



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

2011 Annual Report

**Presented to the Committee
January 18, 2011**



**Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
2011 Annual Report
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Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee 2011 Acting Chair's Report

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJ) is comprised of Municipal representatives, School Board Trustees, youth and family outreach organizations, Provincial Ministries and police officers. It is large group of individuals who believe that we can make a difference for families that are or might be experiencing the criminal justice and court systems or interacting with family law issues. We feel strongly that we need to reach youth at risk as soon as possible to change their course through life; to assist them in reaching their full positive potential.

Due to our fiscal restraint, diligence and continuing support from our appointing agencies through the Capital Regional District, we have started and ended this year in a good financial position. We again chose to award several grants this year to assist organizations with “seed money” to develop programs that supported restorative justice, youth outreach and community support. Organizations that be benefited from these grants were Capital Regional Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Restorative Justice Resource Group, Restorative Justice Girl's Circle, Peninsula Cross Roads Community Justice Program, Brightening Ideas (BI4) and our communications committee to create new website for VFCYJ. In total we gave out \$9,750 in grants. We continued to reserve \$10,000 allocated to the Youth Mental Health Initiative for future investment in the pilot project.

Our fourth installment of the Brightening Ideas (BI4) Youth Conference was met with unprecedented success, our youth participation shot up and we had to authorize a supplemental expenditure to cover the lunches for additional youth attending. This is a huge coup for our organization, with youth attendance usually very difficult to get. One of the key issues brought forward in all our Bright Ideas Youth/Service Provider conferences has been the issue of housing and especially emergency housing. As a result of this conference we are now working towards a Youth Housing Strategy for the West Shore.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) was formed last year through the efforts of dedicated volunteers and was the first in Canada to be accepted by the US National CASA HQ as a provisional member. The CASA subcommittee has made good progress towards creating a working pilot project in Greater Victoria in association with the judicial system. Their goal remains to be able to provide youth with a volunteer who is solely there to support them, with no affiliation to any other party involved, providing a safe and consistent child advocate.

Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT-SEY) remained concerned with the number of youth being lured into the sex trade in non-visible situations, through the Internet or at houses throughout the Capital Regional District, in return for money, rent, security or drugs. The committee supported the Human Trafficking Workshop attended by police from throughout greater Victoria where issues related to the undue influence used to enslave youth or others into unsafe or undesirable circumstances and the legal requirements for prosecution were shared. Cases throughout Canada were discussed as well as requirements for positive outcomes. It was noted that careful note taking by police officers during ‘routine’ or unrelated events often assists with identification and prosecution of human trafficking.

The Family Matters Sub-Committee continued to report that the families in need within the CRD are still in crisis. The workers and the organizations are dedicated to the work they do and we continue to be mindful of the burn-out levels that can be experienced. The committee has worked to create an atmosphere at our meetings that is helpful and restorative for those agencies that are able to attend.

Court Watch is an important part of our mandate; we are fortunate that our Court Watch Committee members have been involved for many years and continue to report on their observations in Court. As well we have had the benefit of some significant experience on the part of our Court Watch Chair, Dr. Jim Hackler, PhD (retired) who has also reported on various alternative Court processes throughout the world and scientific studies that have statistically verified the huge benefits of early intervention with families (particularly young mothers).

This year the committee has had several guest speakers. We heard from Ms. Cate Bennett, regarding facilitating youth community service, Ms. Bennett was keen to find partners in the community who would utilize youth community service hours and emphasized their ability to match youth with volunteer service positions. Cate's contact information is Cate.Bennett@gov.bc.ca phone: 250-953-3711. We also had a presentation on Victim Services with Ms. Lorna Hillman, Executive Director, Victim Services, who spoke about their support programs, their volunteers and the extensive training they receive.

Mitzi Dean, Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association, presented on the study which the committee co-funded with the Centre for Youth & Society at the University of Victoria, also made possible with funding from the United Way and with the assistance of Pacific Centre Family Services Association and the Mary Manning Centre on 'Children Who Display Sexually Harmful Behaviors'. This research paper was prepared by Naviha Rawdah, Research Assistant for the centre for Youth and Society.

Constable Chantal Ziegler, Graffiti Outreach Coordinator gave an insightful power point presentation on graffiti in the region, the difference between art and graffiti and what to do about it. Chantal confirmed that the best way to combat graffiti is to remove it within 24 - 48 hours after documenting it for the authorities. We had feedback from one of our members who was able to follow up on a graffiti attack after the presentation, charge the offender and utilize restorative justice to secure restitution and a better outcome for the perpetrator as well as the victim.

We also had a presentation from Mr. Fred Ford, Project Manager, O.R.C.A. advocating for child centered service centers for children who have experienced sexual abuse, bringing together a multidisciplinary team to address the many needs of the youth who have experienced abuse.

We were also very fortunate to have Mr. Jeremy Berland, Deputy Representative and Associate Deputy of Monitoring, Research, Evaluation and Auditing from the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth who spoke on his office's recent initiatives including Growing Up in B.C., the Youth Justice Report and themes in their advocacy and investigations.

Dr. Jim Hackler, PhD, retired Professor of Criminology at the University of Victoria and long-time member of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee presented a power point presentation "Building Families Not Prisons" prepared by Dr. David Olds, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Nursing, and Public Health at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Centre on three studies done in the United States, the Elmira, New York study from 1977, the Memphis, Tennessee from 1987 and the Denver, Colorado study from 1994. The presentation

highlighted the consistent results across all three trials which included significant reductions in the incidence of depression, the number of people in need of supervision, the number of cases of abuse and neglect as well as reductions in the number of arrests.

Lastly, I would like to thank the many volunteers and resource people who have made time to attend and serve on the committee. Without our volunteer's dedication to the Youth and Families in the region and the resource people who have brought the real life stories to us, our society would be missing a key function – that of understanding the situation for youth or families who are in need of service in Greater Victoria. During this year I have taken over as Acting Chair due to unforeseen circumstances. It is the work of many to bring to our Capital Regional District community all the many pieces of information that are needed to keep us well informed, and we all benefit from their hard work. We may not have the answers, but we can be well enough informed to ask the questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Day
Acting Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Treasurers 2011 Annual Report

Annual Financial Statements December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011

Balance from 2010 \$ 19,678.73

Expenses:

Secretarial and Office	\$ 2,718.13
Meeting Lunches	\$ 2,640.20
Grants to other organizations	\$ 9,750.00
Total Expenses:	15,108.33

Revenue:

Annual Grant from Capital Regional District	\$ 14,220.00
Interest	\$ 16.98

Total Revenue: \$ 14,236.98

Closing Balance November 30, 2011 \$ 18,807.38

Notes:

1. \$ 10,000 reserved for Mental Health Project
2. Financial Statements compiled on a cash basis.
3. One outstanding cheque in the amount of \$10.30
4. Grants to Other Organizations include:

Girls Circle	\$ 3,000.00
CRAT	\$ 1,500.00
Exploitation/Trafficking Workshop	\$ 600.00
CASA	\$ 1,400.00
Bright Ideas 4 Conference	\$ 3,000.00
Restorative Justice Workshop	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
Total:	<u>\$9,750.00</u>

Submitted by Bill McElroy, Treasurer



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Priorities Committee **2011 Annual Report**

The Priorities Committee reviewed six grant applications and approved them all, although some were approved for amounts less than was requested and several applications were asked to resubmit their proposals as we felt we could not support such large requests. The committee considered limiting the amount we would give to any one organization.

All organizations receiving funding from the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee have been asked to provide follow up reports to the committee on the use of the funds. Some have indicated that they would provide a presentation to the committee as well.

The six approved grants were: Girls Circle, \$3,000; CRAT (TCO2 Presentations in Schools) \$1,500; Lunch for the Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Workshop, \$600.00; CASA ongoing advocacy funding \$1,400; Bright Ideas Conference engaging youth and service providers \$3,000.00, and Restorative Justice Workshop \$250.00 to assist with travel expenses to attend a seminar in Kamloops.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Day
Chair, Priorities Committee



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Youth Mental Health Task Force 2011 Annual Report

The Task Force has not met this year and has largely been waiting for an opportunity to bring forward the pilot projects as first envisioned by Dr. Basil Boulton and produced with the assistance of community members and school district liaisons. As we felt that it was unlikely that the provincial government would have funding for such a program at this time, we felt that we were better to save funding aside for a future pilot project. The committee agreed and \$10,000.00 has been reserved for the creation of the pilot at another time.

The focus of the Millennium Report on youth mental health as a contributing factor to youth involvement with the justice system continued to have positive effects through greater awareness in the community, including through restorative justice agencies and school districts. Members of the Task Force continue to look for opportunities to promote Youth Mental Health and the proposed in school demonstration projects of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.

In a nutshell, the Youth Mental Health Pilot project seeks to bring youth mental health services to youth in the school setting at the middle and high school level and evaluate the benefits of the services. It is envisioned that there would be a team approach and it would involve teachers, counselors, medical professionals and social workers to better address the mental health needs of youth. Given the current cutbacks, we felt there was no point in bringing forward a request at a time when the required services were unlikely to be available. The committee remains keen to see this project come forward and has kept \$10,000 in funding available should the provincial government be willing to support it.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Day,
December 2011



2011 Casa For Children- Annual Report

-Jan.18/11 CASA was admitted as a “provisional member of the US National CASA organization, which entitled the use of all of its training materials and on-line webinars and forums

Spring - CASA became a member of First Call, a provincial coalition of child and family service providers, and thereafter attended via conference call monthly roundtable discussions on topics highly relevant to at risk children and youth

- Casa became a registered not for profit, called Casa for Children of Greater Victoria Society,
- steering committee members developed standard administrative forms for the recruitment of volunteers and board members, binders were prepared to provide to new directors containing all relevant CASA documents,
- a private funder came forward who is very committed to assisting children in care,
- CASA developed a website, casaforchildren.ca, securing the domain, with the help of Honeycomb web designs,
- 2 CASA steering committee members attended the National CASA conference ,at their own expense, in Chicago, and were welcomed warmly as the first international member,
- 2 CASA steering committee members met with the judiciary and members of the family bar and the concept of introducing a casa model was very well received

Summer - with financial assistance from the VFCYJC- 2 CASA members were able to attend the International Foster Care conference in Victoria and networked extensively with the Federation of BC Youth in Care network, as well as First Nation representatives

- a budget was prepared for the 2year pilot suggested for the Western communities, and banking was moved to Coast Capital,
- 2 steering committee members met with Michael Heath, National CASA program director for the western region, whose words of encouragement were very much appreciated,
- CASA met with senior policy advisors with the Ministry of Children and Families and the meeting was also encouraging with needed follow-up

Fall - CASA participated in the planning of 2 youth forums - one for learning how to engage youth and the other for the youth themselves. The Federation of BC Youth in Care network was asked to facilitate a workshop, with the aim of identifying whether local youth in care would like to implement their own ‘local’ in Greater Victoria. The Federation is a provincial umbrella organization providing mentoring and leadership opportunities to youth in care or who have aged out.

CASA continues to recruit board members and has begun the process of applying for funds from various agencies. Casa has partnered with the Caring for First Nations Society to develop ‘culturally sensitive’ training materials and 2 staff from CFNS are advisors to the CASA board.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Peters
Chair, CASA

Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT-SEY)

2011 Annual Report to the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

In 2010, CRAT changed its meeting times to 2 pm on the second Wednesday of the month. At the same time, there were drastic changes in the makeup of organizations working with sexually exploited youth. The attendance at CRAT meetings dropped off significantly, in most cases because those who regularly attended were either no longer working, or they belonged to organizations that had lost funding and had closed. Only one organization indicated that the new meeting time did not work for them.

CRAT met 3 times during the year, and for the last 2 meetings, only 3 people, including the Chair, attended. It was decided to cancel the rest of the meetings and focus on presentations and workshops. This will be reviewed at the CRAT AGM to be held in February 2012.

CRAT assisted with the Human Trafficking/Sexual Exploitation workshop at Bear Mountain on April 28, 2011. In addition to providing a small amount to help offset the costs, we provided a guest speaker who told the workshop about her experiences being recruited into the sex trade. We also brought over Diane Sowden from the Children of the Street Society to inform the workshop about how to use existing laws to prosecute offenders and to help save young people caught up in a life of sexual exploitation. We were also able to have Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking care of Others (tco2) put on a presentation at the workshop to demonstrate the message they bring into schools.

We also secured donations and grants to bring tco2 over from Vancouver twice during the year, in April and May. Many thanks to Accent Inns which provided the free accommodation and the Victoria Family Court which provided a grant of \$1500. This year, tco2 made 16 presentations before 3310 people. They have been booked for April and May 2012. In addition we will be bringing them over to put on a presentation to teachers in SD62 during the ProD day on February 17, 2012..

In December, CRAT received a grant of \$5500 to stage a Human Trafficking/Sexual Exploitation workshop in the Spring. The workshop on April 28, 2011 filled up quickly and many people wanted to go but were unable. The next workshop will be located in Victoria and will follow the same format as last time, but will be aimed primarily at organizations and agencies that work with youth.

CRAT also participated in the Bright Ideas 4 conferences and took a leadership role in the ongoing challenge of emergency youth housing in the WestShore. Our position is that by bringing vulnerable youth to the downtown core, they are exposed to predators, drug dealers and recruiters. By keeping them in the WestShore, near friends, families and schools, there is a better chance of ensuring their safety. CRAT has been working with other organizations and has helped commission a study on the needs and demands for youth housing in the WestShore. That study should be completed by the end of January and it can be presented to the February meeting of the VFCYJC.

Submitted by Bill McElroy
Chair, CRAT
December 2011.



Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Annual General Meeting
Family Matters Sub Committee Report

The Family Matters Sub Committee has continued to provide information to the Family Court Youth Justice Committee outlining community programs' operating capacities, status reports and information updates as they impact youth and their families who live in the CRD.

It has been reported that still many families continue to struggle with issues of poverty, lack of employment or under-employment, inadequate housing, deficits in dental and medical care, and poor or non-existent day care. They continue to struggle with family violence concerns, mental health issues, child protection issues and prostitution-related concerns. Because many families and youth experience these unrelenting stresses, their abilities to cope and make rational or life-affirming decisions, and stick to them, are either compromised or non-existent.

Community and family-serving agencies are seeing more high risk families seeking their help but unfortunately, these very agencies are short-staffed and under-funded so services may not be as consistent or wide-spread as they would wish them to be or as the community thinks they are. It therefore remains a vital function of the Family Court Youth Justice Committee to speak to these issues as they are apprised of them and be able to offer possible solutions and/or resources where possible.

Respectfully Submitted, Lhinda Achtem



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Court Watch Sub-Committee Report
Annual Report
December 2011

Justices of the peace are used at most Tuesday morning youth court sittings. When Jim observed the use of JPs in the Ottawa youth court it did relieve some of the work on the judges. However, almost all of the matters concerned scheduling the next appearance. Very few matters of significance were dealt with by the JPs.

In Sidney, Australia, the clerk, who was also a JP, could deal with adjournments by phone and encouraged defense lawyers to do so. However, defense lawyers were paid \$83 an hour for time spent in court, waiting or otherwise. If they did it by phone, they were paid nothing. Thus, few phone calls. It seems that the use of JPs makes sense, but it would be nice to know if this results in fewer adjournments or reduces the time for the resolution of cases and the reduction of backlogs.

Norm finds that diversion (alternative measures) seems to be working well. Both crown counsel and defence lawyers generally work together to reach a satisfactory conclusion on a particular youth case. However, most cases result in adjournments which can stretch from a few weeks to many months. This leads to significant backlogs.

As usual, the most common youth charges remain: breaches of court orders, theft, and assault. Some countries have been able to reduce breaches to almost zero. It would be interesting to know what proportion of court time is used by breaches of court orders. Fortunately, drug offences are fairly minimal. Of course, the number of court appearances on drug offenses depends largely on the response of the police. Although surveys suggest that marijuana use is common, Canadian (and U. S) police tend not to aggressively charge young people—a strategy that seems to be realistic.

