

Annual
Report

Presented January 15, 2014

2013

Victoria Family Court and
Youth Justice Committee



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Table of Contents

2012 Membership List	2
Chair’s Report	3
Signed Copy of Audited Financial Statements	8
Priorities Report	9
Youth Mental Health Task Force Report	23
Communications	27
CASA Sub-Committee Report	28
Youth Matters Report	29
CRATSEY Report	35
2013 Guest Speakers	37

Supporting Documents:

Constitution	38
Terms of Reference	40
Priorities Purpose	46
Priorities Submission Form	47
Powers and Duties	48
Authority and Financing	49
Memorandum of Agreement between CASA and VFCYJ Committee	50

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

2013 Membership

- Cynthia Day, Chair, Councillor (Colwood)
- Tammy Percival (Esquimalt)
- Sigurd Johannesen, Councillor (Highlands)
- Mr. Lanny Seaton, Councillor (Langford)
- Mr. Matt Sahlstrom, Councillor (Alternate-Langford)
- Mr Rick Cooper, Citizen Representative (Metchosin)
- Tim Chad, Councillor (Sidney)
- M. Hailey, Councillor (Alternate-Sidney)
- Dunstan Browne, Councillor (North Saanich)
- Craig Mearns, Councillor (Alternate-North Saanich)
- Michelle Kirby, Councillor (Oak Bay)
- Jim Hackler, (Saanich)
- Marcie McLean, Councillor (Alternate - Highlands)
- Councillor Kerrie Reay (Sooke), Vice Chair
- Charlayne Thornton-Joe, Councillor (Victoria)
- Kathy Santini, Citizen Representative (Victoria)
- Ron Mattson, Councillor (View Royal)
- Geanine Robey, Restorative Justice Resource Group
- Youth Outreach, Victoria City Police
- Theresa Tuttle, Mobile Youth Service Team, Victoria Police Department
- Pamela MacDonald, Youth Probation Officer Victoria Youth Custody Services
- Ranj Atwal (MCFD), Youth Probation (Team Leader)
- Ramndeeep Bajwa, Community Liaison Officer, Youth Custody Services
- Sue Hendricks, Director, Aboriginal Programs and Relationships
- Gillian Lindquist, Restorative Justice Victoria
- Georgia Peters, CASA for Children
- Mitzi Dean, Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association
- Lhinda Achtem, Citizen Representative
- Bill McElroy, CRAT/SEY
- Staff Sergeant Danny Willis, West Shore R.C.M.P.
- Neil Poirier, Sooke School District
- Tim Dunford, Saanich School District
- Sgt. Murray Mashford, Youth Investigation Section Saanich Police
- Cst. Jeff Bevington, Saanich Police, Youth Section
- Gord Irving, Boys' & Girls' Club
- Tom Ferris, Trustee, (Victoria SD #61)
- Shirley Williams-Yuen, John Howard Society of Victoria
- Victoria Court Registry, Ministry of Attorney General (Vacant)
- Public Safety and Solicitor General (Vacant)
- Central Saanich Police (Vacant)

Chair's Report

Our job as the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is to be aware of the circumstances for youth and families who may come into contact with the justice system. We represent the community for government - local, provincial and federal. The issues for children are not new to us. Factors in their success include stable housing, financial stability to ensure they have enough to eat, the involvement of caring adults, and access to appropriate health services.

The Child and Youth Advocate, The weekly newsletter from ***First Call*** and an excellent resource wrote in December this year:

“Children’s rights are human rights. December 10, 2013, marked the United Nations General Assembly’s Human Rights Day. In 1989, children’s rights were recognized in the UN’s Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Canada has a long way to go to protecting children’s rights. In Canada, 967,000 children live in poverty. Some 1.1 million children experience food insecurity. At least 22,000 children are homeless. **Poverty among indigenous, racialized, immigrant and disabled children is disproportionately high.** First Call allies [Campaign 2000](#) and [Canada without Poverty](#) have a **call to action to send a letter to Prime Minister Harper to demand a federal poverty eradication plan.**”

We know from a study commissioned by Pacific Centre Family Services in partnership with the West Shore Chamber of Commerce that the West Shore of the Capital Regional District is experiencing rapid population growth, particularly in young families and that **there are still not enough quality, affordable and accessible child care spaces to meet the current and future needs of families.** In the Colwood, Langford, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke and View Royal communities, there are a total of 1,350 child care spaces as of August 2013 (Play Victoria, 2013). This is an increase of 193 spaces since 2007, however, the 2006 Census reported that there are approximately 4,200 children less than five years of age, and 2,135 two years of age and younger in these six communities and these numbers will have increased significantly. One of the biggest challenges in child care spaces in the West Shore is for licensed care for 36 months and under and for 30 months to school age. This puts families under greater stress to meet their needs both financially and emotionally.

This year, the McCreary Centre released their third survey report on the circumstances of youth in custody in British Columbia. Among their conclusions are that many youth in custody in British Columbia come from difficult backgrounds and have a history of involvement with the police and justice system. Their new report, entitled *Time Out III: A profile of BC youth in custody*, includes data from a survey of 114 young people ages 12 to 19 in custody between August 2012 and January 2013. This is the third time McCreary Centre Society has surveyed youth in custody.

“There have been a few positive changes since we last surveyed youth in custody in 2004,” said Annie Smith, Executive Director of McCreary Centre Society. “We are seeing fewer youth in custody who have used marijuana, and fewer who have driven after drinking, but in other areas we have seen no differences. **We still find that Aboriginal youth and youth who have been in government care are vastly over-represented, as well as those with FASD and mental health challenges.**”

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee heard from CASA and their Student volunteer who attended court to observe our justice system in action with youth and families. They found that there was little time for parents or children to understand what was happening. Court time, a precious resource, continues to be wasted with numerous continuances and failures to appear, placing greater pressure on these costly resources to produce results. At times they reported it seemed like a big machine, where children and parents had little chance to affect its operations. Out of the 180 cases observed at Family Court, only 56 had parents present (30% of total cases) and only 4 cases had children present. The large proportions of aboriginal youth were noted, as were transportation problems that may explain some of the lack of parent participation. The fact that there is a criminal native court worker but no worker for family matters is problematic.

We heard from the Aboriginal Criminal Court Worker, who serves our communities from Port Renfrew to Duncan, relying on contacts at court and within the aboriginal community to alert him to cases that might benefit from his assistance.

First Call also reported that: ‘On December 16th, the BC Supreme Court ruled that the provincial government’s decision to end a mother-baby program at the Alouette Correctional Centre for Women in Maple Ridge was unconstitutional. The decision is “a victory for highly vulnerable women and their children,” said Kasari Govender, executive director of West Coast Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund, a First Call coalition partner.’

In 2012 the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee expressed great concern that the Ministry of Children and Family Development Youth Justice shut down the Girls Units in the Victoria Youth Custody Centre and sent all girls in custody in BC to the Burnaby Youth Custody Centre where contact with family would be limited if not prevented entirely.

