reached through GBVF prevention and awareness programmes in all regions combined.

With no funding all the above services will have to stop, offices will be closed as of 1 April and 67 staff members will be without jobs.

Contact Thoko Budaza 062 320 9509 / Naledi Quali -068 167 8292

3. FAMSA Pretoria

This is how Famsa will be affected if we do not receive funding from the department.

Crime prevention Project in Soshanguve

1 social worker
1 social auxiliary worker
3 youth caregivers

Beneficiaries is 5000 that includes children and youth and adults at risk.

If this programme is not funded, we will not proceed from 1 April. This will mean these staff will lose their jobs. We started with this programme because the department asked for it.

Arekopaneng HIV AND AIDS programme

1 Programme manager
3 social auxiliary workers
1 administrator
1 child and orphan coordinator
10 EPWP [*Expanded Public Works Programme*] workers

Beneficiaries is 110 families affected or infected by HIV/AIDS it is very poor people in the Soshanguve area. Number of beneficiaries is 600, this programme function as a home-based care project. It is an expensive project, and we also receive money for food parcels for these families. Many children sometimes does not even have school clothes and we try and provide it to them. This project cannot proceed after 1 April as it is a labor-intensive project, and we cannot afford the program.

Counselling services in Pretoria, Soshanguve and Mamelodi

1 Senior social worker
6 social workers
4 social auxiliary workers
1 bookkeeper
1 senior administrative worker

We can proceed till the end of April then we must scale down as we have 3 satellite offices in Soshanguve and Mamelodi that is expensive to uphold. We must close them and then the services will be centralized in Pretoria and not accessible to the poor as we will no longer have offices in the townships near informal settlements.

We will proceed with volunteers and a small division where we provide paid services to the people in Pretoria.

Contact Petro Theron, 082 338 7974

4. West Rand Association for People with Disabilities (WRAPD)

The situation at WRAPD:

We have 4 programs that is funded by DSD.

- **Residential care:** for 37 Adults with disabilities. 30 is subsidised. We have requested the last two years for the additional 7 but have not received. 14 of the residents have no family and can only contribute their SASSA grant. We need to provide in all their needs from toiletries, food and clothes. 9 residents can make some contribution and only 7 can make a contribution of R 6000 pm
(Subsidy is R2 575 pm)
- **Protective work centre:** We receive subsidy for 35 people an amount of R447 pp per month
- **Outreach program:** 26 people are funded R250 pp per month
- **Social work Posts:** 1 Senior social work post
2 Social work posts
2 Social Auxiliary posts

They reach about 241 families for social support and do awareness programs in the communities. The social work staff is the only professional staff in the organisation. If these posts are not funded it will mean that there is no senior staff and only cleaners, care workers, gardener driver left to run the organisation.

The organisation in total is run by 20 permanent staff members, 18 of them the breadwinner of their families. 60% of our expenses is covered by the subsidy that we receive and for the rest we need to fundraise.

If funding is not received in April we will have to cut down on services and those that can't pay for the services will have to find alternative placement. If there is no alternative placement these beneficiaries will have to go to shelters or be on the streets.

7 of the staff members is also staying on the premises and they will also be homeless and unemployed.

This organisation deliver services to Adults with Disabilities and their families since 1947 and have literally served 1000 of people in the last 77 years.

The infrastructure develop over many years will also be lost if we close down.

Contact Annalene Roussouw, 082563 5611

5. Nisaa Institute for Women's Development

From Nisaa's side, the cut in funding would mean that 80% of Nisaa's staff (22 people) would be rendered unemployed come the first of April. We are trying to ensure that services run for the people we are currently servicing and if staff would be able to volunteer their services. As we haven't received any funding from the Gauteng DSD for the past six months for our shelter programme, we have not taken on any new clients. We have been referring to other shelters with the help of the NSM's [*National Shelter Movement*] helpline. We still have three adults and 2 children at the shelter. The two children will return to their father on Tuesday the 2nd of April and we will be exiting women to their families and other support structures in the first week of April.

With regards to VEP services, we offer services in five different communities. These include TISH areas such as Thembelihle and GBV hotspots such as Orange Farm. Should Nisaa not receive any funding the five areas will not have access to Nisaa's services. Sheltering services in the south of Johannesburg or in the Johannesburg Metro Region will particularly be affected as there is currently only one remaining shelter to service the entire region.