Although research on the dynamics of youth courts in Canada is minimal, Jim is of the impression that the role of crown counsel as problem solvers has made the system more effective in the past decade. He still feels that public defenders improve the ability of crown counsel to work out better solutions. In reality, Victoria has some experienced defence lawyers who specialize in juvenile matters and thus may be performing the role of public defenders.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm McCrimmon and Jim Hackler
Court Watch Sub-Committee



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Youth Matters Sub-Committee Report

December 2011

Annual report

The main activities of the Youth Matters committee in the past year were focused on the fourth CRD youth conference: Bright Ideas: Shine On! The model for enhancing this conference was to hold a half day workshop in advance to equip adults to engage more effectively with youth. We engaged a group of youth in planning the conference and we held presentations by youth through the day.

A final report has been prepared and is available for review.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitzi Dean,
December 2011



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Communications Report

December 2011

Annual report

The setting up of our website and the creation of a template for future Annual Reports were undertaken by me as Acting Chair of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee with the assistance of our secretary Marnie Essery.

As approved by the committee, we have undertaken to rework our website with Honeycomb Webworks at a cost of \$593.60 including HST. This will allow us to: create a 'News and Events' page, change the font to a more readable one, create a membership table, create a sponsored projects page, create an archive page for documentation, create a volunteer page where people can sign up to participate, track the number of visitors to our site and create our Logo in a format that both Mac and PC can easily translate, as well as including the production of two webcast videos that will instruct us on how to update our website program and backup our website content regularly.

A small number of Family Court rack cards were also produced to assist with committee outreach activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Day, Acting Chair

December 2011



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Constitution

1. The Family Court Committee shall consist of:
 - a) One elected representative appointed by each of the following jurisdictions:
 1. City of Victoria
 2. City of Langford
 3. City of Colwood
 4. Municipality of Oak Bay
 5. Municipality of Saanich
 6. Municipality of Esquimalt
 7. Municipality of Central Saanich
 8. Municipality of North Saanich
 9. Town of View Royal
 10. Town of Sidney
 11. District of Sooke
 12. District of Highlands
 13. District of Metchosin
 14. School District #61
 15. School District #62
 16. School District #63
 - b) Notwithstanding a) above, each jurisdiction may appoint a non-elected alternate representative to the Committee.
 - c) Up to seven members at large shall be appointed by the Capital Regional District for a minimum of two years.
2. From among the voting members, the Capital Regional District shall appoint a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Treasurer according to Sub-section 3 of Clause 4 of the Provincial Court Act. Nominations to be submitted by the Family Court Committee for ratification.
3. Representatives of the Ministries of the Attorney General, Education, Children and Family Development, Public Safety and Solicitor General, Health, Housing and Social Development and police forces and First Nations may be invited to attend as non-voting resource members.
4. It shall be the duty of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to submit annual reports and budgets to the Capital Regional District, the participating municipalities and to the Ministry of the Attorney General as per Clause C of Sub-section 4 of the Provincial Court Act.
5. The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee shall develop terms of reference for the conduct of its affairs.

Approved by Committee January 18, 2010



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Terms of Reference

A. General Meetings

1. Whereas the Capital Regional District electoral year ends November 30, and whereas the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (the Committee) year ends June 30, therefore, appointees from the municipalities shall hold their positions until the first of January following the November municipal elections.
2. The Committee will normally meet monthly but no fewer than four times a year with additional meetings at the call of the Chair.
3. A quorum shall be seven (7) voting members.
4. The rules of order shall be the same as those outlined for Municipalities in the Local Government Act
5. A vote in abstention is a vote in favour
6. The chair shall exercise a vote and, in the case of a tie, the motion is defeated.

B. Amendment of Terms of Reference

A proposed amendment shall be presented at the meeting previous to the meeting at which it is to be discussed. It shall be circulated also to all the committee members in advance of the meeting. One-half plus one of the voting members is required to approve an amendment.

C. Amendments to the Constitution

A proposed change to the Constitution may be initiated by a member of the Family Court Committee or by a participating municipality. The same procedure for amending the Terms of Reference shall apply. Amendments to the Constitution approved in committee will be communicated to participating municipalities and the Capital Regional District for Ratification.

D. Officers of the Family Court Committee

1. The Chair and Vice-Chair and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Capital Regional District under Clause 2 of the Constitution. A nominating committee will be formed in September comprised of retiring members and/or one or two members of the Committee whose responsibility will be to solicit nominations for the Officer's positions as well as to appoint a chair for the Annual General Meeting (someone not running for the executive, such as a past president or long time member).

2. If an Officer or Member of the Committee is unable to complete their term, their appointing agency will be requested to make a new appointment. In the case of an Officer, the committee will be requested to make an interim appointment (from the membership available) to perform those duties until the next AGM.

E. Duties of Officers

1. The Chairperson shall:
 - a) Chair all the meetings of the Committee
 - b) Appoint sub-committee chairpersons
 - c) Prepare all agendas for Committee Meetings
 - d) Have charge of all correspondence
 - e) Be an ex-officio member of all sub-committees
 - f) Have signing authority for funds jointly with the Treasurer
2. The Vice-Chair shall:
 - a) Undertake duties of the Chair in his or her absence
 - b) Be an alternate signing authority for funds
3. The Treasurer shall:
 - a) Have charge of all monies
 - b) Prepare monthly statements of expenditures and revenues
 - c) Have signing authority for funds
 - d) Prepare annual financial statements and budgets for year ending March 31
4. The Secretary shall have responsibility for:
 - a) Recording of minutes
 - b) Distribution of agendas
 - c) Notices of meetings, and
 - d) Any other secretarial duties as required through the Chair.

F. Committees

Each sub-committee or task force chair shall be appointed by the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Chair at the Annual General Meeting or the nearest possible meeting. The Chairs of the sub-committees may invite interested persons to serve on his/her sub-committee who are not members of the main Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee. The sub-committee Chairs will make reports to the main committee and will recommend speakers, agenda items or other projects be included through the steering committee.

The sub-committees are:

Family Matters
Youth Matters
Custody
Court Watch
Priorities
Communications/Planning
Youth Mental Health Task Force

The Steering Committee will be comprised of the sub-committee chairs, the executive and the secretary who may meet physically or electronically to plan the agenda.

Ad Hoc Committees may be created from time to time to study and report on specific matters.

Annual General Meetings

The AGM will be held in January to receive the annual report and the annual financial statements for the previous year. The financial statements shall be provided to the Capital Regional District to be included in their Audit. The Annual Report shall be approved prior to distribution to the Attorney General, other ministries, and the Capital Regional District and the participating Municipalities.

The Chair of the AGM will open the AGM with an approval of the Agenda. If there are not seven voting members present for quorum, the AGM shall be postponed to the next regularly scheduled meeting date and notification of the postponement shall be sent to the municipalities and the CRD with a list of those absent from the meeting.

The first order of business shall be a call for Nominations from the floor. Officer's Positions require only one member to make a nomination. If there is only one nomination for a position, no election will be held but the committee shall make a motion to appoint the Officer(s). If there is more than one nomination for the Officer(s) positions, the vote shall be taken via a secret ballot where each member present shall write the name of their preferred candidate(s) on a slip of paper which the Chair of the AGM shall collect and count with the supervision of the recording secretary. If there is any dispute, a recount will be taken in full view of all voting members. Once the election process is complete, the Chair will declare the election results and the committee will make a motion to appoint the Officers as per the election results.

The Chair of each subcommittee and task force shall be appointed by the Chair of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee at the AGM, or the nearest possible committee meeting.

H. Membership

If a vacancy occurs during the year, the body represented by the departed member should appoint a new representative to complete the term. If there is an alternate, they may continue to represent the body that appointed them.

If a member is absent for more than two consecutive meetings, without notice, a letter will be forwarded to that member soliciting future intent. If no response, or a third absenteeism, a letter will be forwarded to his/her sponsoring agency advising of the lack of representation.

Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Priorities Sub-Committee

Philosophy:

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (FCYJC) will consider support in the form of seed money for community agencies or persons who provide services for youth and/or families having contact with the justice system.

Purpose:

*Evaluate applications to the FCYJC for goods and services using set parameters and criteria.
Make recommendations to the FCYJC on applications for goods and services.*

Structure:

- * Three or more members of the FCYJC
- * Chair to be appointed by the FCYJ chair
- * Meet as required

Process:

- * Meet at request of Chair on receipt of application(s) to the FCYJC for goods and services seed money. (May communicate via email for simplicity)
- * Review application using criteria as set by the FCYJC
- * Enlist resources from outside the sub-committee as necessary to answer any questions prior to making a recommendation to the FCYJC.
- * Provide summary of review including recommendations, with rationale, to the FCYJC - the recommendations will include a budgeted amount.
- * Project liaison to provide accountability of project progress to the FCYJC

Membership:

Kyara Kahakauwila (VFCYJ Chair) Cynthia Day (VFCYJ Vice-Chair)
Lhinda Achtem (Family Matters Chair) Bill McElroy (Treasurer)

Priorities sub-committee-purpose, Dec, 2010



Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Priorities Sub-committee
Form for Goods and Services Submissions
(Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to Councillorday@shaw.ca for distribution

1. Date of Application: _____

2. Name of organization / person(s) applying:

Contact person for follow-up: _____

3. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:

4. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate:

5. Any features of the project you believe are pertinent to this application:

6. Will the project dovetail with other similar work? (ie. in the Greater Victoria area or within your organization)

7. Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative, please include funding from other sources and feel free to attach a spreadsheet if needed:

8. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

9. Catchment area served – target population:

10. Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:

11. Deliverables (goods and services to be provided):

12. Timeframes (eg. Intended start date of project, length of time from start of project to deliverables, one time project or on-going?)

13. Evaluation framework,(How will you know if your project has been a success and how will the Family Court Committee know?):

This form is intended for your convenience and that of the FCYJC. Please use it for your submission and as a guide. Please feel free to use more space for comments if required.
Form updated; Jan, 2010(C. Day)

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*Memorandum of Agreement Between
Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Victoria
Program*

The intent of this memo of agreement is to specify the relationship between the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (FCYJ) and CASA Victoria in order to provide high quality services to vulnerable children and their families within the Greater Victoria area. The FCYJ is incorporated under the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Pursuant to FCYJ policy CASA has submitted an application which was approved September 8, 2010 following recommendations from a Task Force comprising the FCYJ Youth Justice Sub-Committee and CASA representatives. The CASA Mission Statement states that:

CASA: Greater Victoria advocates for the best interests of at risk children who are before the provincial court pursuant to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. The safety and well being of children is the major concern and a stable family is the preferred environment for the care and upbringing of children. The child's best interest and where feasible the views of the child will be heard and represented to the court. This will be achieved through trained volunteers with notice and disclosure to all parties.

This is consistent with the mandate of the FCYJ Committee to serve youth at risk through issues handled in court under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*.

CASA Victoria started through a community needs project by volunteer members of Leadership Victoria who consulted with many local groups and individuals followed by a conference of community leaders who confirmed the need for a CASA program in Victoria. CASA is a well established in the USA and the development of CASA Victoria has been supported throughout by the National CASA organization.

The FCYJ and CASA Victoria agree to the following:

1. CASA will operate as an independent sub-group of the FCYJ but be part of the FCYJ family. Eventually CASA may develop its own Board of Directors under the Society Act (B.C.) but initially will be guided by a CASA Development Group comprised of members of the community.
2. Following agreements, CASA will pilot the program in an agreed upon jurisdiction. At the end of the pilot term, CASA will undertake an evaluation of the pilot for presentation to the FCYJC prior to expanding into other jurisdictions.
3. CASA will report monthly to FCYJ meetings. A delegate from CASA will be selected by CASA and will be appointed to the FCYJ Committee by the Capital Regional District.
4. CASA will keep its own accounts and operate its own budget. Seed money may be allocated by FCYJ at their discretion. CASA will seek other sources of

funding that do not conflict with FCYJ. CASA will prepare an annual report for inclusion in the FCYJC Annual Report.

5. When needed CASA will recruit staff and volunteers to assist in the development and operation of its program. Appropriate policies and procedures for recruitment, screening and selection of staff and volunteers will be established by CASA meeting the U.S. National Standards criteria.
6. CASA may apply for provisional and then full membership of the National CASA (USA).
7. Rules of confidentiality will apply to CASA files, particularly when dealing with young people before the courts.
8. Upon initiation of the program CASA volunteers will be appointed by a family court judge and assigned by CASA.
9. CASA, in its work with vulnerable children and youth, will guide and supervise volunteers so that they make informed, solid recommendations to the court in matters under the CFCSA. Recommendations are to serve the best interests of the child/youth and will include the views of the child/youth unless this is not possible or appropriate.
10. CASA will carry the requisite liability and insurance coverage to carry out its mandate.
11. CASA will develop its own website with the assistance of the FCYJ. The website will be located under the CRD homepage and have a separate link under the FCYJ website.
12. In public relations matters CASA will pay due respect to their relationship with FCYJ.
13. Where difficulties arise between the FCYJ and CASA every effort will be made to resolve the concerns consensually.

This document is considered binding within the spirit of cooperation between the FCYJ and CASA. Either party may ask for an amendment to this agreement and may terminate it with 30 days notice.

FCYJ Chairperson

Date_____

CASA Victoria Chairperson

Date_____



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Annual Financial Statements
December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011

Opening Balance December 1, 2010: \$ 19,678.73 ✓

Expenses:

Secretarial and Office (includes Internet site update)	\$ 2,718.13
Meeting Lunches	\$ 2,640.20
Grants to other organizations	\$ 9,750.00

Total Expenses: \$ 15,108.33 ✓

Revenue:

Annual Grant from Capital Regional District	\$ 14,220.00 ✓
Interest	\$ 16.98

Total Revenue: \$ 14,236.98 ✓

Closing Balance November 30, 2011 \$ 18,807.38 ✓


Notes:

1. \$ 10,000 reserved for Mental Health Project.
2. Financial Statements compiled on a cash basis.
3. One outstanding cheque in the amount of \$10.30
4. Grants to Other Organizations include:

Girls Circle	\$ 3,000 ✓
CRAT	\$ 1,500
Exploitation/Trafficking Workshop	\$ 600
CASA	\$ 1,400
Bright Ideas 4	\$ 3,000
Restorative Justice Workshop	\$ 250
Total:	\$ 9,750 ✓

We have reviewed these financial statements and the supporting documentation and confirm that they are a fair representation of the financial position of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.


Maja Tait, Member Audit Committee
Date:


Maureen Johnson, Member Audit Committee
Date:



**Bright Ideas IV –
Youth Conference,**

**Shine On!
October 2011**

Final Report

Proudly supported by the CRD Family Court Youth Justice Committee



Made possible by funding from the United Way of Greater Victoria



Introduction

This report is primarily prepared for the CRD Family Court Youth Justice Committee, as the main supporters of the Bright Ideas series of youth conferences. It is available to all stakeholders across CRD including youth, youth serving agencies, sponsors and supporters of the youth conferences. Any questions or comments can be sent to the chair of the Youth Matters committee (Mitzi Dean : mdean@pcfesa.org).

Background

Established under the Provincial Court Act, Section 57 24-2, the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee includes representation from thirteen municipalities, three School Districts, as well as several youth-serving organisations across Greater Victoria.

The mandate of the committee is to protect youth in the justice system by:

- educating the public
- reviewing family and youth legislation
- making recommendations to appropriate legislative bodies
- monitoring court hearings and custody facilities

Section 69 of Bill C-61, Young Offender's Act, establishes youth justice committees with the remit to target problems and services. The FCYJ Committee is structured on the basis of a number of sub-committees, including the Youth Matters committee. The Youth Matters sub-committee is concerned with matters involving youth in the court system or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system.

The Bright Ideas IV – Shine On! Youth Conference was the fourth in a series of conferences hosted by the CRD Family Court Youth Justice committee over the past 5 years.