First Call reports that MCFD Youth Justice has now developed the **Visitation Financial Support Program** to assist girls in custody with family visits. The funding will cover travel costs such as hotel, transportation and meals for out-of-town family. Families that may have girls in custody at Burnaby Youth Custody are encouraged to apply by calling the case management department at Burnaby Youth Custody Services at 778-452-2050. If the families are denied, please make note of this and encourage the families to:

1. Request, in writing, the reason as to why they are being denied
2. Request, in writing, the policy/practice standard the decision was/is based on
3. Request, in writing, a copy of the Complaints Dispute Resolution and contact person for CDR for this specific area
4. Request the name and title of the MCFD Youth Justice staff making the decision

Thanks to our friends at the Northern First Nations Child and Family Service Council for bringing this resource to our attention.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

A Workshop on Human Trafficking was facilitated this year with funding from CRAT, this Committee and the BC Ministry of Justice. Human Trafficking both across borders and within Canada is defined as *“The act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons ... by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person ... for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum: the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs.”*

This year’s workshop was very well attended with over 150 participants. Presenters at this one day symposium included *Saanich Police Chief Mike Chadwick, outgoing Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Officer Theresa Tuttle, Children of the Street Society’s Diane Sowden, UVIC’s School of Social Work Professor Susan Strega, The Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Kirsten Hunter, Pacific Centre Family Services Association’s Crime Reduction and Education project coordinator, Mia Golden, Deborah’s Gate - Vancouver’s Larissa Maxwell, Youth Empowerment Society Victoria’s Julie-Ann Hunter-Bey and Boys and Girls Club of Victoria’s Ellie James.* One outcome of the workshop was a great outpouring of support for Victoria’s #1 resource for exiting the sex trade, the Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Research Society (PEERS), who this year lost funding for their drop in centre. A survey of sex trade worker’s histories was shared by Professor Susan Strega, detailing an age range of 11 – 17 for entering the sex trade, with only a few outliers at age 17. The reasons for turning the first trick were often food and shelter.

The 2013 McCreary survey tells us youth in custody were four times more likely to have had sex than their peers and that they experienced very challenging life circumstances in their formative years including high rates of housing instability, family problems, mental or emotional health conditions and were more likely to have gone to bed hungry. Professor Strega also noted that looks matter, with youth who ‘look promising’ more likely to have intervention.

Gang association and affiliation were also related to unstable family life, with Mia Golden reporting on the increasing teen gang idolization, the use of symbols and postures in pictures sent via cell phones and computers, and she reported on the steady pressure in our growing community towards greater gang involvement. Children of the Street Society’s Diane Sowden spoke to **investing in preventative measures to decrease the need for intervention and enforcement services**, with their primary tool being education and awareness workshops. We will be hosting one of their presentations at our committee in 2013 as well as facilitating presentations in schools. Internet Safety was also a key area, with a need to inform families of the risks associated with computers and cell phones and rules for their safe use.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

This year I wrote to the Premier on behalf of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee advocating for funding of PEERS drop in centre, our best resource to help youth exit the sex trade and a model which was followed to create similar programs in other jurisdictions and funded by the province for Vancouver.

Mary Ellen Turpel Lafonde, BC's Children's Advocate released "***When Talk Trumped Service: A Decade of Lost Opportunity for Aboriginal Children and Youth in B.C.***" in November. An admittedly difficult and controversial report that criticized MCFD and First Nations saying that attempts to create new systems were overly costly and that "paying for these initiatives increasingly came out of direct service lines of MCFD operations so that all children and youth, including Aboriginal children and youth, who receive actual services paid the price and continue to do so".

We have also seen from this year's Vital Signs Report produced by the Victoria Foundation, that our youth are concerned about employment and training, with unemployment rates for youth 15 – 24 at 10.9%, below the national 14.3% and provincial 13.2%. In regard to their finances, 35.3% of youth reported moderate stress and 22.1% had high stress about finances, together representing **more than half of youth surveyed having moderate to high concern about finances.**

Youth Housing and Homelessness received a C+ in the Vital Signs 2013 Report, noting there are 26 subsidized long term transitional housing units in Greater Victoria for youth at risk of becoming homeless.

This has been a focus for advocacy for additional units particularly in the West Shore region, with youth joining CRAT's Youth Housing Task Force in advocating for more youth housing. Threshold Youth Housing Society has completed a 5 year strategic plan, which will see them providing 50 beds for youth by 2018, and they have indicated that their next priority area for youth housing will be the West Shore. **It remains a concern of the committee that there are insufficient resources for youth who may find themselves kicked out of their family home, leaving them vulnerable - couch surfing or living on the street.**

A key area of interest for this committee remains Youth Mental Health. You will find several articles that were published in the local newspapers this year on this important area included as my report for 2013. While we wait for the province to consider itself financially stable enough to invest in this important intervention area, we have continued to gather evidence of the need for service. We have set aside \$10,000 to assist in a pilot project and hope that we will be able to partner with other agencies in its development and an evaluation of one model's effectiveness in order to inform the provision of services province wide. It is our hope that we can develop a model for service delivery in a school setting as envisioned by Dr. Basil Boulton, pediatrician and past chair of this task force.

We also heard of the possible reorganization of the Mobile Youth Services Team this year. The committee has expressed support for more resources in this area. This regional police service,

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

which tracks youth and exploiters of youth throughout the region and assists youth to locate appropriate resources, is highly valued. MYST has provided input to this committee on the exploitation of youth and the resources available in the Capital Regional District, including where gaps in service exist. The relationships built through this team are invaluable to positive interventions. MYST has brought extensive knowledge to our Human Trafficking Workshops and preventative measures such as Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (TCO2) presentations put on by the Children of the Street Society in schools and municipal venues.

Our Police Resources are increasingly reporting to us that they are dealing with that portion of our society for which resources have not been allocated, including mental health and homelessness. We are aware that prevention is far less costly, yet the argument for earlier intervention and the provision of services is still difficult. **The committee has observed in previous years from proven studies, that of the continuum of people needing service, the greatest results are achieved by providing low cost early intervention** to the more marginally troubled, yet resources are generally allocated to the highest needs area.

I believe that the resources provided through MYST, Restorative Justice, and the local programs of prevention and connection to community are both protective and cost effective. When deliberating your budgets, of which Protective Services will demand a large percentage, please remember to allocate your scarce resources for the best cost/benefit in the community including prevention and education and help us to advocate for the Federal and Provincial Governments to do the same.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Day, Chair

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

2013 Annual Financial Statements December 1, 2012 to November 30, 2013

Opening Balance December 1, 2012:		\$ 17,457.15
Expenses:		
Lunches:	\$ 2,407.72	
Secretarial:	\$ 2,600.00	
Office Supplies:	\$ 118.28	
Web site:	\$ 185.85	
Grants:		
Boards Together via Volunteer Victoria	\$2,500	
Pacific Centre Family Services Association	\$1,800	
Restorative Justice	\$1,200	
Capital Region Action Team	\$ 500	
Pacific Centre Family Services Association	\$ 250	
Mary Manning Centre	<u>\$1,500</u>	
Total Grants:	\$7,750	
Total Expenses:		\$ 13,061.85
Revenue:		
Interest:	\$ 15.03	
Capital Regional District Grant	<u>\$ 14,210.00</u>	
Total Revenue:		\$ 14,225.03
Closing Balance November 30, 2013:		\$ 18,620.33

Notes:

1. \$ 10,000 reserved for Mental Health Project.
2. Financial Statements compiled on a cash basis.

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



Lhinda Achtem, Member, Audit Committee

Date: Jan. 1, 2014



Ron Mattson, Member, Audit Committee

Date: Jan 1 / 2014

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Priorities Committee

The Priorities Committee consists of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and one other member appointed by the Chair from the committee to review applications received for extraordinary funding and grants to other agencies. Lhinda Achtem was appointed for 2013. Our goals are outlined in the Priorities Purpose document created by past member Sandy McPherson, a councillor from the District of Highlands. It represents the belief of the committee that simply observing the circumstances for youth is not enough, members of the committee want to manage our scarce resources to maximize our knowledge and investigate options that could possibly make a difference for youth and their families so that we can make informed recommendations to local, provincial and federal governments.

