

Punjab State Child Protection Society
(Under Department of Social Security and Women and Child Development)
SCO- 102-03, Sec- 34A, Chandigarh
Phone no. 0172-2602294

To

Administrative Secretaries/ Secretaries

1. Social Justice and Empowerment of Minorities, Punjab
2. Rural Development and Panchyats, Punjab
3. Health and Family Welfare Department, Punjab
4. Department of School Education, Punjab
5. Department of Higher Education and Language, Punjab
6. Department of Employment Generation and Training, Punjab
7. Department of Technical Education and Training, Punjab
8. Department of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Punjab

Memo No. SARA/ICPS/2021/ 23449-56

Dated: 1-7-2021

Subject:- Minutes of the meeting regarding Distress Mitigation measures for children who lost both their parents and the families which have lost their breadwinner in the COVID -19 pandemic held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Social Security and women and Child Development, Punjab on 09.06.2021

On the subject cited above.

Minutes of the meeting regarding Distress Mitigation measures for children who lost both their parents and the families which have lost their breadwinner in the COVID -19 pandemic held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Social Security and women and Child Development, Punjab on 09.06.2021 are enclosed along with this letter for your perusal please

Deep Chauhan
Joint Director(ICDS)



Subject: Minutes of the meeting held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Social Security and Women & Child Development Department, Punjab on 09.06.2021 at 12:00 noon regarding Distress Mitigation measures for children who have lost both their parents and the families which have lost their breadwinner in COVID-19 pandemic.

Participants:-

1. Director, Social Security and Women & Child Development Department
2. Mr. Charanjit Singh Mann, Joint Director, Social Security and Women & Child Development Department
3. Mr. Gurjinder Singh Maur, Deputy Director, Social Security and Women & Child Development Department
4. Mr. K.S Raj, Director Department of Technical Education and Industrial Training, Punjab.
5. Dr. Amaninder Kaur, Joint CEO, State Health Agency, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab
6. Mr. Parminder Singh Gill, Deputy Director, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Punjab.
7. Dr. Swinder Rekin, Department of Higher Education and Languages, Punjab
8. Mr. Maninder Singh Sarkaria, Assistant Director, Department of School Education, Punjab
9. Dr. Shweta Mohindru, Deputy Director, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab.
10. Dr. Sonia Thind, Joint Director, Department of food Supplies and Consumer Affairs.
11. Mrs. Shelly Mittal, Programme Manager, SARA
12. Ms. Sumandeep Brar, Programme Manager, CNCP
13. Mr. Jaswinder , Manager, State Health Agency

The main Agenda of the meeting was :-

- To review the intermediary action taken by the different departments for facilitating the distress mitigation measures for children who have lost both their parents and the families which have lost their breadwinner in COVID-19 pandemic.
- To make the process simpler and accessible for the beneficiaries within a bound frame of time.

During the meeting, the following aspects were noted:-

1. **The Department of Technical Education** stated that they have designated 2 Nodal Officers for Technical Education and Industrial Training respectively and their names shall be conveyed later on. They also informed that 119 ITI and 25 Polytechnic Colleges shall provide the benefits. However, they also informed that in District Ferozpur, Gurdaspur and Malout Engineering Colleges have been turned into Universities and it was requested that a reference shall be sent to the Nodal Department for clarification from the higher authorities whether those Universities can be included in the panel.

In this regard, following was directed :-

- The benefit of free education shall reach all the beneficiaries. Such children should be identified in all the institutions and their education charges shall be waived off (if already enrolled) and new admissions enrolled under the given category shall be provided the benefits.
- A reference shall be sent by the Department of Education to the Nodal Department (SSWCD) regarding the Engineering Colleges that have turned into Universities in District Ferozpur, Gurdaspur and Malout whether they shall be covered under the scheme.

2. **The Department of School Education** was directed to provide free education to all the beneficiaries up to Graduation. Department has informed that free education is being provided till the class- VIII to all students and a fee of Rs. 55/- for class IX and X and Rs. 85/- for class XI and XII is being charged from boys of General Category. They have assured that necessary amendments shall be made in their policy to provide free education to COVID -19 affected children.

In this regard, following was directed :-

- To expedite the process of providing free education to the children who became orphaned and the children belonging to the families that had lost their breadwinner to COVID.
- To initiate process to waive off the fee charges of the students enrolled in Higher Secondary classes.