The aims were to:

- Have an understanding of youth serving community agencies
- Identify beliefs about other communities
- Identify how strengths can alleviate gaps
- Create tangible maps for communities
- Work on individual action steps to close gaps
- Contribute to regional & community planning for youth

As a result of the three previous conferences it was acknowledged that there had been similar themes emergent and that the focus should have been on local policy and planning around those:

- More engagement and activities in their community.
- Improved access in particular transport to reach activities and services.
- Improved housing options that are safe and within their community.
- Facilities, such a drop-in, that offer activities and services in their community.

It was recommended to the CRD FCYJ committee that all municipal representatives discuss with their respective councils how to consider the findings from the series of conferences and consider how they are capable and willing to engage with youth and to plan for the needs of youth in their community. As a result, it was assumed that the series of conferences was therefore retired and no longer needed.

However, thought the course of 2009-11 there continued to be many changes across the sector in CRD, and there were requests for another conference to be held. Building on the learning from previous events we planned the event in consultation with stakeholders and youth, we also firmly committed to creating action plans.

Planning

The planning was informed by the principle of engaging youth at all stages of the development of the event. We also decided to 'skill up' the adult participants to be able to actively and meaningfully engage with youth as a result of the conference. So we offered a half-day workshop prior to the Bright Ideas: Shine On full day conference.

We worked in partnership with Youthcore through the process; they assisted with the youth engagement and preparation for the conference and they facilitated the half-day workshop for adults.

We were again supported by a fantastic, effective and cooperative steering committee comprising: Dianna Seaton, Chantal Van Weezel, Georgia Peters, Azra Heder, Sarah Amyot, Jen Harrison, Tara Munro, Bobbi Neal and Sal Hunt.

Funding

This Bright Ideas conference would not have been possible without the financial support of the United Way of Greater Victoria and the Victoria Family Youth Justice Committee. We were also supported by Capital Action Regional Team against sexual exploitation of youth. Our expenses were in the majority staff time for engagement of youth and coordination of the planning, honoraria for youth, the venue and refreshments. We received donations from Wild Plan and West Shore Parks and Recreation. The time and energy of our planning committee was also invaluable.

Youth Engagement Workshop

The half-day workshop was aimed at adults working with youth and those responsible for decisions affecting youth. There were 30 participants, many of whom also attended the full day youth conference.

The learning event was designed to build individuals' capacity to

- Incorporate a youth lens in day to day work
- Respectfully work with youth
- Ensure decision-making is informed by a youth perspective
- Continually develop skills to adapt work to changing youth needs.

By the end of the session participants were able to:

- Understand the key aspects of meaningful youth engagement
- Share resources, emerging practices regarding youth engagement and civic action for municipalities and community organisations
- Increase awareness of emerging youth engagement strategies and frameworks for service providers, local government and community organisations
- Work with colleagues to identify how we are currently developing youth engagement opportunities in the community and the opportunities for action
- Prepare for meaningful participation in the Bright Ideas IV conference

Bright Ideas IV – Shine On! Summary

The Bright Ideas IV Shine On Conference was planned to:

- address the need for increased cooperation, increased cohesion, increased understanding among agencies of the changing needs of youth
- address the need to share up to date information, including new initiatives, e.g. mental health pilot, and relevant research, such as measures of wellbeing among youth and evidence of youth activities and patterns of engaging with supportive and preventative agencies
- address the need to coordinate youth engagement projects across CRD
- create tangible actions and outcomes for youth in their community.

In total there were 180 participants, of which 121 (67%) were youth (not including the youth speakers).

Format of the day

Intro and Icebreaker activities
Identifying Key Issues in our Community: Youth Panel presentation
BREAK
Identifying Key Issues in our Community: small group discussions
Speaker: Lorena Pilgrim and Colby Gates, Federation of Youth in Care Network
LUNCH
Energizers and reconvene
World café Inspiration: What is already happening in our communities that is positive?
Action planning
Report back
Next steps for working together and event evaluation

The initial exercise with all participants encouraged everyone to think outside the box and to recall the awesome things in our daily lives.

The youth and service providers were asked to take a moment and think of something awesome that happens to them. To take a moment and slow down to savour the moment and write down what comes to them. This set the tone for the awesome contributions we experienced for the rest of the day.

Youth Presentation- Video/Photo Project

A group of youth had been recruited to assist with preparation for the day's conference and they created a presentation using pictures of their community and ideas. The slide show exhibited what the youth felt pride in and also some of the areas of change they would like to see. For example, their pride in and the unfair reputation of Belmont school, the desire to erase stigmas and to have the Langford skate park improved, they identified the lack of female role models in sports which they

believed could change and presented their proposal to increase the number of garbage cans and for everyone to take our part in preserving our environment and natural surroundings.

There was opportunity for questions and answers and discussion with the panel. This led to more conversation about activities and entertainment that youth would like to see in the community, such as youth drop in facilities with pool tables, instruments, rockband and other video games and ping pong. There were suggestions about a free teen swim, space at the youth clinic for services and a youth shelter in West Shore. It was highlighted that activities must be central and easy to access.

The youth panel identified that from this experience they learned that other youth share the same concerns and ideas about their communities and that they feel that there is opportunity for change.

Identifying Key Issues in our Community

Through the process of group discussion, youth and adults were asked to identify three main issues and one priority for action. The feedback generated some highlights that included:

Actions

- gain community support through fundraising/donations
- create volunteer group for school/community clean-up
- raise money for more garbage cans
- teen nightclub → volunteer base, space donated
- open youth center in the mall
-

Presentation: Lorena Pilgrim & Colby Gates, Federation of Youth in Care Network

Lorena and Colby presented a video about the Federation of Youth in Care Network. They highlighted that it is youth driven and has different programs reflecting the needs and rights of youth who have been impacted by the Ministry. Their services include advocacy, rights education for youth, action when rights are violated, collaboration with partners to address issues for youth in care, empower youth with positive opportunities and produce information and publicity to support youth.

Youth leadership – world café

Youth leadership tables were established throughout the main room, where young people presented on their experiences of creating change, having an impact and making a difference. With great thanks to our presenters we offered the following discussion groups:

Lilia Zahara- Think Inside Out: From Isolation to Integration

Andrea AKA Bipolar Babe- Setting up the BC Schizophrenia Society

Ravi Parmar, Belmont student- Youth leadership for education

Colin Benesh, Yekakey Wason, Students, Westshore Learning Centre- The need for alternative education opportunities

Mariah Derksen, Pathway Project participant- Standing up for programs that work: the Pathway experience

Vienna Ngyen, Student, former student, John Stubbs School- Creating identity in middle school

Youth attended two presentations and were able to ask questions and discuss the issues further in their group. The main group fed back some key learning points from the world café experience.

Youth Leadership Discussion

- don't be afraid to share your ideas and goals
- it takes determination but many youth-led goals are achievable
- now more aware of how many youth in the community are taking leadership roles to create positive change

Action planning

The final key session of discussion was theme-based focused on action planning. The participants were offered a range of discussion tables to share ideas with colleagues and create individual or group action plans. The themes included

- *What are the needs, rights and ideas of youth in care*, facilitated by the Federation of Youth in care
- *Involving youth in recreation planning*, facilitated by Bobbi Neal, Community Development Coordinator for West Shore Parks & Recreation
- *Regional Parks Youth Opportunities*, facilitated by Nancie Dohan, Coordinator of Environmental Interpretation for CRD Regional Parks
- *Youth engagement in transportation planning*, facilitated by Sue Hallett, CRD transportation planner
- *Creating positive change in education systems*, facilitated by Samantha Quesnel, Ravi Parmar, and Dianna Seaton
- *Starting your own youth-led social change project (ideas and resources)*, facilitated by Sarah Amyot, Youthcore
- *Creating a youth advisory group or council in your organization or community*, facilitated by Mitzi Dean of Pacific Centre Family Services Association
- *Ideas into action*, facilitated by Bill McElroy of Capital Regional Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth
- *Literacy and Life Long Learning for Youth*, facilitated by Shantael Sleight and Chantal Van Weezel, of West Shore Literacy Project
- *Youth and housing*, facilitated by Tyler Roach of the "Y"

There were a range of themes recurring in these discussions, and comments arising through the day, summarising actions that can create successful youth engagement in our communities NOW.

Engagement activities:

Avoid 'popularity' contests

Positive links between engagement in school and having a voice

Listening to youth (genuinely) is how they will be more engaged

Youth creating the agenda and working together in groups is more effective

Ensure that the conversations are transparent and realistic – e.g. about roles, responsibilities and costs

Need to balance with other commitments of youth e.g. jobs

Hold meetings at coffee shops, provide transport and honoraria

Hold more of these types of events

More youth leaders make positive changes, youth having more opportunities to be involved

Youth knowing their rights and having stability and security at home

Connection, mentorship and communication

Make what we already have more engaging and inviting

Community needs:

More youth space

More long term/sustainable programs

Drop in centres (safe, arts, crafts, activities, counsellors)

More activities for youth (dirt biking, dj-ing, lacross, karate, hockey swim, theatre, art studio, roller rink, pool tables, teen nights at rec centres, youth music options at teen swim – FREE OR AFFORDABLE)

Improve school facilities

More garbage cans in community

More green space

Improved transport

More youth apartments and youth shelter accommodation

Health Clinics

Youth employment support

Increased respect from Police and improved relationships

More support from the Ministry for young parents

More girls' sports opportunities

More coffee shops and healthy restaurants

Horse friendly trails

Improved lighting and public phones

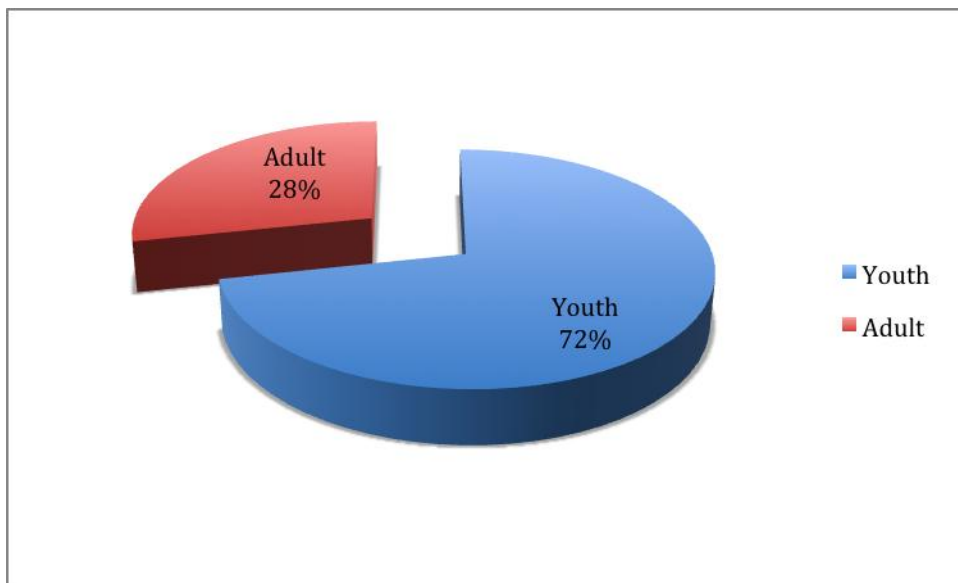
The afternoon table activities creative and lively discussions resulted in some tangible actions.

Action	Success criteria	Participants	Dates	Other support	Lead facilitator	Update December 2011
Create a group. Approach a teacher to sponsor the group. Approach Leanna Hill at VV for help.	Start a group at school that educates people about horses and equine related issues like the horse trolleys	Students	October 2011	Volunteer Victoria assistance.	Marika/ Leanna	
Meet together to identify a plan to address youth needs in West Shore for emergency shelter.	Develop a concrete plan to meet shelter needs for youth across West Shore.	Youth serving agency leaders.	November 8 th 2011 first meeting	Identify input from youth, West Shore Youth Collective, resource partners, stakeholders	Bill McElroy	Task group created and plans being made for an emergency shelter in West Shore.
Publicise what is available in parks to youth.	Youth are more aware and more engaged in local parks and activities	CRD Parks; Nancie Dohan		Youth participants, volunteers	Nancie Dohan	
Feedback to BC Transit the issues youth face with how transit is currently planned.	Youth are able to travel safely and conveniently .	Sue Hallett			Sue Hallett	
Resurrect skateboard committee.	Engage boarders in future planning of the skateboard park and improve skatepark.	Bobbi Neal		Youth participants, boarders	Bobbi Neal	

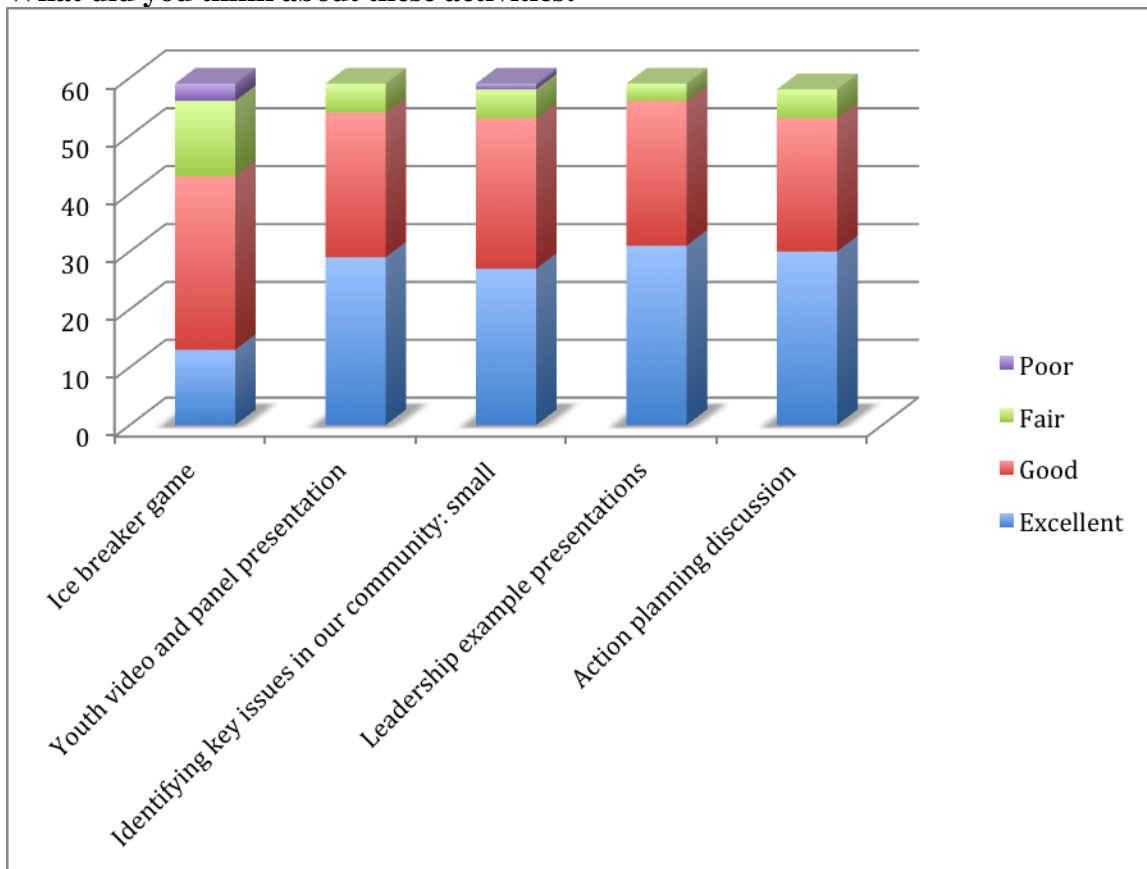
Publicise recreational opportunities for youth.	Youth are aware of and access recreational opportunities.	Bobbi Neal		Youth participants	Bobbi Neal	
Literacy Coordinator to review the Life Material and put into plain language for the users.	Youth are more aware of and access recreational opportunities.	Shantael Sleight		Bobbi Neal	Shantael Sleight	
Hear from Beecher Bay Community about recreation needs.	Enhance recreational opportunities for Beecher Bay community.	Bobbi Neal		Beecher Bay community	Bobbi Neal	
Establish a guy's recreation group.	Enhance access to recreational facilities by local young men.	Graham Kelly		Local young men	Graham Kelly	
Review Bright Ideas Conferences for key messages to inform PCFSA service planning.	Youth are more engaged in PCFSA service planning.	Mitzi Dean		PCFSA Board and Staff	Mitzi Dean	During 2012 – strategic objective set by PCFSA Board November 2011
Monitor actions and outcomes and report to CRD Family Court Youth Justice Committee	Support, maintain and evaluate action plans arising from Bright Ideas conference.	Mitzi Dean		Lead facilitators and youth	Mitzi Dean	Report to CRD February 2012
Publicise youth achievements presented through this event.	Youth presentation from this conference is publicised.	Mitzi Dean	January 2012		Mitzi Dean	Photo slide show will be posted on PCFSA website.