Contact Sima Diar, 081 104 5072

6. Bethany House Trust

Following services affected:

- 1: 3 CYCC's with 160 children / 25 CYCW [*child and youth care workers*] / 3 SW [*social workers*] / 2 Campus managers / 3 managers - 10 support staff
- 2: VEP (victim empowerment programme) - 250 child clients / 1 SW / 6 SAW / 1 Counselor
- 3: Child Protection Organisation (CPO): 150 families / 1 SW / 3 SAW
- 4: Shelter Homeless - 100 men / 1 SW / 3 managers / 4 support staff
- 5: Sustainable Livelihood: 40 men / 1 manager
- 6: Mediation: 1 Manager
- 7: ad hoc programs: 10 staff members

Can pay salaries end March only. Then 1 April all staff gets notice of no prospect salary end April...most will work in hope of getting paid for April; 1 May most will stop work grinding operations to a halt; all programs will close immediately; 160 kids would have to be relocated to other CYCC's; 100 men will move onto pavements.

Contact Gert Jonker, 082 900 7832

7. NG Welfare

We have **6 family care/child protection branches** in Gauteng. We will close our doors on 1 April 2024, only dealing with our current clients and referring new intakes to DSD. If we don't have answers by the end of April we will start retrenchment on 1 May 2024, closing doors on 31 May 2024.

We have one **CYCC caring for 74 children**. We might be able to keep the doors open until end of April without funding, and start the process of placing children elsewhere, I don't know where.

We have **three Homes for the elderly, with at least 300 frail people and at least another 300 depending on assisted living.**

With no funding we won't be able to keep the doors open, and don't know where we will go with the frail elderly. Many of them don't have families who will be able or willing to take over their care.

This is a very urgent matter, affecting at least 10 000 beneficiaries.

Contact Lisl Roodt, 084 533 6120

8. Epilepsy Gauteng

Epilepsy Gauteng Branch has been in existence for 57 years. It was started in 1967 when the principal of a school for children with special needs realised that some of the learners will not be able to live independently in the community. The organisation offers specialised residential services for people between 18 and 59 years living with Epilepsy, other neurological conditions and intellectual disabilities. We have an assisted living programme at Geduld Centre where we have 98 residents and a frail care Centre in Daggafontein for 75 residents. Both centres have 24-hour nursing staff and social workers during the day. Both our registered nurses recently resigned and we are unable to fill these positions as we do not know whether we will be able to pay them. We also have two vacant posts for enrolled nurses at one centre. This is dangerous and places our residents at risk, especially at Daggafontein where we have frail residents that must be bathed, fed and require 24-hour care. 70% of our residents have no parents. About 10% of parents that are alive are either very old or frail themselves. Only about 30% of our residents have family members that have them over holidays. There is no exit plan for these residents. They mostly stay with us for the rest of their lives. We have informed our families about our current situation and will tell our residents during this week. This causes great stress and anxiety for both families and our residents. If we have to close the organisation, our residents will be homeless. From 1 April we will not be able to buy food, pay our water and lights accounts or pay staff salaries. Our staff are professional nursing and social work staff, not volunteers. They have their own children to take care of, rent and transport to pay. In order for them to come to work, they need to be paid.

We have two protective workshops for people who are physically or intellectually disabled to the extent that they will never be able to work in mainstream employment. They receive disability grants. One facility is in Johannesburg for 46 people with disabilities and the other in Springs for 112 people. We also feed the beneficiaries from the workshop daily. We are not going to close these services from 1 April for two reasons. Their families are very involved and have offered to send them with lunch. During COVID we had to close the workshops and our beneficiaries were exposed to exploitation, GBV, substance abuse and homelessness in some cases.

Residential care facilities are very expensive to operate and have to meet certain minimum standards. The public seem to have the belief that our DSD funds us fully but it covers only about 65% of our actual costs.

Our centres are not perfect but they are very necessary. I believe DSD should pay us subsidies for 3 months while they sort out this self-inflicted mess. If they decide not to fund, we will have to close and even then, we will need at least 6 months to find other placements for our beneficiaries. I believe they should pay us for that period too.