The committee works to ensure that when a grant request comes forward to the committee, all the necessary information is in place to allow for an informed decision. The application is reviewed via email and a recommendation (with additional information if needed) is brought to the main committee for a decision, usually through a formal report. Some of the applications for funding assistance in 2013 included: Pacific Centre's Youth Engagement Series, HYPE Conference support, Boards Together Youth Leadership Development, Human Trafficking Workshop and the Little Turtle Program of the Mary Manning Centre. These applications follow; please note that not all applications received the full amount requested, amounts are as detailed in the treasurer's report. The final report from the Youth Engagement Series is included with the Youth Matters Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Day, Chair Priorities Committee

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

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. Name of organization / person(s) applying:

Pacific Centre Family Services Association

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

PCFSA has been delivering high quality child, youth, adult and family based services since 1968. From our current community based locations in Langford, Colwood and Sooke on South Vancouver Island, we provide a range of services across the Capital Region District. These include work with men and women addressing family violence, youth outreach and email counselling, family and couples counselling and counselling to address alcohol and other drug issues.

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

The **HYPE conference** will explore: youth funding in Victoria, clear limits and reframing conflict, building community youth voice, intro to the active participatory approach and planning and reflection and cooperative learning. These conference workshop topics are very close to the principles and standards of the Committee. The Committee has a strong commitment building community youth voice, understands that the impact on funding for youth services in the region has a major impact on youth health and behaviour and potential for involvement in the justice system and the Committee demonstrates belief in cooperative learning.

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

This is the type of conference that is a natural extension of the Bright Ideas series of conferences that the Committee has previously taken a lead in organising.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

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

The project is building on the Youth Programs Quality Initiative which is actively supporting a common high quality approach to youth programming across the region. The topics are all active issues for all local youth serving agencies.

6. Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative.

The Conference is already planned and budgeted. PCFSA is asking FCYJC to partner together to provide some refreshments for the attendees. The cost will be \$300-400 and we are asking to share this 50:50.

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

None at this time – our contribution will be limited and the refreshment will be provided within budget.

8. Catchment area served – target population:

Capital Regional District

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

This conference is a wonderful opportunity to promote high quality youth programming in our region. As the Committee is aware it is important to continue ensuring that our youth service providers meet regularly to update each other in this rapidly changing field and community sector. This conference will contribute to this principle.

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

PCFSA and the Committee will take responsibility for the provision of refreshments at one of the conference breaks.

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

3. The conference dates are October 4th and 5th.

12. Evaluation framework:

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Evaluation of the conference will be achieved by the conference organisers. PCFSA and the committee's outcomes will be demonstration of support for the conference, for youth in our community and for youth serving agencies. We will ensure that everyone involved with this conference is aware of us, our activities, our values and standards.

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. Name of organization / person(s) applying:

Boards Together Victoria (Administration by Volunteer Victoria)

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

Boards Together Victoria is a cooperative effort of several non-profits in the Victoria area designed to strengthen and train Board members to improve their capacity to serve their community. It is a part of a provincial project of Board Voice, which is **an organization run by boards and for board members of social services agencies.** .

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

Volunteer Victoria and Leadership Victoria have worked with a number of youth (ages 35 and under) to develop their leadership potential. Many of these youth have expressed an interest in serving on non-profit Boards. At the same time, many youth have informed Volunteer Victoria and Leadership Victoria that they are finding it difficult to find placements on Boards. However, many of the organizations do not know about the

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

availability of these volunteers and may not understand the value and need to have youth on their Boards.

This project will be led by Boards Together Victoria and will run in collaboration with Volunteer Victoria and Leadership Victoria. The project recognizes that including young people under the age of 35 (young community leaders) allows for greater interagency collaboration and improved governance for social service agencies in the greater Victoria area.

Through a series of workshops, events and an online platform of resources, Boards Together Victoria will provide an opportunity for 10 Victoria-based social service agencies to achieve the following:

- Increase board governance age diversity through matching prepared young leaders with prepared boards
- Increase board governance age diversity through educational workshops on youth engagement.
- Include young leaders in increasing innovation in social service delivery.
- Promote strategic succession planning for non-profit boards.

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

Virtually all local organizations have aging Board members. At the same time, they need to understand the changing nature of youth volunteerism. This project will help bridge that gap in the Victoria area and could serve as an example of how these changes could be implemented throughout the Province.

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

This project will build on the efforts of Volunteer Victoria and Leadership Victoria to train youth to participate in their community in a governance role. It will also train Boards to understand the changing needs of youth who want to serve in a governance position.

6. Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Funder Cost</u>
Revenue:			
Volunteer Victoria (VV)	In Kind contribution, ie space, telephone, printing, copying	\$2,400.00	\$2,400 (confirmed)
Board Voice	Cash contribution	\$2,000.00	\$2,000 (confirmed)
Other funders*	Cash contribution	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee	Cash contribution	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$11,400.00</u>	<u>\$11,400.00</u>
Expenses:			
Salary:	Coordinator: \$25 per hour for 360 hours	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Materials and Supplies	VV Contribution	\$500.00	\$500.00
Evaluation	VV Focus Group	\$200.00	\$200.00
Food and Beverage	VV Focus Group & Orientation	\$200.00	\$200.00
Communications	VV Website/Design	\$200.00	\$200.00
Facility	VV office/venues	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$11,400.00</u>	<u>\$11,400.00</u>

*Application will be made to Coast Capital, United Way and Victoria Foundation with the goal of getting a total of \$4500 for this project. If that funding cannot be raised by April 2013, the project will run for 3 months only.

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

Volunteer Victoria has agreed to be financial hosts for this project and to provide office, telephone, copying, etc. for this project. Board Voice has agreed to provide \$2000 in funding. Further funding will be sought from Coast Capital Savings Credit union which supports youth involvement in the community, the Victoria Foundation, which has recently released the Vital Signs for Youth, and the United Way of Greater Victoria, which has several youth development initiatives. If that funding does not materialize, then the project will be scaled back to a 3 month pilot project.

8. Catchment area served – target population:

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

This service will be provided throughout the CRD to non-profit societies and to local government advisory committees.

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

This project will help address the gap that seems to exist between organizations that want greater youth involvement in their governance with youth who report that they are unable to find volunteer positions with organizations. This will assist with ongoing succession plans on the part of organizations and also tap into the willing pool of youth who want to serve their community.

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

At least 10 organizations will understand the value of including youth in their governance structure and youth will be oriented and trained to serve organizations in a governance capacity.

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

This will be a one-time project with the following timelines;

4. February 2013: Coordinator contracted
5. Spring 2013: Volunteer youth oriented and presentations made to organizations to develop opportunities for youth to serve.
6. Summer 2013: Project ends, evaluation completed.
7. September 2013: project report available.

12. Evaluation framework:

Determining the number of youth placed on Boards or Committees, the number of presentations made to organizations and feedback from youth and organizations.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

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. Name of organization / person(s) applying:

Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth

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

Providing awareness about sexual exploitation of youth since 1998. Have helped stage 3 workshops on **Human Trafficking/Sexual Exploitation** since 2011. Upcoming day-long free session on **November 7, 2013** at Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

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

To provide information about Human Trafficking and the sexual exploitation of youth in our community, primarily to policy makers, youth workers, individuals and agencies, through a series of speakers, films, panels and displays. This fits within the mandate of the VFCYJC as it will help deter youth from becoming victims of exploitation and becoming part of the criminal justice system.

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

This request is to provide funding to assist with refreshments and meal at a day-long workshop.

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

Yes, this is part of the ongoing work of CRAT.