Evaluation

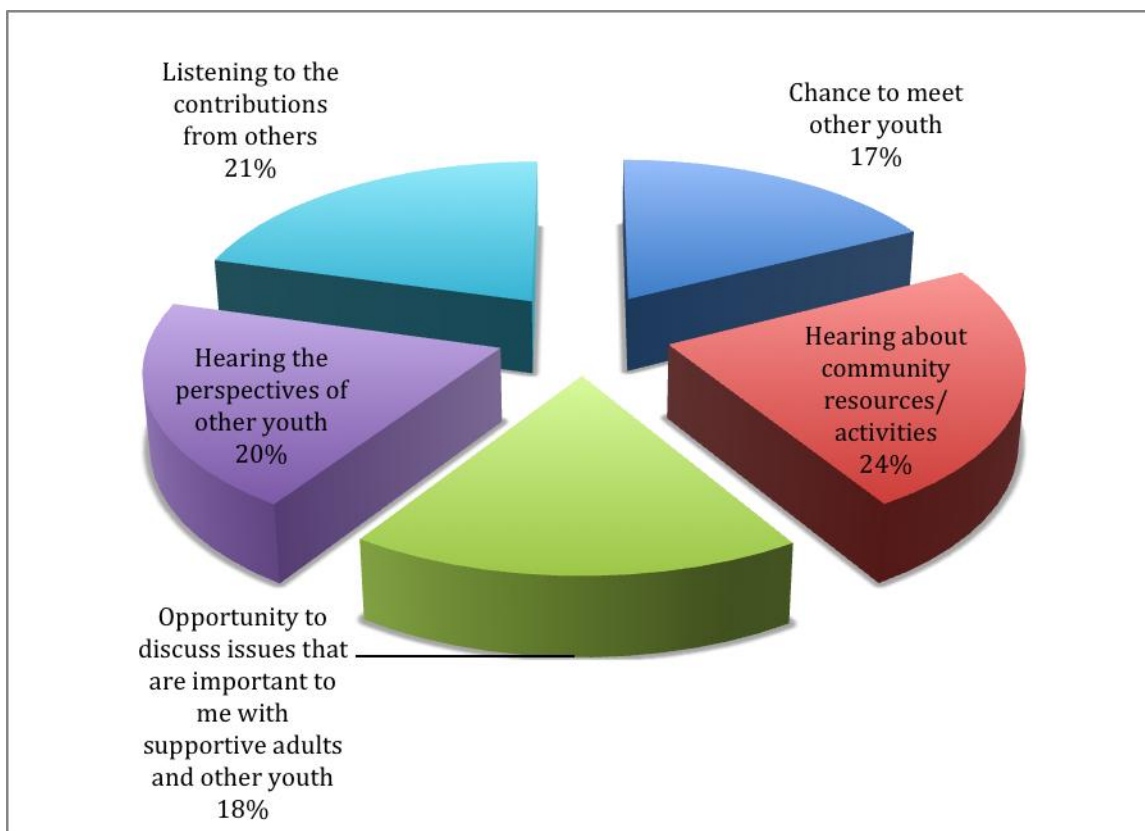
Total number of evaluation forms completed and submitted: 60 (50% of participants), of which 72% were completed by youth.



What did you think about these activities:



What did you find helpful or useful about the day? (Check all that apply)



In response to the question of what was the favourite part of the day, action planning was a common and frequent response. Additionally, there were favourable comments about talking and having open discussions, the presentations, expressing ideas, meeting new people, listening and learning new things. The lunch and games were also appreciated.

In response to identifying what was learnt from the day there were many comments acknowledging learning about resources that are available to youth and information about the community. Importantly there were comments about learning to make a difference, that change is possible and recognizing that the ideas of youth do matter. The amazing youth driven projects that already exist were noted. There were comments that people learnt that others shared the same point of view as them, and that everyone had different lives. Some specific points of learning were also identified, such as hearing more about the skate park, about bi-polar disorders, the federation for youth in care, housing and transportation issues.

The solutions that were identified included: appreciation of the feedback from youth and how to more actively engage youth in responsibilities and follow up with them, 'getting the ball rolling' e.g. starting a group or just starting to take some action, more youth activities, improved transportation, using technology to improve existing services and some concerns that there were many issues and they could not all be solved.

When asked what participants would have changed about the day the majority of responses were 'nothing'. The main concern was that so many students had to leave early in the afternoon, especially as this was the time for action planning. The structure of the day would have been improved for a few of the participants if there were more snacks and the day was shorter. Some other suggestions were for more time for discussion, though others wanted less talking. Among the other

comments and also as a result of follow up we were concerned that some participants may have become ill as a result of the food.

The immediate actions as a result of the day included: refer more youth to more resources, follow up on valuable youth contacts, engage more youth in programming, organize a horse group for Langford, try to start a youth group, learn the bus schedule, let others know what we have discussed, tell people my ideas, use more garbage cans, start my own project, be more green, take care of community more and there were about 10% of respondents that replied '(probably) nothing'.

The other comments included reflections that this day was 'a great opportunity', 'inspirational', appreciation of the hard work and support for more events like this. There were many comments of thanks for the day, that it was 'awesome', it was smart and fun and was a great idea. Finally, there was a profound comment that: "This made my life ☺ Thank You"

Conclusions and recommendations

Many similar themes emerged through this process of engaging with youth. The issues of local youth space, transportation problems and recreation were recurring. There were also lessons to assist us in moving forwards to address these.

There were some clear lessons from the full-day conference, in summary:

- Plan well ahead with the School District and maintain close communication,
- Continue with opportunities to listen to youth and engage them,
- Bring key decision makers to the process (e.g. representatives from transit, school district, parks and recreation),
- Share information about successful youth activities,
- Share and update information about local community resources for youth,
- Create action plans and monitor progress.

As a result of this conference a regional action plan has been created. This plan will be monitored through the Youth Matters sub-committee and where possible we will continue to support and innovate youth engagement activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitzi Dean

Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association
Chair of Youth Matters sub-committee

December 2011

Thank you to our supporters and sponsors:

Youthcore
United Way of Greater Victoria
CRD Family Court Youth Justice Committee
Capital Regional Action Team on Sexually Exploited Youth
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
West Shore Literacy Project
West Shore Parks and Recreation
Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Wild Play



Girls Circle

Interim Report

Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Gillian Lindquist
Program Coordinator

Thank you for your generous contribution to Girls Circle (GC). This interim report will highlight our progress and achievements thus far in 2011.

GC was scheduled to start on January 19, 2011. However, due to a scheduling error at the school, it did not begin until the following week, January 26. GC will conclude on May 25.

7 girls were selected to participate in this round of GC. 6 of the girls are in grade 7 and 1 is in grade 6. Most of the girls face significant barriers in their growth and development. 3 of the girls are at a high level of risk.

The first week of GC focused on developing group agreements, introductions, opening surveys and creating a safe space. The girls were given their binders, journals and a welcome letter (see appendix A). As a group we discussed what GC is, including the format that we would be using (see appendix B), the talking piece and the spirit and intention of our being together. The girls were tasked with coming up with a set of guidelines that would bring forward their best selves in GC (see appendix C). The girls filled out opening surveys that will be used in our overall evaluation of the project (see attached spreadsheets). The girls were given a letter to provide to parents to inform them of the GC (see appendix D). In order to gauge the areas of interest to the girls, they were given a list of topics that could be covered in GC and selected the ones that they wanted to focus upon (see appendix E).

On week 2 of GC we focused on friendship. The girls created collages describing what they believe are characteristics of a good friend. They shared these ideas as a group and debriefed what it was like working in teams on the project. On week 3 of GC the girls explored their friendship with themselves. They explored and shared the qualities that they possess and how to communicate those to others in a positive way. On week 4 of GC we focused on friendship problems and how to handle them. The girls discussed the differences between conflict and bullying and did role-plays on ways to positively handle friendship conflict. They also examined personal friendship qualities that they could improve on. On week 5 of GC we focused on self-esteem. The girls explored their “inner champion” and “inner critic.” The girls listened to negative and positive messages and reflected on how they felt to hear them. They created self-affirmations that they can use when faced with stress and challenges. On week 6 of GC the girls explored the issue of cyber bullying. The girls defined and shared stories about cyber bullying. By drawing on large sheets of paper, the girls charted the sequence of events that occur when cyber bullying takes place and identified where someone could have broken the chain of harm. On week 7 of GC the girls deepened their exploration of cyber bullying. They shared their charts with each other and explored positive uses of social media. They also explored the issue of sexting, the risks associated with it and how to ensure that private information or pictures do not get dispersed online. On week 8 of GC we focused on body image. The girls went on a school scavenger hunt to find body messages. The girls watched a short video on makeup and airbrushing that highlights how advertisements do not accurately represent the female image. Using magazines, the girls cut out images and words that gave them positive or negative messages about their bodies and talked about them as a group. On week 9 of GC we went on a field trip to the Aveda spa to receive spa treatments from students of the Aveda School. We provided the girls \$15 each for a spa treatment. The girls brought any additional money required for their treatment. Given that the estheticians were students the rates were very low.

On week 10 of GC we began the community project. We brought in 2 facilitators to conduct a Path with the girls. This process included the facilitators walking the girls through a dialogue to understand what local issues are important to them and how they would like to put their efforts towards them. The girls selected animal rights and abuse to animals as the issue they would like to address in their community project. On week 11 of the project we took a field trip to Volunteer Victoria where we met with the Youth Coordinator, Leanna Hill. Leanna provided some guidance and resources for the girls in actualizing their goal in the community project. The girls determined that they would work on three separate projects. First they will create an art piece for the Youth Arts Festival. The piece will be educational and provide information on animal abuse. The piece will be hung at the Cornerstone Café from May 1 – 8, along with other pieces contributed by local youth. The next week they will write letters to their local Mayor and Council regarding puppy mills, the sale of un-neutered or spayed animals at pet stores and the development of a fund for low-income families to access money to spay or neuter their pet. The last week of the community project the girls will be painting over graffiti on telephone poles with animal themed drawings. We have raised some money for their efforts to clean up their community. This money will be donated to the SPCA. On week 15 of GC we will have a gratitude day where we thank our funders and those who made GC possible. Week 16 of GC will be the final week. We plan to go out to a restaurant for a meal and spend some time reflecting on our experiences together.

The outcomes that we have had this year have been fantastic. The girls enjoy their time in GC a great deal. They feel safe in circle and get along well. For the girls who are at-risk, they have communicated that they feel good about being involved in a school project, as they are not very involved with the school community.

A few of the girls wanted to extend a thank you to the FCYJC. They had the following to say:

“Girls Circle has been very fun and has taught me some things. I like going every Wednesday to meet with the group. For the past few weeks I have been going I have enjoyed it. I like to talk and relate to the other girls. Thanks for having me a part of Girls Circle. I liked Girls Circle because I learned healthy eating tastes good too. Thank you for this group it was the best Rockblock.”

“Thank you for making Girls Circle possible. Girls Circle has been lots of fun and helped me get out of running laps. I loved going to the spa and getting my nails done. In Girls Circle I have learned that healthy food can taste good. I hope there is Girls Circle next year. “

“What I like most about Girls Circle is that you can hang out with your friends and eat food before we talk about serious stuff. In girls circle I learned about friendship, self-esteem and healthy eating. I really enjoy girls circle because you can just go and have fun. I hope they have girls circle next year. Thank you for this program it was the best Rockblock ever!”

Thank you again for your generous support of GC. The program has meant a great deal to the participating girls. A final report will be submitted in June.

With Gratitude, Gillian Lindquist
Program Coordinator - Victoria Restorative Justice Society (250) 383-5801

Appendix A: Welcome Letter

Welcome to Girls Circle!

The purpose of Girls Circle is to bring girls together for friendship, respect, and support – not judgment. Our hope is that the group will be a safe and confidential place for you to express your thoughts and feelings, engage in discussion, and learn from one another.

Girls Circle sessions will be held weekly on Wednesday's from 1:30-2:50. Each week will focus on a different topic and will include both discussion and creative activities. You are expected to participate every week. If you have to miss, please contact one of the facilitators before the group.

The Girls Circle sessions will take place for 10 weeks. There will be no group during Spring Break (March 16 or 23).

The Community Project will begin on April 6th and continue for 5 weeks.

A wrap up celebration will be held on May 25th.

Your facilitators for Girls Circle are Gillian Lindquist and Jill Busse.

Contact information:

Gillian Lindquist
250-885-7049
gillianlindquist@vrjs.org

Jill Busse
jbusse@uvic.ca

We look forward to getting to know you.

Appendix B: Girls Circle Format

Opening Ritual

We will begin the circle with an opening ritual that marks the commencement of the Circle. Each week one participant will be responsible for the ritual.

Theme Introduction

The facilitators will introduce the week's theme and share the plan for the session.

Check In

This is a time for you to check in with the circle and share whatever you wish, perhaps how you are feeling or something related to the week's theme. We will use a talking stick and go around the circle one by one with no interruptions. You are welcome to say as much or as little as you want.

Activity

Each day will have verbal activity, a creative activity, or both.

Sharing of Activity

The group will come back together to share your thoughts and feelings about the activity. Sometimes the talking stick will be used.

Closing Ritual

You will be given a moment to write a positive thought about yourself (affirmation). We will close the circle each day by allowing each girl to share one last thought. A talking stick will be used.

Appendix C: Girls Circle Agreement

I will not tell others what I hear in Circle, just as I expect others will not reveal what I talk about. Everything said and heard in the Circle, stays in the Circle. I understand the facilitators are required to report matters that indicate harm to others or myself.

I agree to come to Girls Circle with a positive attitude and be willing to participate in the activities.

I respect everyone's need to be heard. I agree to listen quietly and not interrupt someone while they are talking.

I respect that some people may be quieter than others and I agree to not pressure others to share.

I will accept other's opinions and feelings as their own and will not make judgments if I feel differently. I agree to not use negative statements, verbal or non verbal (putdowns, sighs, laughs, eye rolling, ect).

I will try not to offer other's advice on their situations. If someone asks for advice, I will share any experience I have that may be useful.

I recognize the importance of attending regularly and being on time. If I am unable to attend Girls Circle I will contact one of the facilitators in advance.

Appendix D: Letter to Parents**Girls Circle**

Girls Circle is a structured support group for girls from 9-18 years of age. It focuses on the strengths of the participating girls and is non-judgmental, caring, confidential and fun.

Girls Circle at Rockheights Middle School will run from January 19 – May 11, 2011. The group will meet every Wednesday from 1:30 – 2:50. Healthy food and beverages will be provided for the girls at each meeting.

Two facilitators will lead Girls Circle. The format will include each girl taking turns talking and listening to one another respectfully about their concerns and interests. The girls will express themselves through creative activities such as role playing, drama, journalling, poetry, dance, drawing, collage, clay, and so on. Gender-specific themes and topics will be

introduced, topics that relate to the girls' lives, such as friendship, body image, goals, bullying, family, social networking, competition and decision-making.

For the final 6 weeks of Girls Circle (April 6 – May 11) participants will coordinate and complete a community project to support an initiative that is of interest to them. Examples of such issues include homelessness, teen pregnancy, human rights, hunger and violence against women.

