



## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday November 17, 2021 11:30 – 2:00 pm via Zoom

### **In Attendance**

#### **Municipal Members:**

Cynthia Day, (Colwood); Marie-Terese Little, (Metchosin); Jeff Bateman, left meeting at 12:56, (Sooke); Marcie McLean, (Highlands); Esther Paterson, (Oak Bay); Heather Gartshore, (North Saanich), Barbara Fallot, (Sidney); Adam Flint, (View Royal); Lynda Hundleby, (Esquimalt); Marnie Essery, (Recording Secretary-joined meeting at 12:15).

#### **Members at Large:**

**School Districts:** Angie Hentze, (School District #61).

#### **Resource Persons:**

**Guests:** Steve Carey (Legal Services CRD)

**Regrets:** Bill McElroy, (C.R.A.T.); Margot Swinburnson, (School District #62).

Welcome to the unceded traditional territories of the Lekwung'en Speaking Peoples, in whose traditional territories we are blessed to live, work and play.

**1) Call to Order-11:30 a.m.**

**2) Resource Members Updates (including School Districts)**

#### **Guest Speaker**

**Threshold Housing, 1524 Fort Street Victoria, BC V8S 5J2 Phone: 250-383-8830**

**Email: [assist@thresholdhousing.ca](mailto:assist@thresholdhousing.ca) Web: [Homepage - Threshold Housing](#) (control click to use links) [Find Housing - Threshold Housing](#)**

*Information from the Threshold website copied for your convenience:*

Youth Homelessness refers to the situation and experience of young people between the ages of 13 and 24 who are living independently of parents and/or caregivers, but do not have the means or ability to acquire a stable, safe or consistent residence.

## *THE DEFINITION*

Youth homelessness is a complex social issue because as a society we have failed to provide young people and their families with the necessary and adequate supports that will enable them to move forward with their lives in a safe and planned way. In addition to experiencing economic deprivation and a lack of secure housing, many young people who are homeless lack the personal experience of living independently and at the same time may be in the throes of significant developmental (social, physical, emotional and cognitive) changes. As a result, they may not have the resources, resilience, education, social supports or life skills necessary to foster a safe and nurturing transition to adulthood and independence. Few young people choose to be homeless, nor wish to be defined by their homelessness, and the experience is generally negative and stressful. For more information on this definition, see the [Canadian Definition of Youth Homelessness](#).

## *MAYOR'S TASK FORCE*

Since 2007, and the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness, the number of either homeless youth or youth at risk of becoming homeless in Greater Victoria has numbered in the hundreds. The old adage that "it takes a village to raise a child" has never been more true than for those youth who are either homeless or on the verge of homelessness. Today, youth between the ages of 16 and 24 years are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in Canada. The human cost and financial cost of homelessness burdens any community where it arises. A critical step in preventing adult homelessness is to prevent vulnerable youth from fall into chronic poverty and homelessness. It remains crucial, therefore, that the regional municipalities of Greater Victoria work together toward ending youth homelessness *today* as a determinate of healthier communities *tomorrow*.

It was stressed the need to find appropriate places so the program can continue to expand.

### [Become a host family! - Threshold Housing](#)

Threshold Housing was thanked for the good work that they were doing. VFCYJC was thanked for their work to help them.

### **3. Chairs Remarks**

A role call was taken of attendees. The Chair thanked everyone who has been working hard on the CRD Review process. Current conditions of roadways and rivers, power outages and trees down has created a lot of challenges. We are all doing our best and grateful that we can all get together virtually today.

#### **4. Approval of the November 17 Agenda**

The mail out was missing the information re the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group Policies and Procedures. Thanks Marie-Terese for forwarding this information out directly to VFCYJC Members.

There were concerns raised by a member that Policies, Procedures Working Group Minutes were emailed out late. The Chair stated that VFCYJC is operating under existing policies of CRD and that this is the last VFCYJC Meeting before our A.G.M. when all recommendations will be voted on by VFCYJC members.

##### **To Amend Nov 17 Agenda:**

- **add new number 7) Finance Report and VFCYJC Budget**
- **add Change of date and meeting time under 8) Meeting Dates and before Good News**

**MOTION: M. McLean/ L. Hundleby**

**CARRIED**

#### **5) Adoption of Minutes and Receipt of Steering Notes**

##### **a) October 20, 2021 Minutes**

Regarding the following motion in the October 20 VFCYJC Minutes: 'That the Victoria Family Court Youth Justice Committee investigate a Pro Bono legal opinion.'

Motioned by L. Hundleby, struck and revised after discussion.