3. **The Department of Social Security and Women and Child Development** shall identify the beneficiaries and shall cover them under the given schemes after certification from the Health Department about the cause of death of the deceased. They shall provide the following :-

- Benefits of Pension Scheme
- Benefits of Integrated Child Protection Scheme
- Providing immediate pension from JJ Funds until funds are received under pension scheme.
- Shall maintain constant vigilance and extend all possible handholding until these children attain the age of 21 years and shall review if the benefits of the schemes need to be extended at a later stage.

4. **The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment :-** The list of the beneficiaries shall be shared with the department and they shall in turn provide the benefits of the Aashirwad Scheme at the time of marriage.

In this regard, following was directed :-

- To collect the data from the District Social Security Officer for providing the benefits of the scheme.

5. **The Department of Food Supplies and consumer Affairs** shall provide Ration Cards to the beneficiaries without any inconvenience.

In this regard, following was directed :-

- Beneficiaries shall be enrolled immediately for providing Smart Ration Cards.
- There shall be no inconvenience regarding updating the data on the Portal.
- They shall also share the information of beneficiaries with the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

6. **The Department of Health and Family Welfare** shall cover such beneficiaries under Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojna. The beneficiaries are being provided the benefits if they have any of the following documents:-

- Smart Ration Card Holders
- J Form Holders (data given by Punjab Mandi Board)
- Low Socio- economic families listed in Socio Economic Caste Census, 2011
- Small traders listed by Excise and Taxation Department
- Construction Workers registered under Construction Workers Welfare Board

Health Department informed that it is not required of them to make a separate category. The Department of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs shall share the list of

beneficiaries with the Health Department and the beneficiaries shall be automatically covered under the Scheme.

In this regard, following was directed :-

- To make the process smooth and time bound in order to provide the benefits to the beneficiaries.
- To verify the status of COVID death within 48 hours.
- To obtain data information of Smart Ration Card holders from department of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

In this regard, following directions were also passed in the meeting:-

1. Concerned Departments shall make amendments in their policies at an appropriate level in order to provide benefits to COVID affected families
2. Lists will be prepared at the district level and shall be shared with the Head Offices for further action. If a beneficiary approaches directly to any Head office, the application shall be sent to the concerned District for verification and appropriate action.
3. All the departments shall extend all possible handholding until these children attain the age of 21 years and for three years for the families that have lost their breadwinner. Upon the expiry of the given period, an assessment of the prevailing family conditions may be done and extend the period of benefits as deemed fit.
4. The departments shall also make sure that routine benefits are also provided to the beneficiaries at their door step.
5. If an individual belongs to a family that does not want to avail the benefits being provided by the State Government, the district officials shall maintain proper documentation of such families so that there is no inconvenience at a later stage.
6. An Offline meeting shall be done with the Department of Employment Generation about providing benefits under the Ghar Ghar Rozgaar Scheme of the Government.
7. The benefits of Medical Education may also be covered. The Department of SSWCD shall hold a separate meeting regarding the possibilities.
8. SSWCD is the Nodal Department for providing temporary shelter to children whose parents are in hospital for COVID treatment. Fit Facilities have been designated in every district for this purpose. The nodal department shall make sure that the bigger Districts shall have two or three Fit Facilities.
9. A meeting with the in-charge /supervisors of these Fit Facilities shall be conducted to ensure that they are equipped with all the basic facilities.
10. All the benefits shall be provided within minimal time frame.
11. Take all important decisions till 30th June 2020 so that a preliminary report may be presented to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab.

for a period of three years, in order to enable them to progress in life with dignity.

- h. Upon the expiry of three years, the Department of Social Security & Women and Child Development shall undertake an assessment of the prevailing family conditions whereupon the period of handholding may be appropriately increased in cases where the perception of vulnerability continues to exist.

3. Monitoring Committee

- a. A Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of the Minister for Social Security & Women and Child Development shall be immediately established.
- b. The Committee shall have the Administrative Secretaries of key Departments as its members.
- c. The Committee shall meet at least once a month and review in detail the relief measures being put in place for every single case in para 1 and 2 above.

4. Ease of access for relief measures

- a. The Department of Social Security & Women and Child Development shall maintain the record of all such affected persons and apprise them in writing of the welfare measures being offered to them.
- b. As and when the affected person applies to the Department of Social Security & Women and Child Development for availing any of the above mentioned relief measures, the Department shall coordinate with the concerned department(s) until the desired relief has been made available.

5. Period of Relief

- a. The relief measures shall be available to all persons who have faced/face the agony of unemployment, loss of income, etc. when Covid-19 is declared a global pandemic under the Disaster Management Act, 1987.

Department of Social Security & Women and Child Development
immediate release to the public

SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY & WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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