Girls Circle Facilitators

Gillian Lindquist is the Coordinator for the Victoria Restorative Justice Society and works with schools to provide various forms of dispute resolution and programming for middle school youth. Gillian has worked with youth in many capacities, including facilitating groups and after-school-program, crisis counseling, mentoring, coaching and delivering instructional programs.

Jillian Busse is a practicum student from University of Victoria and has her diploma in Social Work from Grant MacEwan University. She has experience facilitating social and recreational groups for both middle and elementary students with learning disabilities as well as providing one on one support to at-risk youth in a school setting.

If you have any questions about Girls Circle please contact Gillian at 250.383.5801 or gillianlindquist@vrjs.org.

Appendix E: Girls Circle Topic Choices

Please indicate your top two preferences of themes to focus on in Girls Circle.

Please underline any specific topics that are of interest to you.

— **Being a Girl:** Talk about what it means to be female. Topics include growing up, self care, and expressing yourself.

— **Body Image: How do you see yourself?** Discuss the messages that culture and media give us about body image. Talk about topics such as physical activity, health, and nurturing our bodies.

— **Wise & Well:** Talk about challenges that are commonly faced in middle school including bullying, cyber-bullying, social networks, binge drinking, and marijuana use. Learn how to make healthy decisions for yourself.

— **Friendship:** Share and discuss what makes a good friend, common friendship problems, and learn effective ways to express your feelings and resolve issues. Topics include 'Feuds, followers, and fairness' and 'Being included, being left out'.

— **Expressing My Individuality:** Explore and celebrate what makes you unique.

Topics include getting along with others, goal setting, and dealing with stress.

— **Honoring Our Diversity:** Explore what diversity means and how discrimination affects us. Share personal stories, cultural heritage, and bust stereotypes. What is oppression and how do you deal with it? Check out our female heroes and cultural clashes. Discover how to take action in your community.

**Grant Report on
Advanced Restorative Justice Training 2011**

**Submitted by
Geanine Robey, Chair
Greater Victoria Restorative Justice Resource Group
to
Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee**

The Greater Victoria Restorative Justice Resource Group (RJRG) is pleased to inform the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee that we have achieved our training goals for 2011:

1) equipping volunteers to handle increasingly serious and/or more complex cases by expanding their repertoire of Restorative Practices; 2) training facilitators to design customized restorative processes AND; 3) enabling the RJRG to meet its own training needs internally.

These achievements were made possible due to the significant support of the VFCYJC in the amount of \$5,000.

In light of the growing demand for a variety of Restorative processes at different entry points in the criminal justice system (pre-charge, post-charge approval, post-conviction/pre-sentence and post sentence), upgrading the skills of Greater Victoria Restorative Justice volunteers was essential to our collective ability to provide skilled, creative and flexible processes appropriate to the diverse needs of our clientele. Although a restorative process is generally helpful in any situation where it is appropriate, research clearly shows that restorative justice is most beneficial in cases where the offence is mid-range to serious in nature. In these instances, where those affected may be experiencing life altering harm and trauma, restorative justice provides a much needed avenue to address and heal these wounds. However, as you can imagine, facilitating and managing such referrals requires a strong skill set among restorative justice staff and volunteers. The funding given by the FCYJC provided our Resource Group member programs' staff and volunteers with the much-needed skills required to handle such referrals.

Following a series of meetings with Mediator/JI Instructor/Restorative Justice Trainer & Author, Gordon White, the RJRG was able to conduct an in-depth training needs assessment which led to the planning and development of 3 advanced training modules to train experienced volunteers to facilitate complex files. Descriptions of these modules and their delivery dates are as follow:

2A Advanced Communication Skills (1 day) - \$15.00

April 16, 2011

Objective: This one-day course improves communication skills in difficult situations, and expands strength, diversity, creativity, and flexibility of intentional communication.

2B- Challenging Situations: How to Prepare for and Maintain an Effective Conference Process in Difficult Cases - \$25.00

May 14 & 15, 2011

Objective: This two-day course expands the capacity of volunteers to respond successfully to challenging cases.

Topics: Effective interventions during the conference using “boundaries of process” as a guide

- Principles of assertion: learn the Describe, Express and Specify (DES) communication tool as a practical method of addressing unproductive interpersonal dynamics
- How to work with anger, aggression, disrespect, and withdrawal
- A guide for interviewing frightened, resistant, or belligerent offenders (and victims);
- Assessment of victim (and offender) trauma at a basic level
- How to use concerns and obstacles to build a better conference process
- Role-play practice of both victim and offender pre-conference interviews
- Procedural requirements of Crown cases

2C- Conference Design: How to Build an RJ Process that suits the Case - \$25.00

Sept. 10 & 11, 2011

Objective: A two-day course that provides volunteers with greater capacity to design case specific conference processes

Topics: Choose between the four models of restorative justice: Conferencing, Circles, Victim-Offender Mediation, and Accountability Panels, based on strengths and requirements.

- Adaptations of the conference to particular situations.
- Integrative framing and interest exploration in Victim-Offender mediation
- Directed semi-circles to manage anger, pain, and confusion from events
- Narrative conversations as a means of externalizing conflict and building shared meaning

Training of Trainers

By involving our existing team of trainers in every aspect of the training including skills coaching, de-briefing and instructional sessions after each module, Gordon White equipped our own trainers, Liz Cox, Jeannie Owens-Wallace and Gillian Lindquist to deliver future advanced modules themselves.

A Permanent Foundation for a Third Tier of Advanced Training

An unanticipated and very positive benefit of having received the \$5,000 grant from the VFCYJC is that it enabled Victoria Restorative Justice Society to obtain additional funding from the Law Foundation in the amount of \$13,500 to deliver a second cycle of training and, to expand upon our educational offerings by adding a third level of training: **Peacemaking Circles** and **Victim-Offender mediation**. All 5 modules will be offered in 2012 to VRJS members and to other volunteers in the Greater Victoria area as well as to VIRRJA (Vancouver Island Region Restorative Justice Association) program volunteers as space allows.

Training Evaluation

All volunteers were required to complete an anonymous evaluation after each module. Each was asked to rate their satisfaction with the module completed, to identify which aspects of the training were most and least helpful, to rate the trainer's effectiveness, to rate the content of the training according to a list of topics covered, to suggest any areas of the training that could be changed and, to respond with any of their own comments on any other matters of importance.

Responses from the volunteers were overwhelmingly positive and provided the RJRG, Gordon White and Trainers-in-training with excellent feedback on the benefits to our volunteers. Volunteers also freely commented on changes to process, content and pacing that they felt would be beneficial in the future. This feedback has been taken into consideration in modifying future trainings.

Here are some volunteer comments:

"I have taken a few courses which included aspects of communication but have never had so many practical tools imparted. Loved that!"

"Very connected to RJ work but also applicable to other life experiences"

"I learned to look beyond what people might say when they are stressed and to try to understand what needs might be behind their comments"

"It made some of my past facilitation challenges much clearer"

"I gained a lot of new knowledge and left with new skills to work on"

"... Great pacing and space to learn safely and deeply"

"There was real room for all to contribute and a lot of sharing that was used to inspire the content. This was great."

"It is the relationships you've established that enhanced learning – the comfort to be able to question and comment"

"I felt that not a moment was wasted and that I left a better communicator and facilitator"

"Overall, I feel equipped to design and handle complex situations with conviction, confidence and skill."



April 16, 2011 – Advanced Communication (21 participants)



*2C – Advanced
Communication*

*Participants
break off into
pairs to practice
newly acquired
skills*

September 10, 2011 – Conference Design (15 participants)



Post Training Evaluation

In late October and early November 2011, volunteers who had attended the trainings were asked several questions in order to determine how they were able to utilize the skills they'd acquired. The feedback obtained was in response to the following questions:

- 1. How useful was the training i.e . in terms of equipping you for new types of cases, increased confidence, enhanced capacity? Or any relevant info you wish to share in this area.**
- 2. How has the training made a difference to your skills and applying it to the work?**
- 3. Any other comments or feedback you wish to provide on the affect of the information on your practice.**

Responses to Question 1

Volunteers' responses regarding the usefulness of the training included the following common responses:

- more confident in the work
- better equipped with concrete tools with which to handle road blocks in cases and to manage emotionally-charged communication
- very useful to know how to structure a process tailored to the needs of the participants
- more knowledgeable about the importance of in-depth pre-conference work with victims and offenders before bringing them together

Responses to Question 2

Regarding the differences in the application of skills in case work post-training, volunteers noted the following improvements:

- avoiding leading questions and the inclination to counsel participants
- increased self awareness
- better able to structure processes specific to the needs of each case
- more skilled at handling difficult situations
- engaged in more effective pre-conference work
- better at assessing trauma and other needs of the participants to better assist them in participating
- using the defusing toolbox skills acquired in training
- depth of practice has increased
- utilizing a broader range of communication skills

Responses to Question 3

This open- ended question yielded responses that generally addressed the length and pacing of the modules, comments about the instructor and gratitude for the opportunity to have taken the trainings.

Concluding Remarks

It has been an explosive year in growth in terms of the variety and number of cases Greater Victoria R J Resource Group member programs are now able to accept.

With increased capacity, Victoria Restorative Justice Society (VRJS) has been able to take 4 fatality cases and numerous violent offenses and keep pace with a 4-fold increase in Crown referrals from the Victoria office over the past year.

Additionally, VRJS is now taking referrals from Colwood Crown which serves the Western Communities. (Crown cases are still accepted without remuneration from the Ministry of Attorney General).

Peninsula Crossroads Community Justice Program (PCCJP) now also has an MOU with Crown and is taking cases referred under Alternative Measures.

While no Restorative Justice Oak Bay volunteers took the training this time around, those who have gained sufficient experience volunteering with VRJS will be able to benefit from the next round of training.

Thank you VFCYJC for your support and for making it possible for Restorative Justice programs to better serve Greater Victoria.

Children Who Display Sexually Harmful Behaviours

Prepared For: Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA) and
Mary Manning Centre (MMC)

Prepared By: Nabiha Rawdah, Research Assistant for Centre for Youth and
Society

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Background

PCFSA has been delivering community based social services for over 40 years. Since 1992, PCFSA and Mary Manning Centre have been delivering the provincially-funded (Ministry of Children and Family Development; MCFD) child and youth mental health program entitled the *Sexual Abuse Intervention Program* (SAIP) in South Vancouver Island/Capital Regional District. This program has a mandate for working therapeutically with children who have been sexually abused (under 18 years of age) and those under 12 years of age who display sexually harmful behaviours. For a brief definition of sexually harmful behaviours, please refer to page 6 of this report.

As a result of experience in delivering this program and providing community services, local agencies have become more aware of the proportion of children referred who display sexually harmful behaviours. They are not, however, mandated by the funding Ministry (MCFD) to work with this population beyond the age of 12 years. Yet, they may not receive any other intervention to address their behaviour unless they enter the criminal justice system.

In 2007, PCFSA polled a number of relevant agencies in CRD and SAIP agencies across BC with regard to this matter. The unanimous response was that there is a major gap in service in our community. Youth between the ages of 12-18 who display sexually harmful behaviours and are not in the juvenile justice system do not receive the intervention needed. Most cases do not reach the attention of the authorities, and the threshold is strict for them to receive a service. In other words, youth over the age of 12 will only receive a service if they are received into the criminal justice system, and these services are determined by their specific scope and capacity to address the underlying causes of these behaviours.

The sexual abuse of children is a major social issue and it can be prevented. A significant proportion of it is caused by other youth, and we need to fully understand this issue in our community and use this knowledge to develop and plan services. Through this preliminary research project, we will develop a clearer understanding of the issues and needs in CRD in relation to this population. As a result, we will plan to work with relevant agencies and authorities to develop a policy and practice framework to respond to identified needs, relating to child welfare, child protection, prevention and intervention and the juvenile justice system.

A comprehensive service plan across CRD should take into account the Province's Youth Justice principles. The primary objectives of the Youth Criminal Justice Act are to reduce the use of custody, encourage more community-based responses to youth crime and bring greater consistency to youth justice. The purpose of the system is to promote the long-term protection of the public, and therefore the youth justice system should address the circumstances underlying the offender's behaviour, rehabilitate youth who commit offences and ensure that they youth is subject to meaningful consequences for their offence.

A plan across CRD for dealing with children who display sexually harmful behaviours should reflect these principles by; ensuring that underlying causes of harmful/criminal behaviours are addressed and that rehabilitation is supported where possible, ensuring that consequences are appropriate and preventing long term criminal/harmful behaviours. Based on the information generated by this proposed project, PCFSA will draw on their expertise to identify measures to address this behaviour and raise awareness in the community. Additionally, such a plan could include alternative measures or diversions (as defined in the Youth Justice Act) such as

intervention (described above) resulting in reduced risk to other child victims in order to secure the best long-term outcomes for children and youth in our community. This would also thereby limit the ‘formal, time consuming and often harmful effects of prosecution and punishment’.

Major Aims of the Report

This report will provide a platform from which we will be better prepared to address the needs/problems in this area. These are hypothesized to include:

- ✓ gaps in service; children over 12 outside of the justice system do not receive intervention for sexually harmful behaviour, therefore not preventing or reducing future child sexual abuse within our community
- ✓ service intervention delivered by the criminal justice system targets only a proportion of the population within a specific scope, and there is a broader population and community that needs increased knowledge and intervention to protect children

Definition of Terms

Diverse terminology is used in the research literature to refer to youth and the sexually harmful behaviours they exhibit. In this report, we refer to this particular group as *children and youth who display sexually harmful behaviours (SHB's)*. We strongly believe that this term respectfully acknowledges that these individuals are children and youth first. We focus on their behaviours because we subscribe to the fundamental belief that these behaviours can be changed with appropriate care, supervision, and treatment. Sexually harmful behaviours are not necessarily permanent in children and youth, nor do they reflect any intrinsic features of their personalities, skills, and abilities.

When placed on a continuum of healthy and harmful, labeling problematic sexual behaviours has generally been difficult to define because of the diverse views and sociocultural myths about sexuality and children's sexual development – e.g. that some sexual behavior between children may be 'play' when in fact, these behaviours are distressing to a child (Sperry & Gilbert, 2005). However, Toni Cavanagh-Johnson's (1999) research contributions offer a clearer understanding of the criteria used to distinguish healthy, problematic, and harmful sexual behaviours in children and youth. Cavanagh-Johnson states that identifying *healthy sexual behaviours* is primarily based on what is expected and appropriate among children and youth of their particular stage of development. Healthy sexual behaviours include elements of mutuality, choice, exploration, and fun. There is no evidence of intent to harm others. Further, the expression of these behaviours is in balance with other aspects of a child's life and development.

Problematic sexual behaviors may include developmentally inappropriate behaviours that have occurred during an isolated event, but are not repeated, as well as persistent or escalating

patterns of behaviour. For example, a child's naïve attempts to forge a relationship which entails inappropriate touching, but not extending to penetrative acts (Cavanagh-Johnson, 1999).

Harmful sexual behaviours are not appropriate to the age or developmental stage of the child/youth in question. These behaviours contain elements of threat, coercion, manipulation, and secrecy about them. They may also be frequent and persistent, so that it becomes increasingly difficult to distract the child or youth in question from engaging in these behaviours (Cavanagh-Johnson, 1999). Further, these behaviours are considered harmful because they are perpetrated against others without consent, they disrupt the healthy development of other children and which clearly violate the boundaries and rights of others (Miccio-Fonseca & Rasmussen, 2009; Rich, 2009).

Review of the Literature

A systematic search and analysis of empirically-based, peer-reviewed literature on the topic of children and youth who display sexually harmful behaviours (SHB's) was performed in preparation for the writing of this report. The following section is a review of current research literature related to children and youth between the ages of 12 and 18 who display sexually harmful behaviours (SHB's).