Contact Aileen Langlely, 082 446 9204

9. A re Ageng

The Organization's Board of Management addressed stake holders, staff and beneficiaries about possibility of not being funded by DSD with effect from 01st April 2024.

Impact on the two shelters' beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries i.e. women and their children are severely traumatized about the sad news. They expressed the fact that they are now feeling defenceless, hopeless and empty as at this point-in-time they do not have any visible means of support nor maintenance from the abusers being husbands, partners and family members. Majority of these women are on treatment for various chronic ailments. According to them the Department is continuing with re-victimization as a result the cycle of abuse is continuing. According to the beneficiaries their human rights are being violated and betrayed by their government as they are treated like objects and not human beings. According to beneficiaries they won't have places to stay, some of them maintained that they will have to go back to their abusive partners, husbands and families. They further maintained that their children are supposed to drop-out of school and they are not sure as to whether will it be possible for their children to be placed in other schools at this time of the year. According to some this is not an appropriate time to vacate the shelters as they do not have places to go to as they have been rejected by their families and the outside world.

The other beneficiary who has four children maintained that life is cruel, it is as good as being dead. How is she going to cope with four children as her partner rejected her and abused his own children. She further indicated that why can't the Department give them ±3 months so that they can prepare themselves as per their exit plans. Some beneficiaries are still in the process of their divorces and some GBV cases are still pending in courts.

One client who is occupying a family house with four children ran away from her house as the husband wanted to kill them. Should the DSD close the shelter, where will she go to as the man is stalking them and no protection order has been served to him as even police are unable to trace his whereabouts. One of the beneficiaries maintained that it is extremely disappointing the way DSD is using under/handed to intimidate and undermine the work done by the NPO staff and Management with a demonstrable track record as pointed out by the community. She further maintained that the decision DSD is taking is very drastic, extremely prejudicial to close the shelter which serve beneficiary with dignity and forget staff members who have given all their lives to render their services to the vulnerable people like them. Lastly, one of them maintained that closing down services is an unlawful decision and unconstitutional as everybody including Management, shelter staff and beneficiaries are entitled to prepare themselves adequately.

GBV cases served are ± 45 women and their children on monthly basis in two shelters. If there will be a closure 30 staff members will lose their jobs.

Impact on Diversion Beneficiaries:

The Organization's Adult diversion programme receive ± 61 petty offenders from court on monthly basis. Should DSD shut the programme GBV cases who are assessed, counselled (individual and family counselling) will end up going back to the perpetrators and ultimately being killed by their angry partners.

Not everybody referred for adult Diversion are criminals. The Organization renders six weeks programme for both perpetrators and victims of abuse / crime. Services rendered by Programme Coordinators are done by highly skilled and qualified Social Workers and they are :

- Chief Social Worker, the Psychologist who are underpaid, a Social Worker and 3 Auxiliary Social Workers who have a wide experience in the programme.

Services Rendered are:- - Assessment, GVB Individual and group counselling - Anger Management - Healing and Restoration - Community Awareness, etc

The target for awareness is ±600 per quarter which is far above target of DSD Offices.

Should DSD terminate funding all these beneficiaries will be convicted and will have criminal records and this will affect the youth negatively for the rest of their lives as they won't be employable due to criminal records.

Impact on Victim Friendly Rooms (VFR) Programme:

VFR Services are operating twenty-four seven (24/7). Victim Supporters and Social Auxiliary Workers are on shift basis. Since GBV is pandemic all staff members are overworked. The Social Worker who is supervising all six stations which are far apart from each other for example Carletonville, Khutsong, Wedela, Fochville, Bekkersdal and Westonaria. Most of the time the Social Worker spent time driving from one police station to the other with a high case load. The Social Worker is rendering individual and family counselling and refer to other resources or stake holders.

Number of beneficiaries served in 2023-2024 financial year is 3 096 walk-ins and 12 054 awareness campaigns. Should DSD cut or close the programme all the above beneficiaries or more will be negatively impacted and 31 staff members will lose their jobs.