6. Budget:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Funder Cost</u>
Revenue:			
Ministry of Justice	Confirmed	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
CRAT	Confirmed	\$500.00	\$500.00
VFCYJC	applied	\$500.00	\$500.00
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
Expenses:			

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Rent and supplies	\$500 MoJ	\$500.00	\$500 MoJ
Food and Beverage	\$2,000.00 MoJ \$500.00 VFCYJC	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Coordinator, including publicity and evaluation	\$1,700.00 MoJ	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
Travel, honoraria, fees for speakers/panels	\$800.00 MoJ \$500.00 CRAT	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

None. \$5,000 grant has been received from the Ministry of Justice.

8. Catchment area served – target population:

Throughout the CRD.

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

Human Trafficking and sexual exploitation of youth, including the involvement of gangs, is an increasing problem in the community. This workshop will increase the awareness of Police, youth workers, agencies and individuals about this issue and make them aware of available resources in the community.

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

Projected attendance is 180-200. We had 105 in 2011 and 160 in 2012. There will be a greater effort to ensure the participation of First Nations youth workers.

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

This will be a one-day project on November 7, 2013.

12. Evaluation framework:

Evaluation forms at end of workshop.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



November 6, 2013

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee - CRD
c/o Councillor Cynthia Day
Committee Chair

Delivered via e-mail: CouncillorDay@shaw.ca

Dear Councillor Day and Committee Members:

The Mary Manning Centre (MMC) has been the proud recipient of support and recognition from the community for almost thirty years. Awarded a community service excellence award from the BC Representative for Children and Youth in 2011, MMC is the only non-profit agency dedicated to treating child and youth victims of sexual, physical and emotional abuse in the Greater Victoria area.

We are writing this letter and application to request \$ 3,000 in funding for the development of a "Turtle Talk program" on line training protocol which supports our strategic plan objectives of youth engagement and prevention services.

We are aware that it is estimated that a large percentage of youth in contact with the youth justice system have experienced abuse in one form or another. As well, aboriginal youth far outnumber the number of non aboriginal youth in the youth justice system. Numerous reports, including a recent report by the BC Representative for Children and Youth, indicate that there are significant service gaps facing aboriginal children and youth. Funding for the "Turtle Talk" educational initiative will enable us to extend the development of positive mental health in children, youth and families in BC First Nations communities at a minimal cost as MMC's contribution to reducing this service gap from a preventative perspective.

MMC developed and delivered the Turtle Talk program in partnership with Twasout First Nation on Vancouver Island for 3 years. Turtle Talk is an abuse prevention program for hi risk aboriginal children, youth and families. It focuses on values, principles and situation focused problem solving. The program is geared for children ages 4-11 and their parents. MMC provided therapeutic support to victims and their families and mentorship to elders in the delivery of sex-abuse support services in a culturally sensitive and community based manner. Working with health and justice staff, the program focused on educating children, parents and families about the importance of disclosure of abuse, signs to look for, and healthy relationship building. MMC assisted in strategizing a prevention and recovery model that incorporates First Nation's respect for restorative interventions and outcomes. MMC also supported training for aboriginal staff in trauma and sex abuse counseling.

As a result of the success of this program, MMC received numerous requests from other First Nations to deliver the program on reserve. On line protocols will increase our capacity to do so by developing the materials for service delivery by First Nations personnel given MMC's limited financial resources. Our 3 year experience with Turtle Talk can now be shared by documenting its protocols and training for online distribution to BC reserves for implementation in their communities supporting aboriginal self sufficiency and development.

Mary Manning Centre
210 - 1175 Cook St Victoria, BC V8V 4A1
P: 250.385.6111 F: 250.386.8111

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



Mary Manning Centre

Child Abuse Prevention & Counselling Society of Greater Victoria



Annually, MMC delivers accredited services to more than 200 children and non-offending family members every year. MMC staff works with families, schools, police and professionals in family services to ensure a coordinated, holistic approach to supporting children and families. MMC's clinical team consists of child and family therapists and art therapists with Master's level credentials. We provide care for children and youth at every stage of healing from crisis management, hospital accompaniment and counseling, court preparation sessions and post-court follow up. We also provide resources and information to Victims Assistance Programs (VAP) throughout Vancouver Island and Sexual Abuse Intervention Programs (SAIP) throughout BC.

Some of our initiatives which may be of interest include:

- Initiated and developed the original ORCA project which MMC devolved in 2011
- Art and somatic therapies with clients form part of MMC's therapy repertoire
- Supported the development of a YOU tube clip about abuse created by youth from MMC. The design, development of this presentation engaged youth in the message and articulated their feelings about abuse in a meaningful, engaged way.

I hope that I have provided sufficient information for our request to address the needs of our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider funding our organization, and we again thank you sincerely for the committee's work fostering the development of a healthy society and environment for children and youth.

Sincerely,

Sandra Bryce
Executive Director
Mary Manning Centre

Mary Manning Centre
210 - 1175 Cook St Victoria, BC V8V 4A1
P: 250.385.6111 F: 250.386.8111

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

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:

November 6, 2013

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

Mary Manning Centre
210-1175 Cook Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4A1

Contact person for follow-up:

Sandy Bryce, Executive Director 250-385-6111

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

Mary Manning Centre is the only non-profit agency dedicated to treating child and youth victims of sexual, physical and emotional abuse in the Greater Victoria area.

Annually, MMC delivers accredited services to more than 200 children and non-offending family members every year. MMC staff works with families, schools, police and professionals in family services to ensure a coordinated, holistic approach to supporting children and families. Our services are accessible to all, and accommodate the needs of children and parents with disabilities. MMC's clinical team consists of child and family therapists and art therapists with Master's level credentials. We provide care for children and youth at every stage of healing from crisis management, hospital accompaniment and counseling, court preparation sessions and post-court follow up. We also provide resources and information to Victims Assistance Programs (VAP) throughout Vancouver Island and Sexual Abuse Intervention Programs (SAIP) throughout BC.

Some of our initiatives include:

- Initiated and developed the original ORCA project which MMC devolved in 2011
- Art and somatic therapies with clients are part of MMC's therapy repertoire
- Supported the development of a YOU tube clip about abuse created by youth from MMC. The design, development of this presentation engaged youth in the message and articulated their feelings about abuse in a meaningful, engaged way.
- Developed and implemented "Turtle Talk" in collaboration with Tsawout First nation for 3 years supporting the training of on reserve staff and elders in the identification and healing of children, youth and their families from the detrimental and long term effects of sexual abuse.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

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

We request \$ 3,000 in funding for the development of Turtle Talk on line training protocols for distribution to First Nations communities in B.C. A high percentage of youth in contact with the youth justice system have experienced abuse. Aboriginal youth far outnumber the number of non aboriginal youth in the youth justice system. This Turtle Talk project will provide resources for aboriginal youth and families through its support of victims in a holistic community based manner based upon 3 years of service delivery experience on a B.C. reserve. Funding for the "Turtle Talk" educational initiative will enable us to extend the development of positive mental health in children, youth and families in BC First Nations communities at a minimal cost

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

MMC developed the Turtle Talk program in partnership with Twasout First Nation on Vancouver Island. As a result of the success of this program, MMC received numerous requests from other First Nations to deliver the program on reserve. This initiative will increase our capacity to do so by developing the materials on line for direct service delivery by First Nations personnel given MMC's limited financial resources.