General Approach to Conducting the Literature Search

The following combination of search terms were frequently used to retrieve relevant research literature: “*sexually harmful behaviours*”, “*sexually abusive behaviours*”, “*sexually intrusive behaviours*”, “*sexual behavior problems*” “*sexual maltreatment*”; “*sexual + harm + children*” “*sexual harm + youth*”, “*sexual behavior + problems + youth*”, and “*sexual+harm+behavior*”.

Seventeen primary journals titles were identified from the results of the literature search. These journal titles are provided below. The year of publication, research methodologies used, and characteristics of participant samples identified across research studies is also noted. An article reference guide is included in the Appendix and contains a brief overview of each research study cited in this report.

Journal Titles:

American Journal of Orthopsychiatry; British Journal of Psychiatry; British Journal of Social Work; Child Abuse and Neglect; Child Maltreatment; Child Psychiatry and Human Development; Clinical Psychology Review; Ethics and Behaviour; International Journal of Offender Therapy

and Comparative Criminology; Journal of Adolescence; Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma; Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association; Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities; Journal of Child Sexual Abuse; Journal of Human Behaviour in the Social Environment; Journal of Sexual Aggression; The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology

Breakdown of Studies By Year of Publication: 1998 (1); 2002 (2); 2003 (1); 2005 (1); 2006 (2); 2007 (7); 2008 (9); 2009 (4)

Breakdown of Studies By Methodology: Prospective (4); Review (2); Concurrent Retrospective (1); Retrospective (9); Meta-analysis (2), Ethnographic (1), Descriptive (2); Case File Reviews (2)

Participant Characteristics Across Studies: The age range across the majority of research literature surveyed for this report was 6-20 years of age, with predominantly male participant samples from Caucasian, African-American, European, and mixed descent.

Edited books that were also relevant for the literature review were found at the University of Victoria, McPherson Library, and included “*Children and Young People Who Sexually Abuse Others*” (Erooga & Masson, 2006) and “*Juvenile Sex Offenders*” (Rich, 2006). Other books that were also accessed through an interlibrary loan service included “*Working with Children and Young People Who Sexually Abuse: Taking the Field Forward*” (Calder, 2007), “*Children Who Commit Acts of Interpersonal Violence*” (Hagell & Jeyarajah-Dent, 2006), and “*Understanding Children and Young People: Development from 5-18 years*” (Lindon, 2007).

Naming, Defining, and Describing Youth Who Display Sexually Harmful Behaviours

Diverse terminology is used to refer to children and youth and the sexually harmful behaviours they exhibit. The most frequent terms identified in the literature to date include “*youth with sexual behaviour problems*”; “*sexually abusive youth*”; “*child sexual behavior problems*”; “*adolescent sexual abusers*”; “*sexually reactive children and adolescents*”; “*juvenile sexually abusive behavior*”; “*children and adolescents who sexually abuse others*”; “*youths who sexually harm*”; and “*young people with harmful sexual behavior*”. The use of such diverse terminology suggests that there is variation in how researchers conceptualize and describe this unique population of children and youth, and the behaviours they exhibit.

In a 2007 Health Canada report, Lambert (2007) suggests an increase in the proportion of problem behaviours observed in children and adolescents today as compared to fifty years ago. She states that the problem behaviours exhibited by children and adolescents today is disruptive, aggressive or delinquent, and can range from lying and running away, to fighting and bullying, and to theft and vandalism. She attributes the perceived increase in problem behaviours to a number of family, community and social factors. In her view, a rise in number of single parent families, especially those in poverty may influence how available parents are to monitor and engage in their children’s lives. Schools and neighbourhoods were also perceived as offering limited community social control. A low social consensus of values, less emphasis on religion, and an increased access to promotion of individualism, materialism and violence in media were also believed to contribute to the problem behaviours observed in children and youth today.

Lambert's (2007) findings demonstrate the importance for researchers and clinicians to evaluate the role of family, community, and social factors when working with children and youth who demonstrate sexually harmful behaviours while also attending to how these factors influence their unique needs.

Current statistics compiled by the Vanier Institute (2008) indicate that the violent crime rate among youth in Canada rose by 12% over the last decade. Assaults were noted as the most prevalent type of violent offence for which youth were apprehended. In 2008-2009, a total of 7 youths in British Columbia were charged with sexual assault and received intensive support and supervision. Nine were charged with other sexual offences, and also received support and supervision. During this same time period, fifteen youth were on probation for sexual assaults, and 5 were on probation for other sexual offences (Statistics Canada, 2008). Six out of ten physical assault victims and half of sexual assault victims under the age of 6 reported being assaulted by a family member (Vanier Institute, 2008). According to the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS; 2002), sexual abuse was the primary reason for investigation in 10% of all child maltreatment referrals to social services agencies. Thirty-eight percent of these cases were substantiated during this time. In 2008, thirty six percent of child maltreatment investigations were substantiated, and 18% of these substantiated investigations involved more than one type of child maltreatment (Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect, 2008). The major categories and percentages associated with each type of maltreatment included: exposure to partner violence (34%); physical abuse (20%), neglect (34%), emotional maltreatment (9%), and sexual abuse (3%).

At present, estimates of incidence and prevalence of sexually harmful behavior displayed by Canadian children and adolescents who are not involved in the criminal justice system is vastly under-reported (Health Canada, National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, 2008). Moreover, a number of issues related to extrapolating information based on youth offender statistics have been identified. For instance, sexual offences committed by adolescents are usually handled as assault charges, therefore, arrest records misrepresent the actual extent of the problem. Also, the desire to protect children or adolescents from the stigma of harmful labels extends into the criminal justice system. Plea bargaining has allowed adolescents to plead guilty to a simple assault, or even a property crime, rather than be convicted of a sexual offence. Moreover, sexually harmful behaviours are often downplayed or dismissed as sexual curiosity or experimentation, and helping professionals often minimize these behaviours rather than treating it as a sexual offence (Health Canada, National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, 2008). In the 2008 Adolescent Healthy Survey (McCreary Centre Society, 2008), a total of 8% of South Vancouver Island youth between the ages of 12 and 19 enrolled in school reported being ever sexually abused, which included 3% percent of males and 13% of females.

The available estimates of incidence and prevalence outside of Canada for this particular population were observed in selected European studies. In the United Kingdom for example, Erooga and Mason (2006) estimated that 25% of all incidences of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by children and youth, and 10% of this abuse is perpetuated by females. While these statistics may offer an initial glimpse into the incidence and prevalence of SHB's in children and youth, it is challenging to determine to what extent these statistics are reflective our Canadian

context. As such, further research is indicated to obtain an accurate estimate of the incidence and prevalence of children and youth who display SHB's in Canada.

One of the critical findings found in the research literature is that children and adolescents who exhibit SHB's are a heterogeneous group with varied background characteristics and histories (Erooga & Mason, 2006). This population varies not only in terms of age, gender, ethnic origin, and disability status, but also in terms of the unique individual, family, and social vulnerabilities they experience, and the level of risk they present to others. In this next section, a few selected studies are described to help illustrate the significant heterogeneity of this population. It is important to note that most of these studies were conducted internationally, and participant samples included youth from different age groups who were already involved in the criminal justice system. Further, most of the research findings were based on retrospective data. Therefore, only limited comparisons can be made to children and youth between the ages of 12 and 18 in Canada who display sexually harmful behaviours.

In a descriptive study by Vizard, Hickey, French and McCrory (2007) of 280 males and females, ages 5-21 years old in the United Kingdom, several characteristics related to the individual youth and to the abuse incident were investigated in a retrospective case file review. The individual youth characteristics assessed included family environment, removal from home, intellectual functioning and educational difficulties, and antisocial behavior. The abuse incident characteristics assessed included age-of-onset, the type of victim, and sexually harmful behaviours.

The results demonstrated that family difficulties were present for all the participants in this sample, which often related to abuse within the home environment. 76% were removed from

their home and placed into alternative care at an average age of 9.5 years old, which also corresponded to the average age of onset of sexually harmful behaviours. 92% of the sample also suffered neglect, witnessed domestic violence, or experienced some form of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse. The early-onset group (<10 years old) experienced significantly higher levels of psychosocial adversity than the late-onset group, where sexually harmful behaviours often began in early childhood. By adolescence, the early-onset and late-onset groups appear more similar, although the early-onset group was more likely to abuse male children, while the late-onset group were more likely to abuse younger children and use verbal coercion (Vizard, Hickey, French, & McCrory, 2007).

Almond, Canter, and Salfati (2007) recently investigated whether youth who sexually harm possess background themes that contained a set of thematically similar characteristics that consistently co-occur. They investigated three specific background themes related to abuse, delinquency, and impairment. In their retrospective case review of 300 youth, aged 9-18 years old, these researchers found that 71% of the sample reflected one dominant theme in their case histories, however 6% of cases reviewed contained no characteristics from any of the three proposed themes. Rather, the highest frequency characteristic in the 'abused' theme was physical and sexual abuse. In the 'impaired' theme, the highest frequency characteristic was not enrolled in full-time education, although these youth represented a wide continuum, including psychological, emotional, and physical impairment. For the youth who exhibited delinquent patterns of behavior, it was observed that they were sexually harming as part of an overall pattern of antisocial behavior (Almond, Canter, & Salfati, 2007).

Almond and Canter (2007) also investigated variations in behavior in a retrospective case review of 300 youth, aged 9-18 years old. They hypothesized that three different modes of interpersonal interaction exist between youth who sexually harm and their victims, and include 1) victim-as-object; 2) victim-as-person, and 3) victim-as-vehicle. The findings demonstrated that for a majority of the sample (86%), each of the three proposed modes of interaction was distinguishable and made up of a set of conceptually- related behaviours.

For example, the victim-as-object described youth who use their victim to satisfy their own gratifications, as suggested by varied penetration acts and the lack of other sexual behaviours, which indicated that the main motivator for these acts is the accomplishment of the sexual act in itself. For victim-as-person, the youth viewed their relationship with the victim as a conventional sexual relationship and interacted with him/her as such; however, these incidents were likely to occur over a period of time and the escalation of the sexually harmful behaviours displayed were also likely to become more serious. Lastly, for victim-as-vehicle, the youth used the victim to vent their anger or frustration, which often entailed an aggressive manner to humiliate or demean him/her (Almond & Canter, 2007).

Almond and Canter (2007) also found that distinguishable behaviours that were evident for each theme. The highest frequency behavior in the victim-as-object theme was verbal threats and vaginal penetration with the penis; in the victim-as-person theme, it was more than one incident with the victim and exhibitionism. In the victim-as-vehicle theme, the highest frequency behaviours were touching the victim's genitals and physical coercion.

Overall, the findings from these studies suggest that there are noticeable variations in the background characteristics and histories of youth who exhibit SHB's, which influence the specific

type of SHB's exhibited and the mode of interpersonal interaction these youth have with their victims. These are all significant elements to consider in the treatment and service planning for this population at a community and individual level.

Studies with Distinct Sub-Groupings of this Population

Almond and Giles (2008) argue that a potential value of researching recognizable sub-groupings within the larger group of youth who display SHB's is the understanding of the complex interplay between multiple background characteristics and factors, and how this could relate to situational opportunities for offending, including offence behavior and choice of victim. These researchers conducted a retrospective study on the similarities and differences between youth with and without a diagnosed learning disability (LD) with respect to their perpetrator, victim, and abuse characteristics. They found no discernable differences between the LD and non-LD groups in terms of victim, age, gender, and relationship with the perpetrator. The non-LD sample, however, was significantly more likely to have a previous conviction for property offences and abuse drugs and/or alcohol. This non-LD sample was also more likely to victimize an individual repeatedly over time.

Another retrospective study was conducted by Hayes (2009) on the relationship between abuse history and psychological, psychiatric, and behavioural symptoms among a group of young offenders with intellectual disabilities (ID's). In this retrospective study, offenders with intellectual disabilities were more likely to report having been victims of physical abuse than sexual abuse. Exposure to family conflict was related to psychological and psychiatric disorders for offenders with ID's, whereas family violence and having been victims of child physical abuse were related to higher rates of anxiety disorders in the non-ID sample.

Miccio-Fonseca and Rasmussen (2009) recently developed a conceptual model of the ecological aggregates for assessing children and adolescents who sexually harm. In their review of case studies, they formulated a conceptual model for differentiating youth who are sexually violent (YSV) and youth who are predatory sexually violent (YPSV) from other youth who are typically seen in outpatient clinics and residential facilities. Their findings illustrated the significance of anti-social behavioral tendencies of YSV and YPSV. Specifically, the violation of rights of others appeared to be a key characteristic of many youth in these two categories. Violence was also frequently part of their reported sexual and non-sexual crimes. These researchers noted however, that despite these common behavioural features, a “typical” profile of youth who sexually harm does not exist.

Roe-Sepowitz and Krysik (2008) investigated the relationship between aspects of offending and child maltreatment histories in a large non-clinical sample of female juveniles, aged 7-17 years old. Their findings demonstrated that the majority of females had a history of prior delinquency. Those who had a history of child maltreatment were also more likely to have concurrent mental health issues.

These findings highlight some of the distinguishable behaviours and features that were identified in studies investigating specific sub-groups of youth who exhibit SHB's. These relate to choice of victim, background characteristics, and anti-social behaviors correlates. More research is needed to assess what extent these distinct sub-groupings are significantly different from the rest of the population of youth who display sexually harmful behaviours, particularly those who have never been formally charged with a criminal offense.

Section Summary

Youth who exhibit SHB's are a diverse and heterogeneous group. This makes it difficult to formulate a typical profile of behaviours or background history when working with this particular client population. Their needs and issues may be multifaceted and complex because of the impact of individual, family, social factors, prior abuse histories, and the display of SHB's.

Developmental Factors, Considerations, and Outcomes

The traumagenic model developed by Finkelhor and Browne (1985) has provided important insights into the effects of prior abuse on the development of sexually harmful behaviours in children and youth. Finkelhor and Browne claimed that inappropriate sexual behavior and sexualized responses during abuse experiences in childhood often become rewarded by the perpetrator. The perceived sense of closeness and intimacy that develops afterwards may itself become sexualized. Stigmatization and feelings of betrayal may be potential consequences associated with abuse experiences, often contributing to negative self-image and feelings of isolation. In effect, they propose that this increases the risk of children and youth engaging in SHB's to cope with the feelings associated with their own abuse experiences.

Finkelhor further described four preconditions, which, in his view, must be met before sexually harmful behaviours can occur. These include: 1) Motivation to abuse – the victim meets some important emotional need and/or sexual contact with the victim is more sexually gratifying than any other sources; 2) Overcoming internal inhibitions – this is often accomplished by self-serving cognitions where the victim is perceived as a consenting participant; 3) Overcoming

external impediments – this involves gaining access to the potential victim in an environment where the abuse is possible, and 4) Overcoming or undermining the victim’s resistance – this may relate to a complex set of personality factors (Finkelhor & Browne, 1985).

Erooga and Mason (2006) estimate that the extent of sexual victimization among children and youth who go on to sexually harm others varies from 30-50 percent; however it appears that other abuse experiences, including emotional abuse, exposure to violence and/or neglect, are also significant. Friedrich, Davies, Fehrer, and Wright (2003) recently indicated that exposure to violence, including child abuse and witnessing domestic violence, had a stronger association with the presence of SHB’s than sexual abuse. Merrick, Litrownik, Everson, and Cox (2008) assessed whether other abuse experiences, aside from sexual abuse, predicted sexually harmful behaviours in 690 maltreated and high risk children without a reported sexual abuse history. Their findings also suggested that reports of physical abuse were significant for both male and female children. Physical abuse predicted the display of private parts and sexual intrusiveness for males. Physical abuse was also significant in predicting boundary problems in females. Merrick et al.’s (2008) findings suggest that physical abuse is an important factor in understanding the development of SHB’s in children and youth. More research is needed to ascertain the extent which indicators of abuse and maltreatment, other than sexual abuse, influence the occurrence of SHB’s in children and youth.