Negative Impact on all Staff Members

The Organization has 96 staff complement including 8 EPWP staff who are on stipend. In addition to that, the Organization is training 4 Level 4 UNISA Student Social Workers, 4 Social Auxiliary Social Workers from different Colleges. The Organization has a joint venture with Randfontein Westcol. The Organization refers our beneficiaries from our shelters and diversion for skills training and development and in return the College refers their students to the Organization who needs Psycho-social intervention e.g. Anger Management, Substance Abuse, etc.

Should all our programmes be terminated this will be detrimental to all our staff members in the following manner:- Financial / Economical Unable to pay their debts, they will be evicted from the places where they rent. Unable to pay school fees for their children. Transport problem to and from work and affect their policies and other debit orders. Emotional: Depression, anxiety, ill-health, relationship, etc.

SHOULD THERE BE NO FUNDING ALL FOUR PROGRAMMES WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP ALL THE DOORS OPEN WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT THAT IS ON THE 01ST APRIL 2024.

Contact Mpule Thejane, 084 533 3012

10. The Greater Benoni Child Welfare Society

The organisation runs 2 programmes:

- Statutory – 18 staff members over 1200 beneficiaries, we investigate child abuse cases daily. Our doors will close 1 May 24 if we don't receive any subsidy. We are post funded not programme.
- CYCC- we employ 7 staff member and house 20 children per month. We are able to continue rendering services for 6 months without funding, then all our emergency savings will be

depleted, children will then need to be placed elsewhere but that will prove problematic if the entire sector is not working or closing down, children may need to be returned to their abusive environments.

Contact Vanessa Carelse, 084 581 0172

11. Abba adoption services

Short term impact on Abba organisation and beneficiaries

Abba is a national organisation with a footprint in four Provinces:

Head Office: Situated in Tshwane-CEO, COO, CFO, National Board and 2 administrative officials
Gauteng (Tshwane, Ekurhuleni & Johannesburg branches): 7 Social workers, 1 auxiliary and 2 administrative offices
Western Cape: 9 Social workers, 2 Aux and 1 admin
Limpopo: 1 Social Worker and 1 Aux
North West: 2 Social Workers

We render the following services:

Full basket of Child Protection: Prevention and early intervention (PEI) (with specific focus on crisis pregnancies, women at risk, children without family care, youth empowerment, sex reproductive and gender education, learner pregnancies, prevention of child abandonment, promotion of best practise in adoption, youth empowerment, anti-bullying, positive parenting programmes & prevention and referral of child protection challenges-abuse, neglect etc.), safety and risk assessment, statutory intervention, alternative care, specialised adoption, family therapeutic support services, alternative care parent education, adoption research, sector collaboration and advocacy.

The National office infrastructure are dependent on CSI, donor funding and percentage allocation through branch income and will also be affected if no DSD funding is received in Gauteng.

We have approximately 2000 beneficiaries that we provide services for in Gauteng. According to our existing SLA we receive partial funding for 7 social workers and 1 auxiliary social worker from the 3 Regions. **In absence of any feedback regarding funding for 2024/2025 by Gauteng DSD we will be in the following position in the short term:**

- We have been able to pay salaries for March
- In absence of other funding or potential sources of income, we may have a shortfall to pay full salaries of the funded social workers posts in Gauteng or cover all operational expenses for the three Regions for end of April. This can result in the potential loss of these employees that will have a direct impact on service delivery. We also do not have enough funds for retrenchments packages. In absence of future funding the situation will get worst thereafter and we may have to consider closure of the Gauteng branches.
- We will also have to reduce employees at the National office within 3 months in absence of no funding.
- We currently have a caseload of 150 pending adoption cases (adoptability assessment (children, birthparents in crisis and screening of adoptive parents) that we will struggle to cope with. We may have to hand over cases, which would not be in the interest of beneficiaries or find alternative funding to be able to continue.

- 50 families and individuals receiving adoption after care services
- We are legally responsible for approximately 300 children under our statutory care who receive psychosocial services. These cases will have to be transferred or they will receive no services. The majority of these children are under the age of 3 years!
- We will not be able to render PEI services to approximately 1500 beneficiaries (families at risk, pregnant learners, stakeholders, young parents, abandoned children, women at risk and Victim of GBV and rape, youth affected by child protection challenges, mental health challenges and early pregnancies in Gauteng).