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

MMC's mission is the prevention and treatment of abuse in all its forms. In a desire to increase accessibility to its services, MMC initiated the Turtle Talk program four years ago. Turtle Talk is an abuse prevention program for hi risk aboriginal children, youth and families. It focuses on values, principles and situation focused problem solving. The program is geared for children ages 4-11 and their parents. MMC provided therapeutic support to victims and their families and mentorship to First Nations leaders in the delivery of sex-abuse support services and delivered the program in a culturally sensitive manner. Working with health and justice staff, the program focused on educating children, parents and families about the importance of disclosure of abuse, signs to look for, and healthy relationship building. MMC assisted in strategizing a prevention and recovery model that incorporates First Nation's respect for restorative interventions and outcomes. For MMC, Turtle Talk is an extension of our values of accessibility and support for diversity and the rights of victims.

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:

\$ 3,000 will be used to fund salary costs necessary to complete the protocols and set up for online distribution as funding for the Turtle Talk program ended in November 2013.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

8. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

An application for financial assistance has been made to the Steve Nash Foundation and in addition an application will be made to Justice Canada for an additional three year grant to support on reserve delivery of the Turtle Talk program to Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations as per their request.

9. Catchment area served – target population:

First Nations communities in B.C.

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

The development of the on line protocol supports the training needs of reserves and aboriginal staff in trauma and sex abuse counseling focusing on the importance of disclosure of abuse, signs to look for, healthy relationship skills and a prevention and recovery model.

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

On line protocols delivered to First Nations throughout B.C. with potential training and education delivered to First Nations through regional conferences and meetings.

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

- **January 2014 for completion by June 2014 – Protocol documentation and on line delivery**

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

Success will be measured by the completion of the protocols and the utilization of a minimum of 2 First Nations communities in B.C.

*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)*

pg. 2 of 2

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Youth Mental Health Task Force

Youth Mental Health remains a focus for Youth in the Capital Regional District with several articles appearing in local media this year, some reprinted here. The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee remains committed to supporting a youth mental health pilot project. It remains my hope that a partnership will be possible in the Neighbourhood Learning Centres of the new High Schools at Royal Bay and Belmont. The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee continue to hold \$10,000 in reserve to assist with the implementation of these spaces in partnership with VIHA and others.

We welcome the participation of all members of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and municipalities in this important project that could set the direction for youth mental health service in the future. There have been two successful resolutions at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities on this initiative and I believe the work will be of benefit far beyond our own region.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Day, Chair Youth Mental Health Task Force

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Mental health issues real for today's youth - Victoria News

Page 1 of 4

Mental health issues real for today's youth

By **KYLE WELLS**

May 14, 2013 · Updated 2:43 PM

0 Comments



The stresses of youth are often forgotten or downplayed, but a Belmont secondary school counsellor says they can lead to mental health issues such as depression or anxiety. The school is trying to raise awareness and diminish stigma during the Canadian Mental Health Week. / KYLE WELLS/NEWS STAFF

Faced with the stresses of adult life it can be easy to dismiss a teenager's problems as kids stuff, but school counsellors know better.

Belmont secondary school counsellor Natalie Handy said she sees firsthand the variety of mental health problems teenagers suffer from.

"You can bring in a student to talk about timetables and you can end with a completely different conversation about abuse that's going on in the home or suicide ideation or eating disorders. You never know where the conversation is going to go."

Belmont secondary marked last Tuesday's national Child and Youth Mental Health Day with a youth mental health information booth set up outside during the school's lunch break.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

The lure of free treats and swag brought students over, but once hooked the counsellors were ready with pamphlets and information on resources available to youth who feel as though they might need some help.

The giveaways for students were donated by a number of local businesses.

"We're very aware and clear with kids that we don't want them taking this information away to self-diagnose," Handy said. "But we do want them to have the information to access a lot of resources ... to follow up with us or a family doctor."

The booth proved popular, with a few hundred students showing up to grab a treat and information.

Handy believes we, as a society, don't recognize or talk about how a big a problem mental health issues are for today's youth. Adults don't realize just how much stress young people can be under, said Handy, whether it's related to academics, relationships, home life, peer pressures, societal pressures or all of the above.

The popularization of social media and the frenetic immediacy of modern culture is also taking away from a teen's time to reflect, to process information, which can add to the stress.

"There needs to be time to reflect, there needs to be time to pause and understand what's going on, because it's all happening so fast," Handy said. "You see a lot of anxiety, lots of depression in our youth."

Larger mental health issues, such as schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder, also often first arise during the teenage years. Early detection is key, so the more students know, and the less stigma that surrounds admitting to mental health problems, the higher the likelihood a student will seek help.

"I think as a group we just need to find more ways to reach out to kids and their families."

Help is a call away

n Teens who feel they may need help with anxiety, depression or any other mental health issues are advised to see a school counsellor or family doctor, but initial information can be easily found at the Kids Help Phone (1-800-668-6868) or online at keltymentalhealth.ca or youth.anxietybc.com

"Talk to somebody, pick up the phone and call a help line, or come and talk (to a counsellor). It's about taking that first step, and I know how difficult it is, but it's so important," Handy said.

VICTORIA NEWS PRINT THIS

MICHELLE FORTIN: Mental illness, an ignored problem

By Victoria News

Published: **June 20, 2013 01:00 PM**

Updated: **June 20, 2013 02:02 PM**

Most parents worry when their children begin driving. They warn teens about the risks.

In 2011, despite that care and concern, 291 British Columbians died in car crashes.

That same year, 526 people took their own lives – 80 per cent more than those killed in car crashes.

Road crashes don't come close to taking the toll of mental illness and problem substance use. Why don't we, as a society, urge parents to have serious talks with their children about those risks? Stigma, in part.

No one tells cancer patients to buck up and wish their infirmities away. But people with mental illness routinely face prejudice and a dismissive attitude.

People who have an obvious illness tend to get help. At the least, emergency rooms provide urgent care. Those with a mental illness and substance abuse issues face a tougher reality.

Joshua Beharry wrote about his experiences in a Vancouver newspaper last month. In 2009, at 22, he went to a hospital emergency ward because months of depression had left him increasingly suicidal.

"I spoke to an emergency room doctor and a psychiatric nurse," he wrote. "They asked if I had a plan to kill myself."

People are only admitted if they have mapped out a specific plan to take their own lives, he learned.

"I didn't have a plan so I went home," Beharry recalled.

And a month later, he tried to kill himself. ER staff aren't at fault. They send people away because there are no treatment spaces.

The community social services sector plays a huge role in addressing mental illness and substance abuse.

But every day, we turn people away, or place them on long wait lists. Budget freezes and cuts and a lack of integrated responses have created a crisis.

The cost for it all is enormous. A 2010 study estimated the cost to the economy due to lost work days was \$50 billion a year. Add the damage to families, the costs of homelessness and health care and the total rises sharply.

Former senator Michael Kirby, the first chairman of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, noted mental health and substance use represent about 35 per cent of the disease burden in Canada, yet receive about five per cent of the resources.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, B.C.'s Representative for Children and Youth, noted this year that lack of political leadership has left this province with a fragmented, inadequate system of supports for youth facing mental illness.

A new government has the chance to address these problems, and provide adequate resources and a collaboration strategy linking health and social services sectors.

We should make sure mental health and problem substance use services step out of the shadows.

Michelle Fortin is chairwoman of the B.C. Addiction Specialists and Allied Professionals.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Communications

The primary communications outlet (other than direct correspondence via email or regular post) is through the committee's website www.victoriafamilycourt.ca Anyone wanting to contact the committee should email our secretary at vfamcourt@gmail.com

As Chair, I have tried to update this website to ensure that it is a valuable resource for both members and the community at large. Work continues to ensure that articles of interest to the committee are posted as well as dates of meetings and presentations.