Tarren and Sweeney (2008) also found that exposure to multiple adversities, comorbidity, relationship difficulties, gender and placement stability affected the presence of SHB’s in an exploratory study of 347 children. These findings are important because members of the public,

and even helping professionals may be led to believe that prior victimization in childhood inevitably leads to perpetuating abuse against others. Tarren and Sweeney's (2008) findings demonstrate that although some children and youth do go on to sexually harm others, others do not. In effect, several factors appear to influence the extent to which sexual victimization is associated with SHB's in children and youth.

Salter, McMillian, Richards, Talbot, Hodges, Bentovim, Hastings, Stevenson, & Skuse (2003) prospectively assessed the childhood experiences and personal characteristics of male child victims who became abusers in later life, particularly in terms of the risk and protective factors associated with this transition of victim to abuser. In this longitudinal study, 12% of the total 224 male participants had become abusers in later life, which indicated that the risk of becoming abusers is lower than previously thought by earlier researchers. These findings demonstrated that victim-abusers had witnessed more intense violence than non-abusers, which was almost always perpetrated by their mother's male partner on their mother. These youth were also more likely to have been physically neglected and experienced significant neglect from their parents/caregivers.

The relationship between age of onset of sexually harmful behaviours in youth and markers of personality disorders in later adulthood has been a significant focus of contemporary research by Vizard, Hickey, and McCrory (2007). In their retrospective study, 280 children and adolescent case histories were studied to assess whether age at onset of sexually harmful behavior and emerging severe personality disorder traits were associated with specific developmental profiles of youth who display sexually harmful behaviours. Their findings demonstrated that the

early onset group (described as beginning sexually abusive behaviours before age 11) had higher rates of difficult temperament and maltreatment, were more likely to have been exposed to poor parenting models, inappropriate sexualization, and behavioral problems. The only variable on which the late onset group (> age 11) had a significantly higher rate was substance misuse. Additionally, during adolescence, it appeared that the early onset group was more likely to abuse multiple types of victims. Evidence of physical aggression was also found in the early onset group, which began early and increased consistently across each developmental stage. Taken together, these findings reinforce the importance of early identification of children under 10 years of age who display SHB's. This preliminary step may prevent a trajectory of development leading to contact with the youth criminal justice system. McCrory, Hickey, Famer, and Vizard (2008) evaluated whether a sub-group of children presenting with sexually harmful behaviours displayed a constellation of risk factors associated with a persistent path of anti-social behavior in later adulthood. In their retrospective study, 237 cases were assessed and 100 of these cases were categorized as early onset because the child demonstrated evidence of sexually harmful behaviors prior to the age of 10. Their findings illustrated that the early onset group were significantly more likely to have experienced a range of possible antecedents to neuropsychological impairment, including sexual abuse (89%), physical abuse (81%), emotional abuse (87%), and neglect (74%). The late onset group was more likely to display patterns of sexually harmful behaviours that included abusing only females and young children.

Furthermore, anti-social behaviours in the form of aggression, physical cruelty to animals, and stealing were more likely to have occurred in the early onset group during the pre-adolescent period (7-10 years old). By adolescence, there was a greater equivalence with both the early and

late onset groups showing similar levels of aggression and physical cruelty to animals.

Pornography use has also been identified as a possible risk marker for the development of patterns of aggressive behavior among children and adolescents displaying sexually harmful behaviours (Alexy, Burgess, & Prentky, 2009).

These findings demonstrate the importance of age of onset as a critical factor in assessing the possible developmental outcomes for youth who display SHB's. It appears that a number of potentially damaging outcomes are linked to youth, particularly with early onset SHB's. These findings also suggest a potential link between SHB's in youth and the emergence of personality disorders in adulthood. Therefore, it is imperative for future research to address how specific forms of anti-social behaviours in particular vary across development as opportunities and environments change.

Based on the findings from Vizard, Canter, and McCrory (2007) and Vizard, Hickey, French, and McCrory (2007), if these early risk markers are present and the youth in question does not receive consistent treatment into their adolescent years, some of the likely outcomes in adolescence and adulthood include:

1. Does not progress to convictions for sexual offenses in adolescence
2. Demonstration of a wide range of anti-social behaviours in adolescence (including sexual and non-sexual behaviours for early onset)
3. Violence and aggressive behavioural patterns in adolescence (relatively equal for both early onset and late onset)

Another related question is what becomes of these youth once they reach adulthood.

According to the collective findings gathered from Vizard, Canter, and McCrory (2007) and Vizard, Hickey, French, and McCrory (2007), some of the likely outcomes include:

1. Early onset tends to demonstrate more general anti-social behavioural tendencies, while late onset tends to exhibit more sexualized behaviours
2. Demonstrate SHB's as adults
3. Develop chronic/severe personality disorders
4. Engage in violent and non-violent offending as adults. Pro- criminal attitudes and non-sexual violent offending

Section Summary

Multiple developmental influences appear to contribute to the display of SHB's in children and youth. The potential developmental pathways associated with SHB's in childhood reinforce the need for proper identification and assessment of the contextual and background factors associated with the development of sexually harmful behaviors in children and youth. Please refer to the following section for a more detailed discussion of the assessment and treatment of SHB's.

Current Assessment Practices and Treatment Approaches

The assessment and treatment of children and youth who display SHB's has been challenging because what constitutes normative and non-normative sexual development is a surprisingly complex task due to insufficient research in this area. Furthermore, applying adult-oriented assessment methods and interventions, such as polygraph, phallometric assessment, or

arousal conditioning is perceived as problematic because these assessment methods ignore developmental differences between youth and adults (Rasmussen & Miccio-Fonesca, 2007). Over the last few years, research efforts have indicated the importance of empirically-based assessment tools to guide clinical judgments and approaches to treatment when working with children and youth who display SHB's. Several assessment tools and measures of psychosocial and family functioning were reviewed by Collie and Ward (2007) and grouped into three main categories, including 1) measures developed to specifically assess sexual preferences and deviancies; 2) general measures of psychosocial and family functioning, and 3) guidelines designed to assess risk for sexual recidivism. Their findings confirmed that there are several advantages of using empirically-guided clinical judgments, including greater consistency and transparency in decision-making. Several of the measures reviewed by Collie and Ward were considered suitable for use with adolescents; however, they caution that very little is available to guide the assessment of children's sexually harmful behaviours. Thus, future research is needed needed to develop empirically-based assessment methods for particular use with children.

The Multiplex Empirically Guided Inventory of Ecological Aggregates for Assessing Sexually Abusive Children and Adolescents under 19 was recently developed by Rasmussen and Miccio-Fonesca (2007) to define and address the needs of children who display SHB's. In their view, having specific, inclusive criteria to identify what is being assessed should be an essential part of a comprehensive assessment protocol. Seven aggregates were identified and hypothesized to be amenable to treatment. These aggregates include neuropsychological, family lovemap, anti-social, sexual incident, coercion, stratagem, and relationship. Despite highlighting those areas of

youth's functioning that may be amenable to treatment, a major limitation of this particular assessment tool is that it has yet to be empirically tested (Rasmussen & Miccio-Fonesca, 2007).

Bentovim (2002) examined the factors that influenced boys between 11 and 16 who have been sexually abused to abuse others to ascertain if it is possible to prevent them from doing so. In this cross-sectional, prospective study, Bentovim assessed whether factors associated with an experience of sexual abuse in youth who are also offending can be addressed in therapeutic work alongside treatment for the offending behaviours. The main findings revealed that the most significant factors were those relating to experiences of intra-familial violence, and experiencing care rejection. Specifically, discontinuity of care, and living with various caregivers contributed to profound feelings of rejection and had a significant effect on the formation of healthy attachment relationships. Furthermore, a contributing factor to offending behaviours was the exposure to physical violence and neglect, particularly when a maternal figure had been victimizing or was extensively victimized.

Oliver (2007) outlines three major steps that, in his view, society can take to reach out to youth and intervene in their lives before they sexually offend others. Based on his own experience as a former offender, he asserted that society needs to overcome the objections and fears associated with non-normative sexuality, and instead promotes a proactive approach towards combating sexual offenses perpetrated by children and adolescents. Based on his experience and reflections, he offers the following warning signs of youth who may display SHB's: 1) having few similar-aged friends and spending a large part of spare time with younger children, and 2) talking about being sexually attracted to younger children. He also indicated that compulsive masturbation and engaging in explicit conversations with children served as an

additional warning sign from his prior experiences. Given this information, he concluded his candid discussion by offering three major strategies for adults to follow. These include talking to youth about the consequences and harm associated with sexual abuse, talking about the potential danger of dwelling on child-oriented fantasies, and intervening when at-risk youth exhibit warning signs.

Etgar and Shulstain-Elrom (2009) utilized an individual and family therapy model to evaluate their work with youth who display SHB's. Based on the two individual sessions followed by one family session, their findings demonstrated that none of the youth who participated in their program had sexually re-offended since treatment ended (1-5 years). Physical violence in the family was also reportedly reduced after treatment; however, this therapy program was not empirically evaluated by comparing it to other treatment programs.

Taken together, the findings from these studies indicate that there is a significant interest and need for well-developed and validated assessment and treatment practices for therapeutic work with children and youth who display SHB's. Researchers have highlighted the importance of effective therapeutic interventions in reducing the risk of future SHB's in children and youth (Fortune & Lambie, 2006, Letourneau, Chapman, & Schoenwald, 2008; Letourneau, Borduin, & Schaffer, 2009). At present, it appears that sexually harmful behaviours in children and youth can be effectively addressed with empirically supported and community-based interventions, including Multisystemic Therapy and specialized cognitive-behavioural interventions (Letourneau, Borduin, & Schaeffer, 2009; Fortune & Lambie, 2006). Resilience-based intervention models (Olssen, 2003; Gilgun, 2006), and the Stop and Think model (Butler &

Elliot, 2006) also demonstrate promise in facilitating therapeutic interventions for children and youth who display SHB's, and their families.

Summary of Major Findings

Children and youth are a heterogeneous group with varied individual characteristics, mental health diagnoses, abuse histories and psychosocial adversities. There is currently no agreement on a psychological profile that clearly reflects a child or youth who displays or is at risk of displaying sexually harmful behavior. Multiple family, community, and contextual factors also influence the development, emergence, and expression of sexually harmful behaviours in children and youth. Multiple developmental outcomes of SHB's are indicated, and include the demonstration of general anti-social and criminal behavior in adolescence and adulthood.

This particular group of children and youth has multiple needs, and it is important to address the significance of treating SHB's in relation to the other potential factors that contribute to the development of SHB's. At present, a limited amount of scholarly research on SHB's in Canadian children and youth is available. This necessitates a need for clinicians and researchers to focus on addressing the diverse needs of this population through the development of empirically-based assessment and treatment interventions to remediate these behaviours and promote a healthier lifecourse trajectory for these children and youth.

Directions for Future Research and Implications for Treatment

Based on the research findings cited in this report, a number of directions for future research and implications for treatment are indicated. In this section, I summarize the most frequently indicated suggestions based on these studies.

Silovsky and Letourneau (2008) describe four essential lessons learned so far from the dissemination of research on children and youth who display sexually harmful behaviours. First, they identify that scientific results provide direction to the field, even when the results may counter ingrained beliefs and notions about this particular population of children and youth, their sexual development, and the development of SHB's. Second, family and community-based approaches to treating SHB's in children and youth have garnered strong support, particularly family-based interventions (Letourneau, Chapman, and Schoewald, 2008, St. Amand, Silovsky, & Bard, 2008). Third, sexual behaviours of children and youth are complex and multidimensional. Exposure to multiple psychosocial adversities, concurrent mental health conditions and diagnoses, family and relationship conflict, gender, and home stability further underscore the complexity and development of sexually harmful behaviours. Lastly, children and youth who display SHB's should be perceived first and foremost as children.

Future research is needed to better understand and conceptualize maltreatment predictors of sexually harmful behaviours in children and youth. As previously discussed, prior sexual victimization is not the only indicator, nor is it as strong as other indicators of maltreatment (Friedrich, Davies, Fehrer, & Wright, 2008).

Letourneau, Chapman, and Schoenwald (2008) indicate that future research and policies involving youth who display SHB's need to carefully reconsider policies that require lengthy incarceration, residential treatment, or that impose lengthy post-sentence completion restrictions. These researchers assert that these policies do not recognize the potential of youth, with the support of their families and evidence-based interventions, to reform their lives and overcome early mistakes and early criminal acts.

Future research indicates the need for stronger methodological research designs to study children and youth who display SHB's. Fortune and Lambie (2006) suggest that conducting randomized studies with youth assigned to various treatment and non-treatment groups may help to overcome the inherent flaws associated with retrospective designs. Research designs also need to help delineate between proximal and distal influences, obtain measures of genetic and pre-natal risk exposure, and infant temperament (Tarren-Sweeney, 2008).

St. Armand, Bard, and Silovsky (2008) suggest that the next important step in the treatment of children and youth who display SHB's should involve behavior parent training. Outcome variability attributed to distinct treatment characteristics and practice elements also appears to be a worthy endeavour.

Green and Masson (2002) assert that societal, structural and organizational factors needed to be taken into consideration, alongside individual and family characteristics when treating children and youth who display SHB's. For instance, the development of specialized training and support for clinicians and staff who work with this particular population need to become aware of how their own responses to sexuality and sexual abuse issues affects their therapeutic work with this client group.

Vizard, Hickey, French, and McCrory (2007) indicate that risk assessments and management should be conducted within a life-course developmental framework which can help identify appropriate treatment provision and coping strategies. These risk assessments must include an assessment of anti-social behavior and emerging personality disorder. In addition, these researchers suggest that an increased clinical awareness of developmental trajectories with sexually harmful behavior in childhood is needed to better identify and target appropriate resources to promote prevention.

Chaffin (2008) advises that clinical practice and fields of youth and juvenile justice are permeated by myths, assumptions, and misperceptions about sexual deviancy in adulthood and childhood. These can have deleterious effects on how clinicians approach therapeutic work and how the nature of this work affects clinical judgments and treatment. Chaffin (2008) recommends that re-education is needed to prevent educators and policy-makers from incorrectly labeling every individual youth with a sexual offense history as ‘high-risk’ or as needing treatment for sexual deviancy.

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APPENDIX

Notes from Dissemination Workshop

PROCEEDINGS

**Working with children and youth who display sexually
harmful/intrusive behaviours:**

A dissemination of research and joint review of issues and plans

December 8th 2010, 10:30am – 3pm

University of Victoria, David Strong Building, Room C113

A day long presentation and strategy discussion on research, practice, and policy.

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1. Executive Summary

In response to community needs and gaps in service identified by SAIP providers, a meeting of stakeholders working with youth who display sexually harmful behaviours was held at the University of Victoria on December 8, 2010. Attended by practitioners, policy makers and researchers, the meeting afforded an opportunity to review current research literature and jointly undertake analysis of gaps in service and issues that cross the fields of forensics, policy, school based counsellors, and youth service providers. The aim of the meeting was to increase knowledge and inform planning to protect children. Children who display sexually harmful behaviours are children/youth first, and in many cases they have experienced trauma and maltreatment. They are children in need with a right to services and intervention.

The meeting on Dec. 8th provided a platform to review a CYS research report commissioned by Pacific Family Services Association. The objective of the meeting was to gather stakeholders to begin to address the needs/problems in serving this cohort of youth. In particular, the gaps in service; children over 12 outside of the justice system do not receive intervention for sexually harmful behaviour, therefore not preventing or reducing future child sexual abuse within our community.

The meeting was attended by over 35 representatives of community based services, forensics, police, school personnel and policy makers.

2. Opening Remarks

Mitzi Dean, Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association

The Sexual Abuse Intervention Program is a province-wide MCFD funded program for children (up to age 18) who have experienced child sexual abuse and children up to the age of 12 with sexually intrusive behaviours. PCFSA and Mary Manning Centre work closely together to deliver these services across the Capital Regional District, and to develop the program. The SAIP network and south Vancouver Island MCFD contract review process have both identified gaps in services for youth with sexually harmful (including intrusive) behaviours who are aged over 12 years and are not in the juvenile justice system. Yet this is an area of established research and professional practice that has developed over the past two decades.