Contact Katinka Peterson, 082 940 1035

12. SAVF

We have 8 x family care/child protection offices with 30 000 beneficiaries' children and families will be deprived from care and protection.

26 x Social workers and 3 x SAW, 4 x social work managers and 3 x office manager

1 x Social Work office for Care of the Aged with 450 beneficiaries in Gauteng.

We will close our doors on 1 April 2024, only dealing with our current clients and referring new intakes to DSD. If we don't have answers by the end of April we will start retrenchment on 1 May 2024, closing doors on 31 May 2024.

We have 8 x Homes for the elderly, with at least 620 frail people and at least another 700 depending on assisted living.

With no funding we won't be able to keep the doors open, and don't know where we will go with the frail elderly. Many of them don't have families who will be able or willing to take over their care.

With no funding, at least one of the frail care facilities will have to close its doors. The assistant living facilities might be sustainable without subsidy.

One safe care facility, caring for 6 children. We might be able to keep the doors open, should the GBV program get subsidy from DSD. The GBV program supports the safe care.

We have 1 x GBV program that cares for 100 victims of GBV over a period of 12 months. 20 TIP victims, over a period of 12 months, will be added to the program, this year.

2 x Service centre for the aged - 119 people will be affected if subsidy is cut. Residents depend on meals that have to be limited without subsidy. Many residents do not have family or children to support them. They are dependent on SASSA which as it is too little to live on. If residents are moved, they will have to be moved to government facilities where it is very difficult to find a place.

HBC [*home-based care*] programme provides services to 82 frail older persons. When these funds are stopped, 5 Health Workers will lose their jobs and 82 older persons will no longer receive a plate of food and health services (3 x per week).

One Drop in Centre including an HBC programme and food parcels rendering services to 750 beneficiaries 46 x employees will be affected.

One shelter for the Homeless rendering services to 50 persons 3 x employees

A total of 32 847 people will be without care.

Contact Blanche Verster, 083 630 9969

13. AFM Executive Welfare Council

AFM Executive Welfare council existing since 1938 and funded by Government for more than 40 years. Since 1999 the AFM Executive Welfare Council started the decentralizing process by buying smaller homes in communities to place children nearer to their family of origin. Presently we have 24 Child and Youth Care Centres under the registered name of *EWC / AFM Welfare Council*. All our projects are linked to the Executive Welfare Council of the AFM of SA that is registered as an NGO (EWC is officially known as AFM Welfare).

Gauteng CYCCs

Our Child and Youth Care Centres in Ekurhuleni and Sedibeng care for 112 children from all races, between ages 0 – 18 years, who have been removed from their parents' care because of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Our model use House parents, as substitute parents, to care for the 9 – 12 children in house units in the following different areas:

- ***Ekurhuleni:*** House Thalita (Brakpan 11 kids), House Thandi (Benoni 12 Babies), House Charis (Benoni 9 kids), House En Deo (Benoni 9 kids), House Alberton (12 kids), House Morester (Kempton Park 9 kids) and House Lethemba (12 special needs babies), House Villa Liberi (Nigel 9 kids), **TOTAL OF 83 kids in 8 CYCC in Ekurhuleni**
- ***Sebokeng:*** House Deo Gratia (Meyerton 9 kids), House Trentico (Vereeniging 10 kids) and House Villa Lubet (Vanderbiljpark 10 kids) **Total of 29 Children in 3 CYCC Villa in Ekurhuleni**

In West Rand there are 2 AFM Welfare CYCCs

- House Jade in Krugersdorp has 12 babies between the ages of 0-5 years, most of who are abandoned, neglected and abused. Only 2 children are in the process of being re-unified with family members who are not their biological parents, as their parents are not capable to care for them. This means 10 babies will have to go to DSD to be placed in state owned CYCCs.
- House Eldad in Randfontein has 7 children to date between the ages of 2-18 years and above. All children need alternative placement. 1 child might be re-unified only if the process can be rushed through. All other children will have to be accommodated in state owned CYCCs.

This means all children will have to change schools. Impact will be severe for those who are in Grade 11 as they might change streams and end up failing their studies due to massive destruction of their lives.

Staffing: in both houses combined there are 9+2+1=12 staff members who will be retrenched, including the SW.