The other large communications piece is the delivery of this Annual Report, which it is my hope will be presented to every municipality and school district by their representative. As chair of the committee, I will present to the CRD Board. If any other presentations are required, either I or another member of the committee who is willing/able to present will do our best to ensure that any agency who wants to have a presentation from us receives one.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Day, Communications Chair

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

CASA for Children of Greater Victoria Society, Fall 2013

In the late summer, Casa for Children along with many other not for profits was invited to apply for a student placement from the (CSL) Community Service Learning course at UVIC, interdisciplinary studies. The course objective was to support student academic, professional, and personal development while supporting local non-profit organizations. The course required the study of non-profit organizations and civic engagement, 40 hours of non paid placement and a critical reflection from social sciences and career development perspectives on the placement experience.

Casa applied for a student who was interested in performing a court watch function by attending presentation hearings governed by the Child, Family and Community Services Act, the object being to observe and record how visible the child was, the subject of these proceedings. The student was provided a series of questions by his supervisor, the Board chair of CASA to keep in mind as he observed the process, four times per week over three months, with his supervisor present for debriefings. As CASA for Children is a subcommittee of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee , the student also had the opportunity over three months to attend the monthly meetings, learn something about civic engagement and have the benefit of hearing from guest speakers working with vulnerable children and adults, many of whom were involved with the courts.

The student was expected to compile a report for CASA for Children and well as doing a presentation to his class at UVIC. Though the student's supervisor exposed him to much of what happens in and out of the court room setting, the report compiled was left unedited by the supervisor deliberately. Not surprisingly, **the student's observations supported the need for greater advocacy on behalf of the children**, the subject of these proceedings. The student presented his observations to the VFCYJC at their November 13th meeting.

Submitted by Georgia Peters, Chair

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Youth Matters Report

On behalf of the Youth Matters committee I have been maintaining a couple of courses of action:

- to track events and information relevant to our area to share with committee members
- to track projects in the region related to outcomes from the series of Bright Ideas conferences.

Reports have been sent to members through the course of the year with updates related to juvenile justice, rights and the systems impacting youth. The West Shore Youth Housing Task Force continued to meet and has now handed over the operational responsibility to Threshold Housing to pursue emergency housing for youth in West Shore. PCFSA completed a series of youth engagement events and this was reported to the committee. The Committee supported the HYPE conference which brought together youth and youth serving agencies to explore high standards of engaging youth and responding to the needs of youth across our region.

Mitzi Dean



**PACIFIC
CENTRE**
Family Services Association

Pacific Centre Family Services Association **Youth Engagement Groups – Summary**

The Youth Engagement Groups (YEG) ran from November 2012 to February 2013 with eight sessions scheduled and five sessions held. The topics for the five sessions included:

- Review of Pacific Centre Family Services (website and the Wale Road youth space)
- Youth Arts in the Westshore
- Colwood Community Mapping with the United Way
- Access to Online Services for Youth
- Community Services for Youth

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

The discussion questions for each of these sessions were in collaboration with community partners including Moyer Creative Group, The United Way, Need2, Your Westshore Literacy Connection and the Social Planning Council. The facilitators were a youth counsellor, a volunteer and a practicum student. The program was supported by funding from PCFSA and the Family Court Youth Justice Committee.

The topics planned for the cancelled sessions were Youth Voice in Local Government as well as a field trip to Pearson College. The sessions were cancelled because there were no participants (two sessions) and because the facilitators were not able to attend (one session).

The number of participants ranged from one to four, with two sessions run with a single participant and two returning participants coming to the majority of the sessions. All four participants lived in the Westshore, three attended school in the Westshore (the other attended school in another district) and their ages ranged from 14 – 17 years old.

The advertising was done through posters being placed in schools and community locations as well as distributed through email lists to community partners. Calls and emails were also sent to school counsellors and other youth programmers in the community. PCFSA provided snacks for each session, door prizes donated from local businesses (including Extreme, Curious Comics, Purdy's Chocolates and Westshore Parks and Recreation) and Certificates of Appreciation for two hours of community service. Both Belmont and Westshore Secondary schools approved these certificates to be used towards students' required volunteer hours for graduation. Three of the four participants found out about the YEG through other PCFSA programs and one participant heard about it from a community partner.

In liaising with community partners who have also tried to run youth focus groups, suggestions for better attendance include 'taking the groups to the youth' by holding the sessions in schools, malls or other locations where youth congregate. It was also suggested that the facilitators work in collaboration with the Leadership course run at Belmont Secondary or the other graduation preparation courses (such as Planning 10 and Graduation Transitions) where volunteer hours are required for course completion. A suggestion from another community organization running youth groups was to rename the groups 'social cafes' that follow a world café format. The youth participants felt that having a PCFSA youth-specific website and/or Facebook page would help the organization connect with youth and be more effective in reaching potential participants. One facilitator thought that perhaps her 'advertising' emails were not being received as they were sent from a personal email account and suggested that, in the future, the youth counsellor (who has connections with the school counsellors and other youth programmers in the community) try sending out the emails for a better response.

From the evaluation forms completed by the participants (received from four different youth), the youth were asked what they liked about the session and what could be improved. One youth

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

stated that ‘it was very open, wonderful to have people asking for youth’s opinion’ but that there could be ‘more advertisement for more people’. Other responses to what was liked included ‘everything - talking about youth’ and ‘we got to talk about lots of stuff and good snack choice’ with no other suggestions for improvement. All four said that they would recommend the YEG to a friend.

The feedback from the youth about the Youth Space at Wale Road included that it was a nice space but was somewhat congested as it has been used as a storage space (this has since been re-organized). The youth participant suggested the space be used to host free ‘youth drop-in groups’ either after school or later in the evening and/or utilizing the space to host a weekly ‘homework club’. The participant also thought that a ‘Youth Club’ could be hosted in the youth space where youth pay minimal monthly fees to engage in planned activities at Wale Road (such as movie nights, cooking projects and board game nights) as well as field trips/activities in the community. Regarding the PCFSA website, the participant suggested including more pictures and youth-friendly ‘icons’ for easier navigation to youth programs. The youth also felt that there should be a separate PCFSA youth Facebook page that included an activities calendar and updates with ongoing programs/groups for youth. The participants felt strongly that the design process of either a PCFSA youth-specific website or Facebook page should include consultation with youth.

The participants felt that there was a shortage of youth-friendly activities in the Westshore and that ‘youth culture’ in the Westshore was disconnected. It was identified that there was a need for positive opportunities that allowed youth to feel challenged and valued in their community. Furthermore, the participants felt the youth needed a place to go in the Westshore because there were not many opportunities for youth to make connections with each other outside of school.