**MOTION: To change wording to amend 'not struck' in the Oct 20 VFCYJC Minutes**

**L. Hundleby/ A. Flint**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION: To Adopt October 20 minutes as Amended**

**L. Hundleby/ A. Flint**

**CARRIED**

##### **b) MOTION: To Receive November 3 Steering Notes**

**M. T. Little/ L. Hundleby**

**CARRIED**

Unfortunately, B. McElroy could not be here today as he had to leave town quickly due to a family emergency.

**6) Joint Working Groups Collaborative Meeting Nov 10**

**a) CRD DRAFT Delegated Commission Bylaw & Letter**

Discussion re Draft: A member suggested to reword to read: **“the Chair, through direction of the committee, after committee members miss two consecutive regular meetings, will send reminder letters to the absent members’ appointing agency letting them know that they are not represented at our meetings.**

Clarified that VFCYJC will follow community charter and bylaws but the variation will be the location and the dates of meetings. M. T. Little thanked working group members for all their input. Recommendations on Page 5 of the Joint Working Group.

**MOTION: That the recommendations on Page 5 of the Report be brought forward to the AGM.**

**M. T. Little/ M. McLean**

**CARRIED**

5a2. Recommendations are not part of enabling legislation, but the Act says that we have the ability to make recommendations.

A Member asked for clarification and consistency in bylaw and Enabling Act.

A member asked how often does VFCYJC make recommendations to court or assist? This depends on the expertise of the committee. There have been at least 6 resolutions to UBCM and many occasions VFCYJC has advocated for mental health, youth in care, restorative justice etc.

**That the report and recommendation, with amendments noted, be forwarded to CRD Staff and CRD Board for consideration and information**

**MOTION: M. McLean/ J. Bateman**

**CARRIED**

**Joint Working Groups Recommendations**

3 out of 5 Working Groups have now met. Remaining are the Constitution (no changes) and Finances (waiting for CRD input).

**VFCYJC To CRD Letter - copied in italics for clarity**

October 20, 2021 VIA EMAIL: [scarey@crd.bc.ca](mailto:scarey@crd.bc.ca)

CRD Board and Staff  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Dear Members of the Board and Staff,

Re: Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Review

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee met on September 22, 2021. The agenda included reports from two working groups struck to review a) Succession Planning and b) Priorities Grants. The reports from these two working groups are attached for information.

The following excerpt is from the September 22 Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee: Excerpt from the September 22, 2021 Minutes on the CRD Review:

a. *Succession Working Group – Report attached*

*Recommendation: That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee adopt the recommendations of the Succession Planning/Meetings Work Group as outlined in the Work Group's August 16, 2021 Report to the VFC&YJ Committee, specific to: 1. Term Limits ; 2. Committee member numbers and committee appointments (members & volunteers); and 3. Meetings*

*and that the Chair of the VFC&YJ Committee send a letter to the CRD Board and Staff providing the wording of the Committee's resolution and including a copy of the Work Group's Report, dated August 16, 2021.*

*MOTION: To move the Recommendation*

*J. Bateman/ M.T. Little*

*CARRIED*

b. *Priorities Working Group – Report Attached*

*Recommendation: That the minutes with recommendations of August 27, 2021, from the Priorities-Grants Working Group be placed on the September 22, 2021 agenda for consideration of the main committee, and That the Priorities-Grants Working Group's Recommendations within their report/minutes of August 27, 2021 be supported by the main Committee, and That the Priorities-Grants Working Group minutes, recommendations and applicable attachments be forwarded to both the CRD Board and CRD Staff in respect of the CRD Review by way of a*

*formal letter from the chair together with any carried motions from the September 22, 2021 meeting.*

*MOTION: To move the Recommendation*

*E. Paterson/ M. T. Little*

*CARRIED*

- c. CRD Bylaw – Correspondence was attached with the meeting mail out.*

*Recommendation: That the Draft CRD Delegated Commission Bylaw be forwarded to the working groups for review, and that the working groups provide comment to the next regular meeting.*

*MOTION: To move the Recommendation*

*M. McLean/ A. Flint (D. Thomas abstained)*

*CARRIED*

*The Executive anticipate that changes to our structure/operation will be operationalized through motions at our Annual General Meeting in January, consistent with those changes made in 2010 when the last review was completed. This is to ensure that all members have the necessary resources and notice to participate and to facilitate the ongoing operation of the committee without undue interruption. (We anticipate moving our date of meeting from Wednesday to Thursday, which may or may not fit with existing members availability and this will be communicated out to our appointing agencies for new appointments.)*

*We also have communication from the Ministry of the Attorney General that confirms that we must continue to meet the requirements of the enabling Legislation, specifically the Family Court Act (and the Youth Criminal Justice Act), and that becoming a delegated commission of the CRD does not specifically interfere with that duty.*

*The committee has expressed, and I pass onto you, our sincere appreciation for CRD staff's expertise and support in pursuit of advocating appropriately for youth and families who may be impacted by the Justice System.*