This means about 11 family members (excluding spouses and children) will experience poverty and beg to fend for livelihood as jobs will be lost.

This will cause massive destruction in our communities; a plan must be available to cancel this disaster.

Tshwane: House Kideo (10 kids), House Naledi (9 children), House Jabulani (9 kids), House Shalom (9 kids), House Thembelisha (10 kids), House Victory Kidz (9 kids) and House Dorandia (10 kids), **TOTAL of 65 kids in 7 CYCC in Tshwane Region .**

In 2022, Heneka Haven with (12 Special needs children) closed its doors due to lack of funding.

During 2022- 2023 (two CYCC has no funding for 15 months and two for 10 months)

Johannesburg: House Kosmos (9 kids), House Weesgerus (9 kids) Rosettenville Baby Home (12 babies).
Florida Baby Home (13 babies) **Total of 45 Children in 4 CYCC in Johannesburg**

The EWC Child and Youth Care Centres are partly funded by Government Subsidies (Between 50 – 65 % of our average needs. Fundraising is needed to fill the gaps. Our church and communities is filling the 45 percent gap as part of fundraising but will Not be able to contribute more than they already does. We WILL NOT BE ABLE TO take care of the CYCC's, our beneficiaries and staff without any Government funding. We will then be forced to close our Projects in total. ALL OF THESE HOMES ARE REGISTERED UNTIL DECEMBER 2025 as part of their 5-year period and all of them are compliant to all requirements from DSD.

The Total of Beneficiaries and staff implemented by closure/ retrenchment will be as follow:
(Mentioned per area)

Sedibeng: 29 Beneficiaries and 7 Staff – of which **34 will lose their primary home** as they live on the premises of the CYCC.

Ekurhuleni: 83 Beneficiaries and 42 staff members including 2 SWs of which **98 people will lose the primary** home as they stay on the premises of the CYCC.

Westrand: 20 beneficiaries and $9+2+1=12$ **staff members** who will be retrenched, including the 1 SW.

Tshwane: 65 Beneficiaries and 16 Staff

Johannesburg: 45 Beneficiaries and 22 staff.

In total this means that in total **242 Children** placed with a statutory court order **will be referred to DSD for immediate placement in other CYCC's** as they won't be able to go to the streets. **100 Staff members** in the organisation serving these beneficiaries directly (**2 Program Managers (Chief Social Workers), 7 Social workers, 24 Child and Youth Care Workers, 27 Domestic, 24 gardeners** will lose their job and **51 of them will also lose their homes** where they stay.

Total Lives that will be affected = 477

Contact Bongsi Naile, 072 651 1583

14. Tshwane Child Welfare

Our organization is 106 years old. We render the full basket of Child Protection Services and have 8 service points as well as a CYCC registered for 46 children. Should we not receive subsidy we will need to close in April 2024 and begin with the retrenchment process asap. Staff members as well as our beneficiaries will be affected drastically. Our core business is Child Protection and preventative services. We also accredited to do adoptions and mediation services.

Contact Nina de Caires, 082 824 9244

15. Kungwini Welfare Organisation

Kungwini Welfare Organisation in Pretoria East will close their Kungwini Community Social Work Department project on 31 March 2024. We have rendered family & children & community services to +- 4 000 beneficiaries per year. It was no easy decision for the board of management after delivering social work services for 24 years to the community of Pretoria East.

4 Social workers will be retrenched.

Kungwini Welfare Organisation will still be operating their ECD and residential care facilities for adults with disabilities (Paul Jungnickel Home).

Contact Daleen Botes, 082 8969267

16. MES – Mould Empower Serve

MES is a Christian integrated social development organisation that has been changing the heart of the city since 1986 in the inner cities of Johannesburg, Cape Town, Gqeberha and Kempton Park in South Africa. MES aims to build thriving urban communities with access to effective and efficient pathways out of poverty and homelessness.

In 2023, the Gauteng Department of Social Development (DSD) contributed 26% to our overall budget. The remaining part of our R55 million budget is funded through fundraising and income-generating activities. MES believes having a diverse income base is critical to enhance financial sustainability.