This was emphasized in the second session on Youth Art in the Westshore where the participants strongly supported the development of youth spaces/programs in the proposed Emily Carr Westshore Arts Centre. Most of the art-related activities the participants were currently involved in were through the school system and several barriers to participating in community-based arts were identified, including the cost, lack of options and, where spaces did exist, an ‘anti-youth bias’ was felt (for instance, one participant shared her experience being the only youth in an adult class or when art courses specified 18+ without offering equivalent youth options). It was concluded that the youth would like community arts programs to have youth-specific programming and the participants liked the idea of blending ages together across youth for mentorship opportunities. One participant felt that it was also important to keep the option open for youth to participate in adult courses, which would allow for learning and mentorship opportunities. The participants listed several benefits of having access to youth community arts programming including:

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

- Opportunities for learning that are different from learning in school and allowed for youth to follow their interests and experiment
- Provides an outlet for anxiety and other mental health issues
- Provides space/opportunity that can help keep youth out of trouble
- Provides an opportunity for personal expression and the expression of feelings
- Helps guide future plans (for instance, post secondary and career goals)
- Builds a sense of community by creating and learning together that allows for the recognition of genuine wealth in the community
- Artistic skills are often transferable to life-skills such as problem solving, patience and confidence

The participants shared ideas for attracting youth to use the proposed Emily Carr Westshore Arts Centre including having a place to showcase their work as well as the opportunity to receive feedback on their work from artists in the community. Another idea was put forward to have culinary art space that youth could access and to have cooking competitions that were judged by instructors/chefs in the community. There was general agreement that youth would like to have access to a culinary arts program (perhaps through the restaurant and catering at the centre) that would provide youth with work experience. Overall, it was agreed that youth would like the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and receive feedback from the community as well as the opportunity to have ‘guest speakers’ come speak to the youth to provide further learning and share experiential knowledge.

The United Way co-facilitated a community mapping session for Colwood specifically; however the discussion included Langford and some mention of Metchosin and View Royal. The participant was asked what she thought made the community great and what, if anything, did she wish there was more of. The participant mentioned “the people and PCFSA” as positives in the community as well as that she felt safe in the Westshore and that it had ample green space. In referring to PCFSA, the youth wished “that there were more groups to attend” and, about the community in general, that there were more opportunities for youth to participate in art programs. The youth also identified that she wished there was a youth-only library and described the Goldstream library as a youth-friendly place. This initiated a discussion about having more youth friendly ‘hang-out’ spaces available (for instance, coffee shops that were open in the evenings and live music venues that support youth musicians playing in the community).

The feedback regarding the YouthSpace website (youthspace.ca) was overall very positive, where they felt it was easy to navigate and contained useful information. Both participants heard about the website through their school counsellors and knew of other youth who accessed the site, leading them to believe that it was ‘somewhat to relatively’ well known. One participant stated that she would not use the email-counselling feature as her mom checks her email and the other participant said he would prefer the instant messaging feature to receive an immediate

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

response rather than waiting for an email. One participant felt that she would prefer a face-to-face community resource where a counsellor could come meet a youth in crisis out in the community rather than the instant messaging or email counselling features. The games and tool kits were rated favorably by the participants, however both participants pointed out that reading may not help youth take their mind off their problems and that it was not accessible for youth who struggled with literacy skills. The participants brought up several concerns they had with Youth Space and email counselling in general. The participants were concerned about their emails/messages being confidential on the Internet, which is a potential barrier for youth accessing these services. One participant questioned why the instant messaging service was only open from 6 to 11 pm (both of these concerns were addressed by the facilitators). Finally, the participants felt that there should be ‘emoticons’ on the Youth Space website as it is “easy to be misunderstood online”. Overall however, Youth Space received a very positive review from the participants and both participants felt that there were adequate online services available to youth.

The idea of video counselling received mixed reviews, one participant felt that he would like the ‘real-time’ aspect of video counselling however the other participant was said that she would not be comfortable using this service. The participants also pointed out that some youth do not have a computer or cannot access a computer that they can use in a private space as barriers to using video-counselling.

The participants listed several qualities/outcomes they were looking for when working with a youth counsellor (either online or in person) including:

- Tips/strategies for coping
- Possible ideas for problem solving
- Not changing the subject (focusing on the problems identified by the youth)
- Want to feel heard
- Not offensive (being aware of tone)
- Honest, truthful and accurate information

In regards to what made community services work for youth, the participants identified:

- Free stuff (i.e. condoms, food)
- Free resources and help (i.e. help finding employment, resume writing etc.)
- People to talk to who are genuinely listening to youth
- Youth friendly environment
- Being clear about what services are offered and what are not
- Timeliness
- Providing the option to make appointments (rather than only drop-in services)
- Providing other ways to access the information or receive support (i.e. online, by phone or by email)

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

When asked what their favourite community services were, one participant answered the Girls' Group at PCFSA and the other participant felt his school was his preferred community service because it has "everything you need: teachers, friends and resources if you want them". The participants heard about community services for youth through counsellors, friends, school and online. Both participants could recall a time where they needed support and could not get it either because they could not find what they were looking for or they were too timid to get help even when they knew it was available. The participants disagreed about what would be a 'perfect model of community services' as one participant felt that all youth services should be under one roof and the other participant thought otherwise. One participant felt that this would be beneficial and would like to have training opportunities, job-seeking help, financial services, sexual health, a youth medical clinic, counselling services and workshop opportunities accessible in one building. This participant did not think that youth would feel stigmatized accessing certain services in a shared youth- service building. It was not clarified as to why the other participant disagreed with this 'all under one roof' model.

The participants felt favourably towards being offered a financial literacy course for youth in the community (provided it was free of charge) and were especially interested in learning about credit cards, budgeting and saving.

The participants suggested the following ideas for youth focused projects in the Westshore:

- Youth community art projects
- Youth community garden
- Culinary arts programs for youth
- Charitable involvement organized by youth (example was gathering donations to send abroad through Free the Children)

When asked to envision a healthy youth culture, the participants felt that people needed to be included in positive groups that benefited society in some way while gaining a sense of belonging. The participants also stated that it was important for youth to have a place to go which would help to build relationships and foster a sense of community. One participant identified that a positive youth culture also needed to promote "confidence in each other, because we don't have confidence in our generation." **Feeling valued by the community was agreed as important to the formation of a positive youth culture that in turn would help strengthen the community.**

Liz Overton

February 21, 2013

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



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

2013 Report to Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

CRAT met 5 times during the year. **Our thanks to the City of Victoria for donating space for the meetings.** During the year, we continued to raise awareness of the issue of sexually exploited youth in the Capital Regional District and worked to identify gaps in service for these youth.

We sponsored Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (tco2) to put on presentations in local schools in April and May. In total, 13 presentations were made to 803 people, including 2 sessions for adults working with youth. We are bringing them back in May 2014.

We continued to coordinate the West Shore Emergency Youth Housing Task Force. As a result of our activities, Threshold Youth Housing has developed a strategic plan that will see them increase the number of beds they provide for youth from the current 21 to 50 over the next 5 years. Their next project will be to open a house in the West Shore area. As a result, the Task Force has decided to wind down and work with Threshold to help youth who are in danger of becoming exploited.

PEERS closed its drop in centre for sex trade workers due to lack of funding. CRAT wrote a letter to the Premier about this issue, asking that funding be restored. PEERS provides a range of services to sex trade workers and has worked closely with CRAT in the past to provide support for sexually exploited youth.

We were informed by the Mobile Youth Support Team (MYST) coordinator, Constable Theresa Tuttle, that her appointment will end December 2013 and that a new coordinator will start in January. The local Police Chiefs are investigating the possibility of increasing the size of MYST to 2 people. A decision is expected by early 2014.

CRAT organized a day-long workshop on Human Trafficking/Sexual Exploitation at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre on November 7, thanks to a \$5000 grant from the Ministry of Justice.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

There were 151 registered and 10 presenters. There was a lot of information conveyed during the day and it appears the attendees got a lot out of it. About 50 people signed up to be on the CRAT mailing list, and this has already resulted in several new people coming to CRAT Meetings. Thanks is also due to the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee for providing a grant to cover the costs of coffee and muffins in the morning at the Workshop.

Although we are not seeing as many youth selling sex on the streets, it appears that youth are now using the internet and are becoming more difficult to detect and help. There also appears to be an increase in the incidents involving gang coercion. CRAT will continue to work on these issues in 2014.