*Working groups continue to meet for a) Mandate, Procedures, b) Policies and Community Charter, and c) Finances/CRATsey. Working Group meetings in the next month will also review the draft Delegated Commission Bylaw. Our goal is to have carefully examined all aspects to bring forward motions to be endorsed at the Annual General Meeting in January.*

*Sincerely, Cynthia Day*

*Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee*

*Attachments*

*from Succession Planning:*

*Attch 1 vfc&yjc Succession-Meetings Report August 16, 2021*

*Attch 2 vfc&yjc Succession-Meetings Report August 16, 2021*

*Attch 3 vfc&yjc Succession-Meetings Report August 16, 2021*

*from Priorities/Granting :*

*Priorities Motions for Restructure and Review*

*Priorities-Grants Work Group Minutes 2021-08-27*

## **6) Joint Working Groups Collaborative Meeting Nov 10 (continued)**

### **b. Legal Opinion**

VFCYJC contacted 3 places to get a legal opinion with no success. 1 lawyer VFCYJC approached had already contacted CRD so they were in a conflict of interest. Getting a legal opinion would be a very expensive process. S. Carey said that the CRD is not going to put forward a bylaw that is conflict with the Provincial Court Act.

There was a question on legal professionals participating in this committee and does this put the lawyers in conflict with the Law Society? S. Carey said he felt that the Law Society would be happy for lawyers to participate in this committee. Members are entitled to an indemnity if you are part of a delegated commission. Can we use our VFCYJC funds to seek legal advice? Establishing bylaw says that we can use the funds for the operation of committee

From Working Collaborative Meeting Notes on November 10, 2021

'After contacting 3 legal firms with little success due to potential conflicts (having advised the CRD, workloads, area of expertise etc.) Members suggest the following request of the CRD:

**Potential Motion: That the CRD Board provide legal opinion confirming that appointment of The Victoria Family Court Youth Justice Committee as a Delegated Authority Commission of the CRD complies with the statutory provisions and obligations of the Committee as set out by the Provincial Court Act and the Federal Youth Criminal Justice Act.**

**The committee seeks written assurance from the CRD that the changes proposed in the Delegated Authority Commission Bylaw have been investigated as to their legality and that any consequences of this decision would be the responsibility of the CRD.**

The committee also discussed how we might protect legal professionals who may choose to participate as a member of the Delegated Commission due to the recent concerns that those legal professionals who make comment as members of the committee make those comments as committee members and not in their capacities as legal professionals.

**MOTION: M. McLean/ E. Paterson**  
**H Gartshore and B. Fallot opposed**  
**CARRIED**

**7) Finance Report**

**Vancity** November 11, 2021  
BILL MCELROY

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Community Service Package 1 [REDACTED] : \$16,960.70  
Relationship # [REDACTED]

Date	Description	Credits	Debits	Balance
19-Oct-2021	Cheque cleared		\$400.00	\$16,960.70
	Cheque 338			
	Cheque # 338			
	Cheque Account Number 0273 [REDACTED]			

**To receive Treasurers Report**

**MOTION: C. Day/ L. Hundleby**

**CARRIED**

**VFCYJC Budget and Finance Working Group**

**To share a draft budget with VFCYJC electronically to get approval so that we can meet obligations to CRD**

**MOTION: C. Day/L. Hundleby**

It was shared that power outages have affected this work. A member suggested that VFCYJC could hold a special meeting to get this done. The VFCYJC budget could include facilitator for strategic plan, zoom membership and secretarial expenses. L. Hundleby volunteered to help with the Finance Working Group.

**Motion withdrawn after discussion. The budget will be brought forward to the AGM.**

**8) Meeting Dates**

There was discussion amongst VFCYJC about our moving our meeting dates to possibly the first or last Thursday at 10/1030 a.m. VFCYJC is just letting us know that our meetings will be moving and the meetings will not take place on Wednesday to avoid conflicting with other CRD committees who meet this day. It is not about who



can make it but what is already booked and how VFCYJC can fit. This will be put on the Agenda for the AGM.

M McLean leaves the meeting at 1:14 pm

Changes will not take effect until after the AGM when VFCYJC Members will vote on these recommendations. The Notice of AGM was emailed out to all VFCYJC Members with the November 17 meeting mail out. The notice will be emailed out to the municipalities and posted on Facebook and our website as well.

Subcommittee Reports for Annual Report are now due. There are **no VFCYJC Meetings in December**. **VFCYJC Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. with Monthly Meeting to follow.**

9) **Good News**

VFCYJC is hopeful that our Review Process will be on the Governance Committee Agenda on December 1, 2021.

10) **Adjournment**

**To Adjourn at 1:20 pm**

**MOTION: E. Paterson/ L. Hundleby**

**CARRIED**