A change in the DSD subsidy dispensation could impact the following services:

- 1: Shelter for homeless in Johannesburg region – 65 beds (1 Centre Manger, 1 Social Worker, 1 Aux Social Worker, 1 Prof Nurse, 3 EPWP Cooks, 4 EPWP Cleaners)
2. Shelter for homeless in Ekurhuleni region – 58 beds (1 Social Worker, 1 Aux Social Worker, 1 Prof Nurse, 2 General Workers, 2 Security)
3. Mobile shower and outreach programme for homeless – (50-100 per day) Johannesburg Region (1 Aux Social Worker, 1 Health worker, 2 Drivers, 1 Security, 1 General Worker)
4. Mobile shower and outreach programme for homeless – (50-100 per day) - Ekurhuleni Region (1 Aux Social Worker, 1 Health worker, 2 Drivers, 1 Security, 1 General Worker)
5. Child Protection Services (CPO): +1 400 beneficiaries (1 Manager/1 Supervisor/ 6 Social Workers / 6 Social Auxiliary Workers/1 Administrator/1 Cleaner)
- 6: Sustainable Livelihood Skills Training Centre: 400 beneficiaries (Centre Manager, 2 Trainers, Receptionist)

MES will continue with critical services in April to ensure the most vulnerable still receive services. However, funding must be secured for these services in April to avoid the services' downscaling and retrenchments. Forty-five staff received an invitation to consultation. Some staff have been with the organisation for twenty years, and institutional and community knowledge loss will be irreversible. Our primary concern is building trust within these broken communities, which takes a long time. MES does not want to disappoint or, moreover, leave our beneficiaries or staff destitute.

Contact Leone Pienaar, 082 558 0186

17. Khulisa Social Solutions

On 31 March Khulisa permanently closed its 10 main offices and four satellite offices in Gauteng with the following statement:

Khulisa Social Solutions, a national organization dedicated to addressing the causal factors of inequality and social dysfunctionality, deeply regrets to announce the closure of its Gauteng offices at the end of March due to delays in communication regarding funding from the Gauteng Department of Social Development. This unfortunate situation has compelled the non-renewal of contracts for 37 dedicated staff members who have directly impacted the lives of nearly 20,000 community members in the past year. Khulisa has thoroughly investigated alternative funding avenues for its Gauteng office and associated services, however, is unable to secure the urgent funding needed to keep the offices open. This decision has been made to safeguard the financial security and sustainability of the organization.

For over 15 years, Khulisa has been a trusted and loyal partner of the Gauteng Department of Social Development, providing crucial services such as victim empowerment, adult and child diversion, school holiday programs, early intervention, restorative justice, school bullying/anti-violence programs, gender-based violence prevention, and parental support. The closure of the ten main offices and four satellite branches will severely impact the availability of these vital services to local communities which, based on data generated from ongoing impact studies, have had a significant impact on all target audiences.

Contact Lesly-Ann van Selm, 082 601 2299

18. RATA Social Services

Rata has 7 offices in Gauteng - should they close it will have a further impact on the organisation's services in the other provinces as well, as they are linked under the umbrella of 1 registered organisation and as most of our offices are situated in Gauteng, we also receive the most donations in this region what we utilize to fill the financial gaps in the other provinces where there are usually late payments of subsidies. This will fall away and the impact there will be on another 7 offices in 3 provinces combined. In Gauteng the job losses and closures will impact around 2700 individuals in Gauteng that are receiving statutory/child protection services, which include 1700 children at risk. We will also lose prevention and early intervention services through case work to 1 633 beneficiaries, (a total of 4 333 beneficiaries in total through individual case work), 7 116 vulnerable persons will lose services through community projects and development programmes and campaigns (such as parental guidance, anti-bullying, substance abuse, personal safety, life skills, etc) and around 2261 persons will not receive any form of material need on a continuous basis (food parcels, hot meals/soup kitchens, school accessories, dignity packs, baby hampers, second hand clothing, blankets). The impact of these closures and job losses will in total prevent around 13 710 individuals to access of these services. Should we not be able to receive bridging funds after the closure in Gauteng which is highly the case, all our other offices in Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga, will be affected as well. This will mean a much greater loss of services to beneficiaries.

Contact Charmaine Fourie, 071 684 7796