Submitted by Bill McElroy, Chair, December 2013

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

2013 Guest Speakers:

- Heather Owen, Promotions and Community Relations Coordinator
Vancouver Island Crisis Line, Nanaimo, PO Box 1118, Nanaimo, BC V9R 6E7
P 250 753 2495 Toll-free 1 877 753 2495
F 250 753 2475
- Jason Laidman and his team, **Domestic Violence Unit, Victoria Police Department**
- Allan Collier, Trustee, School District 63, and Liz Cox, Marlene Dergousoff and Constable Ravi Gunasinghe, speaking about **School based Restorative Justice Programs** in SD 63
- Q&A with Principal **Mr. Harold Caldwell** about **RJ at Reynolds Secondary School** (following tour)
- Mitzi Dean, Pacific Centre Family Services Association and Staff Member presenting on the **Youth Engagement Series**
- Kirsten Hunter, **Office to Combat Trafficking**
- Marion Little, Executive Director, **P.E.E.R.S.**
- Sandy Bryce, Executive Director, **Mary Manning Centre**
- Shayne Johnson, **Native Court Worker**
- Tyler Toscani, CASA student volunteer sharing about his **court experience**

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



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.
8. 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.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

9. 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.

10. 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.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

E. Duties of Officers

8. 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
9. The Vice-Chair shall:
 - a. Undertake duties of the Chair in his or her absence
 - b. Be an alternate signing authority for funds
10. 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
11. 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:

- Communications/Planning
- Youth Matters
- Family Matters
- Priorities
- CRATSEY
- CASA for Children
- Court Watch

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

The Youth Mental Health Task Force was created in 2005 and is still functioning to support the creation of a school based medical clinic pilot project that could address youth mental health issues.

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.

G. 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.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

9.1 TRAVEL EXPENSE POLICY AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION

A. Conferences and Seminars - Authorization

Authorization for attendance at all conferences and seminars for which expenses will be claimed is to be obtained in advance in accordance with the following:

1. Committee Member

Approval is to be obtained in advance from the Committee by motion at a regular meeting.

B. Seminars, Conferences and Meetings for which over Twenty-Four Hours absence from Place of Residence will be Required.

1. Per Diem Allowance

Where the absence from place of residence will be in excess of twenty-four hours, an approved per diem allowance will be provided to cover the following:

- a. Meals
- b. Gratuities
- c. Taxi Fares – excepting extraordinary expenses
- d. Cleaning Expenses
- e. Parking Expenses
- f. Telephone calls but not long distance phone calls

Where the common carrier departs after 12:00 noon or returns before 12:00 noon, one half of the per diem rate shall be paid providing the absence is in excess of one-half day.

Adjustments will be made to the per diem rate only where any meals are included in conference registration fee.

2. Accommodation

Accommodation or lodging expenses will be paid based on single occupancy rates.

3. Transportation

a. Lower Mainland to Hope and Vancouver Island including the Sunshine Coast:

Travel by automobile will be paid in accordance with the current automobile expense reimbursement rate. Travel by bus, train, ferry or air-economy class will be paid for the actual expenses incurred.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

b. Travel outside of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island:

Travel allowance will be paid on the basis of economy class air fare equivalent plus ground transportation when applicable or current automobile expense reimbursement rate where the overall travel cost will be more economical by automobile.

4. Other Expenses

Registration fees for conferences, conventions, seminars, etc., will be paid for single participation only.

C. Seminars, conferences, and Meetings for which Less than Twenty-Four Hours Absence from Place of Residence will be Required.

Where absence is less than twenty-four hours, actual out-of-pocket expenses, including mileage in accordance with the current automobile expense reimbursement rate will be paid. No per diem will be paid.

The daily maximum limit for meals and gratuities is as established from time to time by the Committee.

Meal expenses to the above maximum level will be paid if departure from place of residence is before:

7:00 am – breakfast

12:00 pm – lunch

6:00 pm – dinner

Expenses to the above maximum levels will be paid if return to place of residence is after:

12:30 pm – lunch

6:00 pm – dinner

Reimbursement will not be made for any meals included in conference registration fees.

D. Receipts

Receipts are required in support of the following types of expenditures:

1. Fares – air, bus, train and ferry
2. Accommodation
3. Miscellaneous:

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

- a. Registration fees
- b. Extraordinary taxi expenses
- c. Long distance telephone calls
- d. Parking

4. Per Diem Expenses

Receipts are not required to support those expenditures covered by per diem allowance.

F. Claims Procedure

Claims for travel expenses are to be submitted to the Treasurer of the Committee within thirty days of the period in which the expenses were incurred.

G. Advances

To obtain a travel advance, a written request must be completed and approved by the Treasurer at a regular meeting in advance of the date for which the funds are required.

Victoria 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 FCYJC 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

2013 Membership:

Cynthia Day (VFCYJ Chair)

Kerrie Reay (VFCYJ Vice-Chair)

Lhinda Achtem (CRD appointee)

Bill McElroy (Treasurer)

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Form for Priorities Submissions (Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to Councillorday@shaw.ca AND yfamcourt@gmail.com 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?)
14. Would you be able to present to the committee upon completion of your project?

This form is intended for your convenience and that of the FCYJC. Please use it for your submission and as a guide.

(Form updated; Jan, 2014(C. Day)

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE

The Family Court Committee may:

- be a force in educating the public on issues related to Family Court
- sit in on court hearings to monitor the actions of all officials concerned with the welfare of youth and assist judges upon request
- report to the Capital Regional District Board and member municipalities problems which are of concern
- enter and monitor both open and secure custody facilities
- comment upon legislation concerning families and youth and –
- make recommendations to appropriate legislative bodies concerning any matters deemed to be covered by our several mandates

In addition, the Family Court Committee must report annually to the Ministry of the Attorney General and its member municipalities.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

AUTHORITY OF THE FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE

The Family Court Committee is constituted under the *Provincial Court Act* with powers and duties as listed under Section 4.1 in addition, it has been designated by the Attorney General of British Columbia (as of June 27, 1984) to be the youth Justice Committee, under section 69 of the *Federal Young Offenders Act*, Bill C-61 (see Sections 4.2 and 4.3).

The Victoria Family Court is authorized by the Ministry of Children and Families to the Community Committee that reviews the circumstances of youth in custody in our local containment centre, and physical environment and programs provided them. To that end, we are assured entry to the youth Containment Centre and access to all necessary information. Centre staff attends the committee as resource people as they are able.

FINANCING AND STRUCTURE OF THE FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Since the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (the Committee) services the Greater Victoria area, it is responsible to the Capital Regional district (CRD) from whence it receives its funding (see Sections 4.5 and 4.6 for CRD Bylaws). The budget is submitted and approved each year in December. However, grants are not received until August of the next year.

One representative is appointed annually by each of the Municipalities of Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Langford, Colwood, Central Saanich and North Saanich, the Districts of Saanich, Metchosin, Highlands and Sooke, the City of Victoria and the Towns of Sidney and View Royal. We also have appointed members from the School Districts of Victoria (61), Sooke (62) and Saanich (63). Up to seven members at large may be appointed by the CRD (selected from nominations received from the Committee and other interested organizations). In total there are up to 23 voting members.

The Committee's mandate involves working with the Ministries of the Attorney General, Public Safety and Solicitor general, Education, Children and Family Development, Social Development, and Health Services. Resource People from these ministries attend general meetings as non-voting personnel, and have also been expected to assist at the sub-committee level. With the increasing workload, only specific projects can expect to receive assistance from Ministry staff, whose assistance is most appreciated.

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

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 CASAVictoria 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.