In order to explore this issue, as it pertains to our local population of youth in CRD, PCFSA secured some funding from the Family Court Youth Justice Committee to commission this research.

Anne Marshall, Executive Director, Centre for Youth & Society

The Centre for Youth and Society welcomes child and youth service leaders and policy makers here today. The mission of the Centre for Youth and Society is to support the well being of youth and we know that today's topic is challenging. In this initiative we were happy to continue our partnership with Pacific Family Services Association and to ensure that research can be made available to support collective deliberations on programs, services and policies.

3. Presentation of Research Literature

Nabiha Rawdah, Student Affiliate Centre for Youth and Society

Summary of Major Findings

Children and youth are a heterogeneous group with varied individual characteristics, mental health diagnoses, abuse histories and psychosocial adversities. There is currently no agreement on a psychological profile that clearly reflects a child or youth who displays or is at risk of displaying sexually harmful behavior. Multiple family, community, and contextual factors also influence the development, emergence, and expression of sexually harmful behaviours in children and youth. Multiple developmental outcomes of SHB's are indicated, and include the demonstration of general anti-social and criminal behavior in adolescence and adulthood.

This particular group of children and youth has multiple needs, and it is important to address the significance of treating SHB's in relation to the other potential factors that contribute to the development of SHB's. At present, a limited amount of scholarly research on SHB's in Canadian

children and youth is available. This necessitates a need for clinicians and researchers to focus on addressing the diverse needs of this population through the development of empirically-based assessment and treatment interventions to remediate these behaviours and promote a healthier lifecourse trajectory for these children and youth.

Directions for Future Research

- Maltreatment predictors of sexually harmful behaviours in children and youth
- Outcome variability attributed to distinct treatment characteristics and practice elements
- Reconsider policies that require lengthy incarceration, residential treatment, or that impose lengthy post-sentence completion restrictions
- Stronger methodological research designs to study children and youth who display SHB's

Implications for Treatment

- Behavior parent training
- Specialized training and support for clinicians
- Risk assessments and management should be conducted within a life-course developmental framework
- Re-education to prevent educators and policy-makers from labeling every individual youth as 'high-risk' or needing treatment for sexual deviancy

(See Appendix A for the power point summary report)

4. Reflections and Community Issues

In response to the research presentation, a general discussion of community concerns and priorities yielded the following:

Treatment & therapy

- Incarceration vs. community therapy for youth who display sexually harmful behaviours
- Separation vs. inclusion of perpetrators and victims in the same therapeutic context
- Extinguishing behaviours vs. risk management techniques of therapy (what are the treatment goals?)

Trajectory of youth

- Many adult sexual offenders committed offences when younger, but there is no way to know when youth commit sexual offences if they will develop into sexually offensive adults
- How to predict future behaviours?
- Research also needs to look at protective factors/resilience factors that direct youth away from the negative trajectory towards criminal justice system and accelerating behaviours

Training

- What kind of skills/training do clinical practitioners need in order to work with this population?
- Differences within this population with respect to age, gender, development, family context, etc, that need to be taken into account

Issues

- Sexuality in the media and influences on youth
- Confidentiality
 - Within school system – how to mitigate risk while allowing the youth to still be a youth, and be involved in group activities or sports etc.
 - Need to consider peer relationship and restrictions/effect on youth after disclosure or being labeled with a sex offence
- Difference between age groups – the actual behaviours committed are different between 10 year olds and 16 year olds
- Community acknowledgement
 - Community needs to acknowledge that the problem exists; necessary to increase lay knowledge of the behaviours/risks
 - People are uncomfortable with sexual aspect of the behaviours (physical violence is easier to deal with)
 - How to deal with the myths that exist (even within our perspectives)
 - In an ideal world we would be able to deal with issues early, but currently there is so much denial that the issues do not become apparent until the youth is actually in the justice system
- Wait for services
 - Youth may have a history, but takes years before getting therapy (issue with community/family denial), and may be less effective if therapy occurs years later, after event, and patterning has built up over years

Goals

- Get youth services faster once they are in the system
- School District: track students that have displayed problematic or harmful behaviours

Duty to Report

- What are the requirements/standards?
- SAIP agencies; transparent relationship/partnership, then if offense is chargeable, need to report to authorities, and if not sure, then need to consult authorities
- How do you encourage children to report/disclose if there is a risk of getting punished/convicted?
- When to report to police – over 12years, engaged in chargeable sexual behaviour?
- When to report to MCFD – contextual: whether family is already involved with MCFD (i.e. if child is in care); if abuse takes place in school setting. Child Protection will only intervene if victim is in the same home, otherwise it becomes a police matter.

5. Small Group Discussions

5.1 Whose responsibility is serving SHB youth?

- Everyone – Different people performing different functions; school should be monitoring behaviours; who is responsible for the risk assessment?
- Community responsibility – MCFD holds money, power, and contracts to deal with this
- Risk management – who is in a position to do that process? Currently we only have MCFD
- Threshold for child protection is very high, report assessments should try to involve communities
- Somebody needs to be the shepherd of services
- We work backwards in terms of questions. We arrived at responsibility by determining what it looks like
- The province - inclusive of MCFD, attorney general, larger community
- Health authority representation (VIHA)
- Need for knowledge based dissemination with professionals working with these youth. What are we each responsible for?
- Multifaceted, comprehensive assessment

5.2 What can we do to address this issue – actions?

- Counselling services specialized
- Long wait list and impact of child development
- Importance of not dealing with SHB's in isolation
- SHB's – as a behaviour problem in the context of child - family - community
- Timeliness of response – community to have a go-to person with knowledge, availability of skills
- Coordinated approach looking at the complete picture, multilevel response
- Behaviours are going to be complex
- Put in place some intervention at every level
- Youth behaviours need different interventions, but take up a lot of resources and require a coordinated effort
- There are many other behaviours to work on such as aggression
- Community organizations need to respond
- Advocate for kids and victims
- Is “what can we do right now” a better question?
- Education of the community is needed
- Lots of ignorance stigma associated with sexual behaviours creates anxiety
- Paradox society, where sex is thrust everywhere, but yet when we have to deal with kids who are sexualized, we become fearful
- Leads to denial and avoidance behaviours
- Finding a key worker, gets the right person involved, coordinates efforts in a timely way
- Support for an outreach model where parents can be present
- What is the police's responsibility –federal crime prevention strategy?

5.3 What would implementing treatment and intervention around SHBs look like?

- Clinical infrastructure needs to be included
- What are we actually talking about? We need to agree on a definition.
- There is a consensus to working with this population
- We should not develop only one response; there are multiple ways people enter the system, multiple needs

- Agencies, policy makers need to be in agreement about the availability of treatment for this population. The group agreed that the issue is too important to be limited by existing or outdated mandates.

6. Next Steps: What can we do today?

- Gather and share information from all agencies - What can we do and what do we offer?
- What can you actually do with your resources and expertise?
- Be clear as to what you're asking the agency? Kids who allegedly committed an offence vs. criminally charged kids.
- 3 options were discussed: 1) General youth and mental health services— SHB's fall under other behaviour problems; 2) Dedicated child and youth mental health services to this specific issue of SHB's; 3) Contracted child and youth services.
- Appropriate comprehensive assessment, referral consultation, supervision of clinicians is needed
- We all need to apply a similar model of treatment, and evidence-based approach

Who will see these youth?

- Recommendation: we cannot spread services too thin, we need to bring practice issues together
- Outcomes –may take longer because the strongest approach brings so many people together - families, school, etc.
- Setting a precedent for implications

Does this mean setting a different contract?


- Case by case - management
- Need data gathering of received referrals of youth who are not charged, aggregate provincially or locally

Should there be two streams of service? Mainstream and Aboriginal

- Developing programs around offenders is difficult
- Aboriginal communities have specific needs – we need to consider intergenerational trauma and sexual exploitation

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Presentation of Literature PowerPoint Summary



Children and Youth Who Display Sexually Harmful Behaviours

Presentation of Research Literature
By Nabiha Rawdah
December 8th, 2010

Centre for Youth & Society

Presentation Overview

- Introductions
- Background and Major Aims
- Summary of Major Findings from the Literature
- Discussion
- Questions

Introductions

- Mitzi Dean – Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association
- Dr. Anne Marshall - Director, Centre for Youth & Society, UVIC
- Nabiha Rawdah – Student affiliate, Centre for Youth & Society, UVIC
- Attendees

Background

- Increased proportion of children referred who display sexually harmful behaviours (SHB's)
- Not mandated to work with them beyond the age of 12 years
- They may not receive any other intervention to address their behaviour unless they enter the criminal justice system

Major Aims

- Address gaps in service
- Broader population and community that needs increased knowledge and intervention to protect children

Summary of Major Findings from the Literature

- Multiple views
 - definitions
 - Continuum of sexual behaviors (healthy, problematic, harmful)
- Multiple individual, family, and contextual factors that influence the development of SHB's
 - prior victimization, family violence, age of onset, access to resources and early intervention

- Very little scholarly research based on youth not in the criminal justice system
 - Methodological limitations
- Multiple developmental outcomes for youth who display SHB's
 - Links to anti-social and criminal behavior in adolescence and adulthood

- Assessment Issues
 - Developmental considerations
 - Need for comprehensive, empirically-based measures
 - Risk management
- Treatment Approaches:
 - MSFT and Resilience models
 - Stop and Think Model

Directions for Future Research

- Maltreatment predictors of sexually harmful behaviours in children and youth
- Outcome variability attributed to distinct treatment characteristics and practice elements
- Reconsider policies that require lengthy incarceration, residential treatment, or that impose lengthy post-sentence completion restrictions
- Stronger methodological research designs to study children and youth who display SHB's

Implications for Treatment

- Behavior parent training
- Specialized training and support for clinicians
- Risk assessments and management should be conducted within a life-course developmental framework
- Re-education to prevent educators and policy-makers from labeling every individual youth as 'high-risk' or needing treatment for sexual deviancy



Children and Youth Who Display Sexually Harmful Behaviours

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Appendix B – Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems Logic Model

Organization: Mary Manning Centre

Program: Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems (SBPs)

Theory of Change & Logic Model

Mary Manning Centre has advocated within the community of Victoria to have youth over the age of 12 who have exhibited sexual behavior problems (SBPs) but who have not been charged for a sexual offence receive counselling within the community, in order to reduce or eliminate the likelihood of such behavior occurring in the future. Emphasis in the Youth Criminal Justice Act provides BC policing with the ability to discriminate as to what youth charges are forwarded to Crown for approval, especially for youth age 12-14 in regards to a first time sexual act or behavior. The act reads that consideration should be provided for youth such that “Fair and proportionate measures” should:

- Reinforce respect for societal values
- Encourage repair of harm done
- Be meaningful for the young person
- Involve parents and communities (agencies)
- Respect gender, ethnic, cultural & linguistic differences — e.g., respond to Aboriginal youth and youth with special needs

Research indicates that evidence-based intervention for children and youth with SBPs is likely to be successful when children/youth and their caregivers are involved in treatment and there is a motivation for change. Mary Manning Centre has been providing children up to age 12 who have SBPs and their caregiver with evidence-based treatment for the last 20 years. The treatment assessment and planning for youth with SBPs will follow a similar logic model to that developed for these younger children which is supported by current research:

- ❖ *Report of the ATSA Task Force on Children With Sexual Behavior Problems*
- ❖ *Report of the Task Force on Children with Sexual Behaviour Problems*
- ❖ *Meta-analysis of treatment for child sexual behavior problems: Practice elements and outcomes*

Logic Model

Inputs

- Referral by MCFD social worker
- Assessment with youth and caregiver
- Assess for trauma, exposure to violence, and attachment as well as SBPs
- Community agency involvement in assessment and treatment process

- Evidence-based treatment plan with specific client goals and outcomes
- Treatment planning tools that are transportable for youth and family in different settings

Processes

- Use of MMC referral criteria for screening of SBPs
- Use of multi-faceted assessment tools (UCLA PTSD Reaction Index and the CSBCL)
- Consultation, follow-up, and attendance at meetings with community agencies (e.g., Youth Forensics Psychiatric Services [YFPS], school) as needed
- Youth & family intervention therapy when attachment and trauma are part of SBPs
- Evidence-based CBT for SBPs
- Family safety plans and behavioural intervention
- Family structuring, education & intervention

Outputs

- Appropriate referrals to SBP program and/or follow-up and referral to other service providers
- Assessment document on etiology of SBPs and demographics with youth & caregiver for each youth involved in the program
- Structured design & implementation of treatment plan (e.g. SBP Pyramid)
- ICM's & other case conferences attended as needed on behalf of client change
- Outline of structured parent intervention and rules in regard to safety for each client is implemented; practice of emotional regulation and education of parents and youth in regard to SBPs and healthy relating
- Potential planning for a reconciliation session
- Program review 12 months after implementation

Short-term outcomes

- Safety for youth, family and in community is reviewed and a plan is identified and developed to meet safety needs
- The youth and family is consistent in attendance and in staying involved with goals outlined in treatment plan
- Youth and parent indicate motivation for change by engaging in counselling
- Engagement of youth and family in practicing interventions for behavioural change between sessions
- Youth and parent obtain knowledge and education on SBPs and healthy relating
- Increased communication between youth and caregiver

Intermediate outcomes

- Engagement in ongoing safety interventions throughout treatment
- Observable/reported changes begin in youth's attitude and behavior in regard to SBP
- Understanding of the impact of SBP on others
- Social/sexual psycho-education
- Acquisition of healthy relating skills (youth and family) for modulating negative thoughts, feelings and behavior
- Increased parental capacity to effectively manage family/youth interactions for positive outcome

- Responsibility takes place in SBT sessions for SBPs
- Apology session may be arranged when appropriate
- Acknowledgement and restorative process planned for enhancing healthy relationship(s)

Long-term outcomes

- No further engagement in SBPs
- Youth able to identify and access resources as needed when feeling at risk or put in high-risk situations
- Youth has increased engagement with same age youth in supportive community activities
- Positive interactions with caregiver (less conflict and more compliance within family, as self-reported)
- Caregiver is more confident in applying skills in order to support youth development in a variety of settings
- Evaluative component that provides information from this project that will inform practitioners and agencies on services to this population
- Strong, safe and supported family and healthier community

Appendix C – Referral Criteria for Treatment for Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems

Organization: Mary Manning Centre

Program: Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems (SBPs)

Referral Criteria for Treatment

- a. Only MCFD referrals will be accepted by MMC for youth with sexual behaviour problems (SBPs).
- b. Treatment will be for youth whose SBP has been reported to MCFD and who are not charged for the SBP. The referrals of older youth will be accepted under advisement with MMC Clinical Coordinator and Victim Assistance Team.
- c. Where there has been a significant threat, physical violence or coercion of victims paired with the SBP, referrals will be reviewed prior to acceptance in the program.
- d. If a report to the police is deemed necessary, it will be made and followed up on by MCFD social workers; a report to the police by MMC is not required.
- e. The MMC Triage Assessment will be used to assess any developmental/ cognitive/social delays or learning deficits in order to determine whether MMC is the appropriate resource or youth is better served by Child & Youth Mental Health or other agency.
- f. The youth and parent/caregiver will provide assurance of willingness to engage in treatment and parent/caregiver will be involved (as required) throughout treatment to ensure continuity in attendance and meeting of clinical goals.
- g. A supportive system is planned or in place for the youth (e.g., at school, in the community and/or at home).
- h. The youth and family provide consent for consultation with Youth Forensics Psychiatric Services or other service in regard to treatment, as needed.
- i. In certain circumstances, an external consultation or request for records may be required prior to the acceptance of the youth. This will be done in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA).
- j. Referrals will be reviewed by the VAP team and accepted in consultation with the Clinical Coordinator and Executive Director.

* Note: Information gathered at the time of referral will be used to determine the appropriateness of the referral. Emphasis will be on determining whether there is a history of family violence/witnessing of violence, sexual abuse, physical abuse or attachment issues, as these are paired with more entrenched SBP for this age group and may require a different treatment or one that is longer term.

Appendix D – List of Meeting Attendees

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